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## **Mass. Bar Association Commends Governor’s Historic Selection of Justice Kimberly S. Budd to be First African American Woman to Serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court**

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) applauds Governor Charlie Baker’s historic nomination of Associate Supreme Judicial Court Justice Kimberly S. Budd to be the new chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court. If confirmed, she would be the first African American woman to serve as chief justice in the history of the SJC.

“Justice Kimberly Budd has been a trailblazer throughout her professional career, particularly for African American women and attorneys of color, and her elevation to chief justice is an inspired choice by Governor Baker,” said Massachusetts Bar Association President Denise I. Murphy. “As a sitting associate justice for the past four years, Justice Budd fully understands the considerable influence that the SJC wields over Massachusetts law, policy and the administration of justice. While no one could fill the enormous shoes left by the unexpected passing of Chief Justice Gants, Justice Budd’s proven leadership, sharp legal mind and dedication to fairness will serve her well as she makes her own mark on the court for years to come.”

“With two additional SJC openings to fill this year due to Chief Justice Gants’ death and the impending retirement of Justice Barbara Lenk, Governor Baker has a historic opportunity to appoint every justice on the SJC bench,” Murphy continued. “We urge the governor to continue to consider smart, highly qualified jurists from diverse backgrounds and areas of practice that reflect the unique makeup of the legal profession and the commonwealth as a whole.”

*Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.*