

Honorable Amy L. Nechtem

The HONORABLE AMY L. NECHTEM is the Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Juvenile Court Department. As Chief Justice, she oversees and advances the administration and management of policy and practice affecting juvenile justice and child welfare matters in the courts throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Chief Justice Nechtem is the Past President of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), the country's leading voice for women in the judiciary. Chief Justice Nechtem served on the NAWJ Board of Directors for over fifteen years, establishing the first NAWJ Child Welfare Juvenile Justice Standing Committee focused on advancing judicial practices nationally. Chief Nechtem co-chaired the committee responsible for NAWJ's Strategic Plan through 2024, designed to strengthen NAWJ as an essential driver of innovation and positive changes in the judiciary. Chief Justice Nechtem was awarded the Justice Joan Dempsey Klein Award given to honor a judge who brings distinction to her office and exemplifies the mission of NAWJ, to promote the judicial role of protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed diverse judicial leadership, fairness and equity in our courts, and equal access to justice.

Chief Justice Nechtem speaks nationally and internationally on issues relating to youth and families. She attended the International Judicial Academy on International Law and Courts in The Hague, Netherlands. Chief Nechtem is a member of the Casey Family Program 21st Century Child Welfare System Steering Committee, a national team focusing on prevention, safety, stability, and permanency for the youth in the system.

Chief Justice Nechtem was a member to the Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund Judicial Resource Project, convened by Mr. Sean Ferrer, Ms. Hepburn's son, a national group of focused professionals from the judiciary, medical, and social services fields, working to provide the best possible resources for judges who make decisions involving the lives of children and families affected by maltreatment and abuse. Chief Nechtem created a national model of judicial case management, Pathways, to promote permanency for children.

Chief Justice Nechtem served as an Assistant District Attorney for many years in Boston prosecuting child abuse and major felony cases. Chief Justice Nechtem is a graduate of Simmons University where she received the Outstanding Community Service Award and graduated with honors from Suffolk University Law School where she currently serves on its Board of Trustees. Chief Justice Nechtem was named a Top Woman in Law by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly and is a recipient of Massachusetts Judges Conference Judicial Excellent Award.