

HON. HERBERT P. WILKINS
CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

Hon. Herbert P. Wilkins was appointed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court by Governor William F. Weld in 1996. Since 1972, he served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Chief Justice Wilkins was a partner in the Boston law firm of Palmer & Dodge from 1960 until 1972, and had been an associate in the same firm from 1954 to 1959. He also served as town counsel for Acton from 1966 to 1972 and as town counsel for Concord from 1969 to 1972. He was the chairman of Concord's Board of Selectmen from 1960 to 1966.

A graduate of Harvard College, Chief Justice Wilkins received an A.B. degree in 1951 and an LL.B. degree, magna cum laude, from Harvard Law School in 1954, where he was editor of the Harvard Law Review.

In 1991, Chief Justice Wilkins was the recipient of the prestigious Haskell Cohn Award for Distinguished Judicial Service presented by the Boston Bar Association, and in 1997 he received a Citation of Judicial Excellence from the Boston Bar Association.

Chief Justice Wilkins is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the council of the American Law Institute. He is a former president of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College and a former trustee of Milton Academy and Phillips Exeter Academy.

Chief Justice Wilkins is the son of a former Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice, Raymond S. Wilkins, who served in that position from 1956 to 1970. Prior to that, the elder Wilkins was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court for twelve years. Chief Justice Wilkins' son, Hon. Douglas H. Wilkins, served as an Associate Justice of the Superior Court from 2010 to 2023.