

Judge Hennessey Named Chief Justice in Massachusetts

The first person ever to be granted the American Society of Law & Medicine's Honorary Life Membership Award for distinguished contributions to medicolegal education has become the 19th Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Justice Edward F. Hennessey was named to the high post recently by Governor Michael Dukakis, succeeding Judge G. Joseph Tauro who stepped down January 10, 1976.

The 56 year old Needham, Massachusetts resident was first appointed to the Massachusetts SJC in 1971 after serving on the Superior Court bench for four years. In his illustrious career in the judiciary, he has written over 200 opinions, some of which addressed important medicolegal issues in criminal, constitutional and civil law cases.

Justice Hennessey, in assuming his new position, heads the oldest continuing appellate court in America, in existence since 1782. His most recent activity with the American Society of Law & Medicine was presentation of the keynote luncheon address at the society's Fourth Annual Medicolegal Evaluation of Disability held in November, 1975.

A graduate of Northeastern University and Boston University School of Law, the new Chief Justice is a widely respected lecturer on constitutional and criminal law. He has served as Vice-President of the Massachusetts Bar Association, and was a former Editor-in-Chief of the *Massachusetts Law Quarterly*. He is the author of a two-volume text on torts and trial practice and has been a principal lecturer to the judges on the Superior and District Courts in fields of his expertise.

Justice Hennessey is a former president of the Boston University Law School Alumni Association and has served on the Boston Bar Association Council. During the past four years, Judge Hennessey has supported the majority of the court in numerous decisions which reversed or modified old precedents and rules of law. Among the many opinions he has authored are decisions which further define the abolition of the doctrine of charitable immunity with respect to injuries sustained by private citizens (*Higgins v. Emerson Hospital*, 1975 Mass. Adv. Sh. 1499; *Johnson v.*

Wesson Hospital, 1975 Mass. Adv. Sh. 1504). Judge Hennessey was also involved in writing the opinion abolishing the doctrine of State immunity concerning injuries suffered by private citizens. In that opinion (*Morash v. Commonwealth*, 1973 Mass. Adv. Sh. 785), he predicted that sometime in the future the Court might abolish all such sovereign immunity in the event the state legislature did not take similar action.

Justice Hennessey joins many distinguished members of the judiciary who have served as Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, including Oliver Wendell Holmes. The officers, council members and membership of the American Society of Law & Medicine congratulate Judge Hennessey and wish him many years of rewarding success and accomplishment.



Justice Edward F. Hennessey

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

IAIABC Eastern Association of Workmen's Compensation Boards, Newport, Rhode Island, May 12-14, 1976. For information write Laurence Walsh, President, Eastern Association of Workmen's Compensation Boards, Workmen's Compensation Commission, 25 Canal Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903.

IAIABC Central Section, Jefferson City, Missouri, June 9-11, 1976. For information write Richard R. Rousselot, President, IAIABC Central Section, Division of Workmen's Compensation, P.O. Box 58, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC), 62nd Annual Convention, Broadwater Beach Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi, September 19-23, 1976. For information, write to Harry W. Daht, Executive Director, IAIABC, 5600 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

American College of Legal Medicine, 16th Annual International Conference, Castle Harbour Hotel, Tuckers Town, Bermuda, May 12-16, 1976. For information, write to Betty Hanna, Executive Secretary, American College of Legal Medicine, Suite 2608, 1340 N. Astor Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

27th Annual Advocacy Institute, Professional Liability, The Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Hutchins Hall, Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 7-8, 1976. For information, write ICLE, Hutchins Hall, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.

4th International Symposium on Forensic Medicine, University of South Africa, Pretoria, May 11-14, 1976. For information, write Frontiers International Travel, P.O. Box 161, Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090.

Law and Medicine: Current Issues in the Law for Physicians and Allied Health Professionals, University of California, School of Medicine, San Francisco, May 28-29, 1976. For information, write Extended Programs in Medical Education, Room C-135G, University of California, San Francisco, California 94143.

Statistical Methods, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332, July 12-23, 1976. For information, write Department of Continuing Education, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332.

Southern Association of Workmen's Compensation Administrators, Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky, July 18-23, 1976. For information write Shelby T. Denton, President, SAWCA, Workmen's Compensation Board, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.