



Senior Counsel Bio: John M. Greaney

Practice Areas

- Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Independent Investigations
- Alternative Dispute Resolution



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Bio

Justice John Greaney leads the firm's ADR practice group and co-leads the Independent Investigations practice group.

As Counsel, Justice Greaney contributes his extensive experience as a lawyer and a judge in a range of areas, including trial and appellate practice and professional responsibility. He has led independent investigations regarding staff misconduct and student misconduct in private schools and colleges and is available, with other lawyers at the firm, to investigate misconduct in businesses and corporations.

Justice Greaney began his work as a lawyer in the Springfield firm of Ely and King before his first appointment, in 1974, to the Hampden County Housing Court. In 1976, he was appointed to the Superior Court, followed by an appointment to the Appeals Court in 1978, where he became Chief Justice in 1984. Justice Greaney was appointed to the Supreme Judicial Court in 1989 and served until 2008.

Justice Greaney participated in several landmark cases while serving on the Supreme Judicial Court, among them *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, where he wrote the concurring opinion establishing Massachusetts as the first state to legalize same-sex marriage. Other important opinions include a 1993 decision upholding the adoption of a child by same-sex cohabitants, a 1997 decision in the *Benefit v. City of Cambridge* case, affirming the unconstitutionality of a statute prohibiting panhandling, a 2003 decision in the First Justice case

addressing, on separation of powers principles, the constitutionality of statutes governing court clerks and probation officers, and a 2007 decision in the *Murphy v Boston Herald* case, affirming a judgment based on the Boston Herald's defamation of a judge.

After the Supreme Judicial Court, Justice Greaney joined the faculty of Suffolk University Law School, served as director of the Macaronis Institute for Trial and Appellate Advocacy and taught Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Appellate Advocacy.

Bar Admissions

Massachusetts

Education

College of the Holy Cross, B.A., with honors, 1960
New York University, J.D., 1963

Affiliations

- American Bar Association and Foundation
- Massachusetts Bar Association and Foundation
- Hampden County Bar Association
- American Law Institute
- Access to Justice Fellows Program (Hon.)