

Honorable Geraldine Hines

Geraldine S. Hines was born in Scott, Mississippi and grew up in the Mississippi Delta. She graduated from Tougaloo College in 1968 and the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1971. Upon graduation she became a staff attorney at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, engaging in prisoner's rights litigation, and then, from 1973 to 1977 practiced criminal law with the Roxbury Defenders' Committee in positions of progressively greater responsibility culminating as the Director of the Committee.

After an MIT fellowship researching policy initiatives to address the issue of police misconduct in communities of color, she served as co-counsel in *Commonwealth v. Willie Sanders*, a highly publicized trial of a black man accused of raping eight women. From 1979-1982 she litigated civil rights cases relating to discrimination in education and advised on special education law while a staff attorney at the Harvard University Center for Law and Education. Justice Hines entered private practice in 1982, appearing in state and federal courts on criminal, administrative, labor and family law matters. Of particular note, she continued to litigate civil rights cases, including employment discrimination and police misconduct claims, as a founding partner in the first law firm of women of color in the New England region. She began her judicial career in 2001 as an associate justice of the Superior Court, where she was sitting at the time of her appointment to this court.

Justice Hines has been extremely active in a number of civic and community organizations, some of the more prominent being the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Lawyers Guild and the National Conference of Black Lawyers. Stemming from her role in these organizations she has observed elections and investigated human rights abuses in both Africa and the Middle East. She also was appointed to both the Judicial Nominating Council and the Judicial Nominating Commission. She has also been an adjunct faculty member at Northeastern University Law School since 1980 and has been a frequent speaker at several dozen educational programs for attorneys and judges, particularly MCLE, where she has both presented and published the materials in diverse subjects such as trial advocacy, Federal civil litigation and municipal torts and civil rights claims. Appointed to the Appeals Court by Governor Deval Patrick, Justice Hines joined the court as an associate justice in 2013. She served in that capacity until July 31, 2014, when Governor Patrick appointed her to serve on the Supreme Judicial Court.