



FRANK J. WILLIAMS  
CHIEF JUSTICE

Supreme Court of Rhode Island  
Frank Licht Judicial Complex  
250 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

December 11, 2008

HAND DELIVERED

The Honorable Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor, State of Rhode Island  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor Carcieri:

I will be retiring as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island on December 30, 2008, but fully expect to continue to assist the Supreme Court and the Rhode Island Judiciary as a retired justice in whatever way I can.

It has been a deep and abiding honor to serve the people of our beloved state. To them, I owe everything as they never failed to sustain me and support my mission to lead the judiciary into the twenty-first century, particularly my efforts to enhance access to justice and make our courts more user-friendly.

It has been my privilege to work with so many talented and devoted members of the judiciary. I also leave confident in the dedication and competence of the men and women of our administrative staff.

Yours sincerely,

Frank J. Williams  
Chief Justice

FJW/dmp

Cc: The Honorable Maureen McKenna Goldberg  
The Honorable Francis X. Flaherty  
The Honorable Paul A. Suttell  
The Honorable William P. Robinson, III  
The Honorable Joseph F. Rodgers, Jr.  
The Honorable Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr.  
The Honorable Albert E. DeRobbio  
The Honorable George E. Healy, Jr.  
The Honorable William R. Guglietta  
J. Joseph Baxter, State Court Administrator

- Frank J. Williams is the Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. He was appointed by Governor Lincoln Almond and unanimously confirmed by the state legislature in January 2001, after serving for five years as Associate Justice of the Superior Court.
- Chief Justice Williams served as Probate Judge in the towns of West Greenwich and Hopkinton, Rhode Island.
- Chief Justice Williams also served in the U.S. Army from 1962-67 achieving the rank of Captain. For his service he was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, 3 Air Medals and, from the Republic of Vietnam, the Gallantry Cross with Silver Star for Valor.
- The Chief Justice has been awarded honorary degrees from Lincoln College, Southeastern New England School of Law, Johnson & Wales University, Lincoln Memorial University, Roger Williams University School of Law, Bryant College, Massachusetts School of Law, University of Rhode Island and Oklahoma State University.
- He graduated from Boston University with a B.A. in Government & History in 1962, received his J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 1970, and completed a Master's Degree in Taxation from Bryant College in 1986.
- He was born August 24, 1940 and is married to Virginia Miller. His book of essays, *Judging Lincoln*, was published by Southern Illinois University Press in 2002. On December 30, 2003, the President of the United States, through the Secretary of Defense, invited Chief Justice Williams to be a member of the then Military Commissions Review Panel for tribunals to be held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with the rank of Major General. The Military Commissions Act of 2006 created the Court of Military Commission Review on which Williams serves as a civilian appellate judge. On November 21, 2007, the Secretary of Defense appointed Chief Justice Williams Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Military Commission Review.

- In his long career in public service, Williams served as a solicitor and arbitrator for a number of Rhode Island towns and communities. He was twice elected Town Moderator of Richmond, Rhode Island, and was elected a delegate to the 1986 Rhode Island Constitutional Convention. He was appointed Chair of the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation by the governor in 1995. In addition, he served in several judicial capacities before his elevation to the Superior Court in 1995, including Judge of Probate, Member (and later chairman) of the state's Board of Bar Examiners, and member of several arbitration and legal advisory panels.
  
- Judge Williams is currently at work on an annotated bibliography of all the Lincoln titles published since 1865. With Harold Holzer and Edna Greene Medford of Howard University, he is the co-author of *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views*, a book on the legal, political, and cultural impact of the Emancipation Proclamation, published by Louisiana State University Press in April 2006.