

**UNITED STATES COURTS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT  
OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**JOSEPH LAWS, FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO TO RETIRE**

BOSTON (December 8, 2009) — Chief Judge Sandra Lynch of the First Circuit Court of Appeals announced this morning that Joseph Laws, Federal Defender for the District of Puerto Rico, has notified her of his retirement, effective April 19, 2010. Mr. Laws has served as the Federal Defender in Puerto Rico since 1992 and has presided over significant growth in the office. On behalf of the First Circuit Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Lynch expressed her appreciation for Mr. Laws' many years of dedicated service to the District of Puerto Rico and for the numerous improvements he has made in the Federal Defender's Office. She noted that the committee to evaluate candidates for Mr. Laws' successor will be promptly appointed.

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