



## HONORABLE DENNIS J. CURRAN

Justice

Massachusetts Superior Court (ret.)

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34 Linwood Road  
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

Cell: 781 697-7784

Email Address: [jdenniscurran@gmail.com](mailto:jdenniscurran@gmail.com)

Website: [www.judgedenniscurran.com](http://www.judgedenniscurran.com)

### EDUCATION

University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, Virginia

*Juris Doctor*

University of Pennsylvania Graduate School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Master of Arts in Political Science*

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Urban Studies (double major)*

- *Magna cum laude*
- Both B.A. and M.A. degrees earned in four-year accelerated, joint degree program
- Honors, Political Science Department

### PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- Massachusetts Superior Court 2006-2018  
*Justice*
- Massachusetts District Court and Boston Municipal Court Departments  
*Judge* 2002-2003 and 2003-2006
- Private Practice 1993-2002  
*Civil and criminal trial attorney*
- Curran & Cameron 1986-1993  
*Concentration in civil and criminal litigation*

- **DiMento & Sullivan** 1983-1986  
*Junior Partner*
- **First Assistant Legal Counsel to the Governor** 1979-1983  
*Hired as Assistant Legal Counsel, promoted to Deputy Assistant, and finally to First Assistant Legal Counsel*
- **Assistant District Attorney** 1977-1979  
*Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Major Violators' Unit*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Brown University** 2018-Present  
*Instructor, Summer @ Brown*
  - Taught four-week, 45-hour courses "Behind the Judicial Curtain: Trials and the Law" and "Great Trials That Changed History: A Judge's Perspective"
  - The summer 2021 course was taught remotely and asynchronously, due to COVID-19
- **Tufts University** 2018-2021  
*Professor of the Practice of Political Science* 2020-2021
  - Taught two courses, "Constitutional Law" and "Topics in American Politics: The American Legal System"
- **Tufts University** 2018-2019  
*Adjunct, ExCollege Program*
  - Taught courses, "Hollywood and the Courtroom: The Anatomy of a Trial" and "Great Trials That Changed History: A Judge's Perspective"
- **Massachusetts Boys' and Girls' State program** 2018-2019  
*Instructor in Law, Stonehill College*
  - A selective summer leadership and citizenship program for high school students. The week-long program focuses on exploring the mechanics of American government and politics.
- **Roger Williams University School of Law** 2013-2016  
*Adjunct Professor of Law*
  - Taught course, "Massachusetts Civil Practice"

## TEACHING PRESENTATIONS

Justice Curran has presented or been featured as a guest speaker at more than 100 educational seminars and programs, detailed as follows:

## **Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education**

- "Understanding and Predicting Jury Behavior." January 25, 2022 (forthcoming)
- "Courtroom Presence." September 28, 2018
- "Practicing with Professionalism." November 6, 2017; May 15, 2017; November 14, 2016; May 16, 2016; September 12, 2015; March 9, 2015; September 15, 2014
- 18<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Conference. Personal Injury Law 2015. April 30, 2015
- "Motion Practice: Civil Litigation Development." October 16, 2014
- "Basics Plus! "Civil Trial Advocacy". October 15, 2014
- 17<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Conference. "Personal Injury Law 2014." May 22, 2014
- "Practicing with Professionalism and Civility." March 10, 2014
- Fifth Annual New England Conference. "ADR & The Law 2013." November 19, 2013
- "Civil Trial Advocacy: BasicsPlus!" October 15, 2013
- "Key Issues in Discovery Practice." May 21, 2013
- 16<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Personal Injury Conference. "Managing Your Personal Injury Case." May 14, 2013
- Third Annual New England Conference. "ADR & The Law- 2011." October 24, 2011
- "Civil Trial Advocacy: BasicsPlus!" October 18, 2011
- 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Personal Injury Law Conference. April 28, 2011
- "The New Civil One Trial System in the District Court." January 27, 2005

## **The Lincoln Forum Symposium**

- "Lincoln's Statesmanship: The Political Character of Abraham Lincoln." November 18, 2021. To be broadcast on C-SPAN.
  - Harold Holzer, author, chairman and co-founder of the Lincoln Forum, offered praise for the panel, calling it a "brilliant presentation."

