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2011 Commencement Speaker: SJC Chief Justice Ireland

Boston College Law School

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2011 Commencement Speaker: SJC Chief Justice Ireland

2011 ARCHIVES

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Newton, MA-- Roderick L. Ireland, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, will give the Commencement Address at the 2011 Boston College Law School Commencement on Friday, May 27 at 10:30 a.m. on BC's Newton Campus.

"Chief Justice Ireland has had a long and celebrated career in public service, including over 33 years as a judge in the Massachusetts Juvenile Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Judicial Court," said BC Law Interim Dean George Brown. "I'm very pleased that he has accepted our invitation to address our 2011 graduating class."

A native of Springfield, Massachusetts, Chief Justice Ireland received his Bachelor of Arts from Lincoln University; Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School; Master of Laws from Harvard Law School; and Doctor of Philosophy in Law, Policy, and Society from Northeastern University. Chief Justice Ireland began his legal career in 1969 as a Neighborhood Legal Services attorney, then worked as a public defender with the Roxbury Defenders Committee, as chief attorney, deputy director, and executive director. He was Assistant Secretary and Chief Legal Counsel for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance, and Chair of the Massachusetts Board of Appeal on Motor Vehicle Liability Policies and Bond.

Chief Justice Ireland has been a jurist for more than thirty-three years, serving as a judge of the Juvenile Court from 1977 to 1990, after which he was appointed an Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court (1990-1997). He was first appointed as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court in 1997, by Governor William F. Weld. He became the Senior Associate Justice in 2008. In 2010 he was appointed as the thirty-fifth Chief Justice by Governor Deval Patrick and was sworn in on December 20. Chief Justice Ireland has been an adjunct faculty member at Northeastern University since 1978, and on the faculty of the Appellate Judges Seminar at New York University Law School since 2001. He is the author of the Juvenile Law volume of Thomson/West Publishing's Massachusetts Practice Series, the second edition of which was published in 2006, as well as law review articles. When he was appointed to the Supreme Judicial Court in 1997, he was the first African-American Justice in its then 305-year history, and now serves as its first African-American Chief Justice.

More information on the Boston College Law School Commencement is available at the school's [Web site for students.](#)

Boston College Law School opened in 1929 in a small downtown Boston office building with 54 students and two full-time faculty members. Currently ranked 27th in the country by the annual US News & World Report survey, the law school's highly qualified students are drawn from more than 230 colleges and universities across the United States, as well as in other countries. Over 6,500 applicants competed for 261 seats in the entering class this year. The law school's 11,000+ alumni practice in 50 states and many foreign countries, holding positions in major law firms, corporate in-house legal departments, the judiciary, government agencies, private industry, academic and public interest organizations, and serving as elected state legislators and members of the U.S. Congress.

