

## **Fernande R.V. Duffly**

Fernande R.V. Duffly, who was born in Indonesia to a Chinese mother and Dutch father, immigrated to the United States in 1956, thereafter becoming a naturalized citizen. She was appointed to the Massachusetts Appeals Court in February, 2000 after serving for eight years as Associate Justice of the Probate & Family Court. After earning a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1978, Justice Duffly joined the litigation department of the Boston law firm then known as Warner and Stackpole (now K&L gates).

A former member of the executive board of Greater Boston Legal Services and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, Justice Duffly provided pro bono legal services to indigent clients through the Volunteer Lawyers Project. She has written articles and taught seminars in the areas of appellate decision-making, family law, trusts, parental rights termination and litigation.

Throughout her career, she has been an active participant on committees devoted to ensuring that justice is available to all who come before the court, including children, indigent persons and other disenfranchised groups. Justice Duffly continues to devote her time to issues related to equal access to the courts and full diversity on the bench as a lifetime member and past president of the National Association of Women Judges.

Justice Duffly has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Probate Judge's Association; the Distinguished Jurist Award from the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers; and the Trailblazer Award from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. The Trailblazer Award recognizes the outstanding achievements, commitment and leadership of those "have displayed tenacity, vision, creativity and courage in making substantial and lasting contributions to their own communities as well as to the APA community at large." She has also been recognized as a Diversity Hero by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, and was selected by Lawyers Weekly as a Woman of Justice, in conjunction with the Women's Bar Association and Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers. She received the Boston Bar Association citation for Judicial Excellence in 2009.

She has served on the Boston Bar Association's committees on pro se litigation and attorney volunteerism; the Probate and Family Court's committee on pro se access to the courts; and the ABA subcommittee on representation of children; and the Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Committee on substance abuse. She drafted model procedures to deal with child access matters in which substance abuse is a factor.

Justice Duffly has promoted the rule of law in China through participation in judicial exchange programs; in 2001, she was part of a delegation of Massachusetts judges hosted by the Supreme People's Court and has presented several educational programs in Massachusetts to judges visiting from China.