## **The Flaschner Judicial Institute (educational organization for Massachusetts judges)**

- "The Disappearance of Dr. Parkman: Blood & Ivy at the Harvard Medical School." December 6, 2021
- "Abraham Lincoln and Massachusetts." October 28, 2021
- "What Would Lincoln Think of Your Courtroom and Today's Lawyers?" June 4, 2020

## **Massachusetts Bar Association's Trial Advocacy Program.**

- Two-day, intensive educational program for trial attorneys. April 3 and 4, 2019

## **North Hill. Needham, Massachusetts.**

- "The Salem Witchcraft Trials: What Really Happened?" October 14, 2021
- "Abraham Lincoln and Massachusetts." February 17, 2021
- "The Disappearance of Dr. Parkman: Blood & Ivy at the Harvard Medical School."

July 27, 2020

- "What Would Lincoln Think of Today's Lawyers: A Judge's Perspective." February 11, 2020

#### **Fox Hill Village. Westwood, Massachusetts**

- "The Sacco and Vanzetti Trial: Evoking Passions a Century Later." October 12, 2021
- "The Trial of John Brown: America's *Good* Terrorist?" October 5, 2021
- "The Boston Massacre Trials: Blood in the Snow." September 21, 2021
- "The Disappearance of Dr. Parkman: Blood & Ivy at the Harvard Medical School." August 26, 2021
- "Abraham Lincoln and Massachusetts." February 24, 2021

#### **Carleton-Willard Village. Bedford, Massachusetts**

- "Sacco and Vanzetti Murder Trial: Evoking Passions a Century Later." March 15, 2021
- "The Trial of Leopold and Loeb: Inside the Criminal Mind." March 22, 2021
- "The Nuremberg War Crimes Trials: Prosecuting Evil." March 29, 2021
- "The O.J. Simpson Trial: 'Till Death Do Us Part.'" April 12, 2021
- "The Mississippi Burning Trial: The Hunt for Justice." April 5, 2021
- "The Disappearance of Dr. Parkman: Blood & Ivy at the Harvard Medical School." August 26, 2021
- "Lincoln on Leadership: The Early Years - Part I." September 9, 2021
- "Lincoln on Leadership: The Formative Years - Part II" September 16, 2021
- "Lincoln on Leadership: The Transformative Years - Part III." Sept. 23, 2021
- "The Salem Witchcraft Trials: What Really Happened?" Oct. 21, 2021
- "Behind the Judicial Curtain: Secrets of a Trial Judge." Nov. 4, 2021

#### **Wellesley Historical Society**

- "Abraham Lincoln and Massachusetts." November 5, 2020

#### **Wellesley-Weston Lifetime Learning Program.**

- "Abraham Lincoln and Massachusetts." October 18, 2021
- "Lincoln on Leadership - Part II." October 4, 2021
- "Lincoln on Leadership - Part I." September 27, 2021
- Hollywood and the Courtroom: The Anatomy of a Trial - Part II. September 20, 2021
- Hollywood and the Courtroom: The Anatomy of a Trial - Part I. September 13, 2021
- "The O.J. Simpson Trial: 'Till Death Do Us Part'." April 12, 2021
- "The Mississippi Burning Trial: The Hunt for Justice." April 5, 2021
- "The Nuremberg War Crimes Trials: Prosecuting Evil." March 29, 2021
- "The Trial of Leopold and Loeb: Inside the Criminal Mind." March 22, 2021

- "The Sacco and Vanzetti Trial: Evoking Passions A Century Later." March 15, 2021
- "The Trial of Susan B. Anthony: Voting Rights for Women" November, 2 2020
- "The Amistad Trials: Are Slaves Property?" October, 19 2020
- "What Would Lincoln Think of Today's Lawyers: A Judge's Perspective." November 25, 2019
- "The Trial of the Lincoln Assassination Conspirators: The Nest that Hatched Evil " April 13, 2019
- "The Trial of John Brown: America's *Good* Terrorist?" April 6, 2019
- "The Disappearance of Dr. Parkman: Blood & Ivy at the Harvard Medical School." March 30, 2019
- "The Boston Massacre Trials: Blood in the Snow." March 23, 2019
- "The Salem Witchcraft Trials: What Really Happened?" March 16, 2019
- "The Trial of Socrates: Lessons in Justice from Classical Antiquity." March 9, 2019

