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CLERK OF COURT

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Judge Douglas P. Woodlock of the United States District Court of the District of Massachusetts has advised President Obama he will become a Senior Judge on June 1, 2015. Judge Woodlock received his commission from President Reagan in 1986.

Chief Judge Patti B. Saris said: “Over the last twenty-nine years, Judge Woodlock has been a preeminent judge, respected by the bench and bar for his outstanding judicial abilities. He has presided over difficult, high-profile criminal trials and his written opinions are well known for the quality of analysis and research.”

Judge Saris added: “I also highlight the important role Judge Woodlock plays as guardian of the court’s heritage. He was deeply involved in the design of this courthouse and continues to serve as a caretaker of its beauty. He has also preserved the legacy of the court through his careful stewardship of our history, portraits and governance.”

Judge Woodlock’s decision to take senior status creates the opportunity for the appointment of an additional United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. When the court’s newest Judge Allison D. Burroughs took the oath of office last week, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts returned to its full complement of active judges for the first year since 2009.

Judge Woodlock will render substantial services as a senior judge. In addition to maintaining a docket of criminal and civil cases, he will continue to handle a 2500 case matter involving product liability wrongful death and serious injury cases from 47 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia which he has been specifically assigned by the United States Judicial Panel for Multidistrict Litigation.

Judge Woodlock first joined the family of Boston’s federal district court in 1975, immediately after graduation from law school, when he served a year as law clerk to Judge Frank J. Murray, whose colleague he became a decade later. He was in private practice with the Boston law firm of Goodwin, Procter & Hoar from 1976 to 1979 and 1983 to 1986, where he was a partner in the litigation department before his appointment to the bench. Judge Woodlock served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts from 1979 to 1983, prosecuting political corruption, organized crime and narcotics cases. While a partner at Goodwin, Procter he also served as the first chair of the newly created Massachusetts public defender agency, the Committee for Public Counsel Services, from 1984 until his appointment to the bench.

Judge Woodlock has been active in judicial administration activities. In 1987 he was appointed by Chief Justice Rehnquist as a charter member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Space and Facilities, charged with establishing national design standards for federal courthouses. Since 1988, he has served as the Chair of the Building Committee, supervising the design, construction and maintenance of the court’s John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse opened on Boston’s Fan Pier in 1998. In 1996 he received the Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture from the American Institute of Architects. Judge Woodlock also served as chair of the Court’s Rules Committee for 15 years and was appointed by Chief Justice Roberts in 2011 to the federal courts’ Judicial Resources Committee advising the United States Judicial Conference regarding personnel matters, including the provision of judgeships to the federal courts throughout the nation.

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