Commencement Speaker

Boston College Law School

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Commencement Speaker

3/18/03--Boston College Law School is pleased to announce that Stephen Breyer, Associate Justice for the United States Supreme Court, will be the Law School's Commencement Speaker for 2003. Commencement ceremonies will take place on Friday, May 23rd, on the Law School campus in Newton, Massachusetts.

"We are honored to have Justice Breyer address the graduates this year," said BC Law Dean John H. Garvey. "He is one of the most important figures in contemporary American law -- a man of extraordinary intellect, great integrity, and a lifelong commitment to serving the public interest. I am happy for the members of the class of 2003 that he will be joining them at this important point in their careers."

Stephen Breyer has served as Associate Justice for the United States Supreme Court since 1994, when he was nominated for the position by President Clinton. Throughout his career, Justice Breyer has been praised for his skill at building consensus. As a member of the court, he believed achieving a unified opinion was more important than outlining his own opinions in detail.

Justice Breyer was born in San Francisco on August 15, 1938. He is a graduate of Stanford University, Oxford University (Magdalen College), and Harvard Law School. During the United States Supreme Court's 1964 Term he was law clerk to Justice Arthur J. Goldberg. In 1965–67 he worked as Special Assistant to the head of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. From 1967 through 1980 he taught at Harvard University, as Professor of Law and at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He also worked as an Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor (1973), as a Special Counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee (1975), and as the Judiciary Committee's Chief Counsel (1979–80).

As a Special Counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Justice Breyer developed a complicated economic plan used to deregulate the airline industry. His hard work impressed Senate Republicans, who supported his confirmation to a seat on the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 1980. He became the Circuit's Chief Judge in 1990. He has also served as a Member of the Judicial Conference of the United States and of the United States Sentencing Commission. He has written books and articles in the field of administrative law and government regulation.

Justice Breyer married Joanna Hare in 1967. They have three children, Chloe, Nell and Michael.