#### **Lincoln Group of Boston.**

- "What Would Lincoln Think of Today's Lawyers? *A Judge's Perspective.*" September 21, 2019

#### **Massachusetts Bar Association**

- Panelist - "You've Read the Rules-But What Really Works in the Courtroom?" Sponsored by its Public Law and Civil Litigation Sections. March 28, 2017
- Dispute Resolution Section. Guest Speaker. September 20, 2016
- Post-DiCarlo: "How Will Workers' Compensation Lien Recovery Change?" May 3, 2016
- "Practicing with Professionalism." July 14, 2016
- My Bar Access. *Alternative Legal Career Panel.* March 25, 2015
- "An Introduction to the Massachusetts Court System." *Practicing with Professionalism.* January 22, 2015
- "View from the Bench: How to Keep Your Case Moving." September 23, 2014
- "A View from the Bench." May 29, 2013
- General Practice, Solo & Small Firms Conference. "Negotiation, Mediation and Arbitration." May 10, 2012
- In conjunction with M.C.L.E. "Civil Trial Advocacy BasicsPlus!" October 17, 2012

#### **Boston Bar Association**

- "Full Speed Ahead, How to Keep Your Case Moving." April 7, 2014
- House of Delegates. "Presumptive Mediation." January 16, 2014
- Boston Bar Association and Flaschner Judicial Institute. October 4, 2012
- "One Trial System." November 18, 2004

## **Boston Municipal Court**

- Annual Spring Judicial Educational Conference. Topic: "Specialized Courts." May 12, 2006
- Panelist, Suffolk County Drug Symposium. October 17, 2005
- Boston Municipal Court Department Annual Fall Judicial Educational Conference. December 6, 2004

## **Additional presentations**

- Keynote Speaker, American Legion - Massachusetts Boys' and Girls' State Inauguration Program. June 16, 2016 and June 19, 2008. Stonehill College, about 350 attendees
- Massachusetts Boys' and Girls' State - American Legion. Introduction to Law Course. June 2016 and 2017
- Panelist, Suffolk University Law School Italian-American Bar Association. November 28, 2016
- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) National Trial College. Harvard Law School. July 29, 2016
- U.S. Canada Litigation and Labor and Employment Group. "Civility Matters". October 20, 2015
- National Business Institute. "As Judges See It: Top Mistakes Attorneys Make in Civil Litigation". October 2, 2015
- *Employment Law*. Spring Symposium, 2015. May 20, 2015
- Justinian Law Society. "The New Voir Dire Law." April 16, 2015
- Judicial Forum. Massachusetts Employment Lawyers Association. April 16, 2015
- First District Eastern Middlesex Bar Association. November 20, 2014
- Nigerian Judicial Delegation. Center for Peace, Democracy & Development. "Alternative Dispute Resolution in Massachusetts: A View from the Bench." September 26, 2014
- University of New Hampshire School of Law. "Direct and Cross-Examination of Expert Witnesses." September 16, 2013
- Nigerian Judicial Delegation. Center for Peace, Democracy & Development. "Alternative Dispute Resolution in Massachusetts: A View from the Bench." July 24, 2013
- National Expert Witness Conference. S.E.A.K., Inc. "A View from the Bench." April 12, 2011
- Massachusetts Employment Lawyers' Association. "Discovery Disputes." 2010 and 2011

## **JUDICIAL AWARDS**

- Chief Justice Edward F. Hennessey Award, Massachusetts Bar Association
  - For "having demonstrated extraordinary leadership and dedication to improving the administration of justice and upholding the highest traditions for public service."
  - The Award has been bestowed only 8 times in the past 31 years

- President's Award for Judicial Excellence, Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys
  - For "his deep commitment and belief in the civil justice system, his many contributions to society and his continued dedication to the law."
- William Whiting Judicial Award for Judicial Courage, American Board of Trial Advocates -- Massachusetts Chapter
- Annual Justice Award, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America - Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE HONOR

- National Institute of Justice, United States Department of Justice. 1983.
  - One of five national consultants on automobile theft by the National Institute of Justice, research agency for the United States Department of Justice, whose task it was to develop a monograph to assist state leaders in combatting this crime.

