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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Trial Court Chief Justice Paula M. Carey Appoints  
Honorable Timothy F. Sullivan Chief Justice of the Housing Court**

**BOSTON, MA --** Trial Court Chief Justice Paula M. Carey today announced the appointment of Judge Timothy F. Sullivan as Chief Justice of the Housing Court for a five-year term starting October 1, 2015, in accordance with G.L. c.211B, §5. Judge Sullivan has served on the Housing Court since 2004, and he will succeed Chief Justice Steven D. Pierce who will retire on September 30, 2015.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Judge Sullivan to lead the Housing Court," said Chief Justice Carey. "Judge Sullivan has earned a reputation with his colleagues for being accessible, approachable and receptive to addressing diverse concerns. His philosophy of open communication, collaboration and team building will ensure his ability to address the future challenges facing the department. He is firmly committed to Housing Court expansion and will capably continue the great work of Chief Justice Pierce."

Judge Sullivan is currently the First Justice of the Northeast Division. He previously served as an Associate Justice in the Worcester Division. As First Justice he has worked to streamline case flow management and increase efficiency, introduced a training and certification program for all Housing Court Specialists and expanded community outreach and communication with court users and members of the Housing Court bar. He is a member of the Trial Court's Standing Committee on Court Security and served as a member of the Standing Committee on Alternate Dispute Resolution from 2004-2012.

Judge Sullivan said, "I am honored by Chief Justice Carey's appointment and I look forward to working closely with her and her leadership team. The Housing Court enjoys a tradition of collegiality and dedication to its mission. It is a privilege to be called to lead such an extraordinary group of committed public servants. I will strive to follow the standard of excellence set by Chief Justice Pierce in his leadership of the Housing Court."

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Sullivan maintained a general law practice in Newburyport, with a concentration on landlord-tenant, real estate conveyancing, estate administration and land use. He is a graduate of Merrimack College and New England Law School. He resides with his family in Topsfield.

The Housing Court Department is comprised of five Divisions with 10 authorized judicial positions across the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Trial Court, which is implementing a strategic plan entitled One Mission: Justice with Dignity and Speed, includes seven court departments with 379 judges who deliver justice in 101 courthouses across the state.

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