



**Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association
Honorable Justice Roderick L. Ireland Leadership and Juvenile Advocacy Award
NOMINATION FORM**

The Honorable Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland Leadership and Juvenile Advocacy Award seeks to support the development of students who, like Chief Justice Ireland, have exhibited a commitment to developing strong leadership skills and a passion for juvenile advocacy.

Chief Justice Ireland is a native of Springfield, Massachusetts. He came from a very small family. He graduated from Lincoln University with a Bachelor's Degree in 1966. In 1969, he graduated from Columbia Law School with a Juris Doctorate, and in 1975, he received an L.L.M. from Harvard Law School. He also obtained his Ph.D. in 1998 from Northeastern University's Law, Policy and Society Program. Chief Justice Ireland began his legal career in 1969 at Neighborhood Legal Services, and then served as a public defender with the Roxbury Defenders Committee from 1971 to 1973. In that role, Chief Justice Ireland served as Chief Attorney, Deputy Director, and Executive Director. Chief Justice Ireland also served as Assistant Secretary and Chief Legal Counsel for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance from 1975 to 1977 and Chair of the Massachusetts Board of Appeals on Motor Vehicle Liability Policies and Bonds.

Chief Justice Ireland has over 30 years of experience serving on the judiciary. He served on the Boston Juvenile Court with distinction from 1977 to 1997, and was appointed by Governor Michael Dukakis to serve on the Massachusetts Court of Appeals. Chief Justice Ireland served on the Court of Appeals from 1990 to 1999, and was then appointed to serve as an Associate Justice of the SJC by Governor William Weld in 1997, becoming the first African American judge to serve on that Court. Chief Justice Ireland was nominated to serve as Chief Justice of the SJC by Governor Deval L. Patrick on November 4, 2010, and was sworn in on December 20, 2010, becoming the first African American Chief Justice of that Court.

As the first African American Chief Justice of the SJC and the first African American judge to serve on the SJC, Chief Justice Ireland has expanded the opportunities available for attorneys of color. In addition, his contributions and dedication to issues impacting our youth is unparalleled. For over 13 years while serving on the Juvenile Court, he devoted his time to families and juveniles, ensuring that the best interests of children and strong family ties were preserved. Additionally, even after leaving the Juvenile Court, Chief Justice Ireland maintained his commitment to the youth and has been a dedicated advocate for the adoption of children in Massachusetts. Chief Justice Ireland has also been a major advocate of Discovering Justice, a program dedicated to educating and exposing youth to the legal system and legal issues.



In his honor, this award is aimed at law school students of color who have demonstrated a commitment to juvenile advocacy in a variety of ways and who have demonstrated leadership abilities. The nominee should exhibit more than academic ability, but also should possess the very qualities that make Chief Justice Ireland such an asset to the legal profession: intellect, leadership, compassion, and dedication to juvenile rights.

Each student may submit, or have submitted on their behalf, only **one** nomination for **either** the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association's ("MBLA") Honorable Justice Roderick L. Ireland Leadership and Juvenile Advocacy Award **or** the MBLA's Honorable Reginald Lindsay Public Service Award.

You may respond only by completing this form. Your specific and candid replies will be helpful to the nominee and to the MBLA Student Support Committee.

If you need more space please write a letter on the letterhead stationery of your law school, firm or organization, and attach this form, signed by you and the nominee, to your statement. The MBLA Student Support Committee will treat the information you provide as confidential only if the student waives his/her right of access in the box at the bottom of this page.

To be completed by the Nominee:

I understand that Federal law provides me, after enrollment, with a right of access to this Letter of Recommendation, and that no school may require me to waive this right.

I hereby

- Waive
- Do not waive my right of access to this Letter of Recommendation.

Date: _____ *Nominee's Signature:* _____



RECOMMENDER'S NAME: _____

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the Nominee?

2. Please evaluate the Nominee's commitment to juvenile advocacy. That commitment may be demonstrated by the Nominee's practical experiences, course work, public service, or by his or her personal qualities.

3. Please evaluate the Nominee's leadership abilities. This can include an assessment and/or description of the Nominee's leadership activities in addition to the Nominee's personal qualities that make him/her an effective leader.

4. Does the Nominee have any special skills that would enable him/her to be an effective advocate for juvenile rights and to handle confidential and sensitive matters (e.g. language skills, cultural familiarity, insight into a subgroup derived from living experiences)?



5. Does the Nominee have special intellectual or personal strengths that would make the Nominee an excellent advocate for juvenile rights?

6. Does the Nominee have special intellectual or personal strengths that would make the Nominee an excellent leader in the legal profession?

To be completed by the Recommender:

<i>Last name</i>	<i>First name</i>	<i>Middle initial</i>
<i>Position</i>	<i>College/University</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<i>Date</i>	<i>Signature</i>	

Nominations must be submitted via email to voconnor@goodwinprocter.com by 5:00 p.m. on Friday February 26th, 2016.