## PUBLICATIONS

- "An Analysis of Jury Composition by Educational Level." *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*. January 29, 2018.
- "Abraham Lincoln: A Model for Today's Trial Lawyers." *The Lincoln Herald*. Vol. 119, No. 2. Summer 2017.
- "Attorney-Directed Voir Dire Comes to Massachusetts: The Republic Is Safe". *Suffolk University Law School Journal of Trial & Appellate Advocacy*. Vol. XXII, Issue 1. 2016-2017.
- Booklet for the Massachusetts Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section. September 20, 2016.
- "Medical Malpractice Tribunal Study" presented to the Massachusetts Bar Association's Civil Litigation Council. September 13, 2016.
- "Civility Matters". Materials prepared for the U.S. Canada Litigation and Labor and Employment Group Joint Fall Meeting. October 20, 2015.
- "As Judges See It: Top Mistakes Attorneys Make in Civil Litigation." National Business Institute - Judicial Forum. October 2, 2015.

- Curran, Dennis J. and Emma Kingdon. "Abraham Lincoln: A Model for Today's Trial Lawyers." *Massachusetts Law Review*. Vol. 97, No. 1. October 2015.
- "Practicing with Professionalism and Civility." M.C.L.E. September 14, 2015.
- "Sample Discovery Decisions". MCLE Civil Litigation Professional Development Plan. Motion Practice Unit 5. October 16, 2014.
- "Motion Practice – Unit 5." MCLE Civil Litigation Professional Development Plan. October 16, 2014.
- "Expert Witness Tips and Tactics." MCLE BasicsPlus! Civil Trial Advocacy. October 15, 2004.
- "Three Sample Deposition Transcripts." MCLE BasicsPlus! Civil Trial Advocacy. October 15, 2014.
- "A View from the Bench: Secrets on How to Move Your Civil Case Quickly." Massachusetts Bar Association, the Middlesex Bar Association and the Justinian Law Society. September 23, 2014.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Personal Injury Law Conference. M.C. L. E. May 22, 2014
- "Practicing with Professionalism and Civility." M.C.L.E. March 10, 2014.
- Curran, Dennis J. and Emma Kingdon. "Honest Abe and ADR.". *Massachusetts Law Review*. October, 2015.
- Curran, Dennis J. and Emma Kingdon. "Abraham Lincoln, An Early Champion of ADR." *Massachusetts Lawyers' Weekly*. 42 MLW 647. December 2, 2013, p. 39.
- "How to Cross-Examine an Expert Witness: What Your Mother Never Told You" University of New Hampshire School of Law: September 6, 2013.
- "Expert Witness Tips and Tactics". University of New Hampshire School of Law. September 6, 2013.
- "Expert Witnesses and Scientific Evidence." University of New Hampshire School of Law. September 6, 2013.



- "Alternative Dispute Resolution in Massachusetts: A View from the Bench." Nigerian Judicial Delegation. Center for Peace, Democracy & Development. July 24, 2013.
- "View from the Bench." Massachusetts Bar Association. May 29, 2013.
- "Key Issues in Discovery Practice." M.C.L.E. Seminar. May 21, 2013.
- "Managing Your Personal Injury Case." 16<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Personal Injury Law Conference. May 14, 2013.
- "What Your Mother Never Told You About Law School". (Three Volume Set.) 16<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Personal Injury Law Conference. M.C.L.E. May 14, 2013.
- "Civil Trial Advocacy: BasicsPlus!" M.C.L.E. October 17, 2012.
- "Making Your Job Easier with ADR." Massachusetts Bar Association. October 4, 2012.
- "An Honorable Salary?" September 3, 2012. National Center for State Courts website. Previously available at <http://www.ncsc.org/Topics/Judicial-Officers/Judicial-Compensation/Resource-Guide.aspx>.
- "An Honorable Salary?" (July 4, 2011). National Center for State Courts website at [www.ncsc.org](http://www.ncsc.org). Previously available at <http://bit.ly/w8tZin>
- "Negotiation, Mediation and Arbitration." 2nd Annual Massachusetts Bar Association's General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Symposium. May 10, 2012.
- "Report to the Chief Justice: Committee on Specialized Courts." Boston Municipal Court Department. 2005.
- "Impeachment of the Expert Witness: What They Never Told You in Law School." Ninth Annual National Expert Witness and Litigation Seminar Course Materials. S.E.A.K., Inc. 2000.
- "Defense Strategies in the Courtroom." Prepared for a presentation before the Illinois State Police-Division of Forensic Services. September 29, 2000.
- "Sanctions, Sentencing and Corrections: Law, Policy and Practice." Book Review. New England Journal of Prison Law. Vol. 8, No. 2 1982.

- "Focus on the Drug Paraphernalia Act." *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*. April 19, 1982. p. 10.
- "New Massachusetts Drug Law". *Municipal Police Institute Publication*. October 1980.
- "The New Laws Governing Automobile Theft." *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*. August 11, 1980.
- "An Attack on Automobile Theft: The Massachusetts Plan". *National Automobile Theft Bureau Journal*. Winter 1981-1982.
- "An Attack on Automobile Theft: The Massachusetts Plan." *State Government News*. June, 1982.
- "Governor's Task Force Report on Automobile Theft." 1981.
  - This was a 125-page text detailing Massachusetts' comprehensive legislative and administrative program to combat automobile theft. Massachusetts enacted many of the proposals. The state had led the nation in car theft for nearly a decade at the time, surpassing even the second state with one-third more car thefts per capita. Since the enactment of this crackdown, Massachusetts's car theft rate has fallen dramatically.
- Virginia Model Jury Instructions (Michie Publishing Company: Charlottesville, Virginia, 1978.
  - I authored the chapters on arson and burglary as a law student assistant to Professor Kenneth R. Redden, Reporter for the Committee on the Judicial Conference on Virginia.
- "Warren Burger: The Court Reformer". *Virginia Law Weekly*. 1977.
- Intro to Penn, Editor-in-Chief. This was a 200-page, copyrighted college handbook written for new students (freshmen and transfer students) to the University of Pennsylvania (Havertown Printing Company, Inc.; Broomall, Pennsylvania) 1973.
- "The Forgotten American." *Boston Latin School Register*. Spring 1969.

## **EDUCATIONAL HONORS**

- Roger Williams University School of Law, Board of Advisors.
- Boston Latin School, Board of Trustees. (Past member)
- Boston Latin School, Distinguished Service Award

- University of Pennsylvania. Board of Associate Alumni Trustees (Northeast Region) (Past member)
- Wellesley-Weston Lifetime Learning. Board of Directors.
- University of Pennsylvania - President, Sphinx Honor Society
  - Oldest University honor society with selection based on "character, integrity and leadership."
- Board of Examiners. National Board of Trial Advocacy. (Past member)

## **JUDICIAL BRANCH COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES**

- Chair, Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution. Superior Court.
- Co-Chair, Committee on Case Flow Management. Boston Municipal Court Department.
- Co-Chair, Committee on Specialized Courts. Boston Municipal Court Department.
- Judicial representative, Massachusetts Bar Association Judicial Administration Section Council.

## **CIVIC, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- Fellow, Massachusetts Historical Society
- National Board of Advisors. The Lincoln Forum.
- The Lincoln Group of Boston
- The International Churchill Society
- Justinian Law Society

## **PROFESSIONAL HONORS**

- Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers
- Martindale-Hubbell "AV" Rating
- Board Certification as Civil Trial Attorney. National Board of Trial Advocacy

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Board of Trial Advocates
- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys (Past member)
- National Advisory Board on Automobile Theft. National Institute of Justice (Past Member)
- Massachusetts Judges' Conference (Past member)