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Justice Marie L. Garibaldi Announces Her Retirement From the Supreme Court

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The Supreme Court announced today that Associate Justice Marie L. Garibaldi, 65, a member of the Court since 1982, has told Governor Christine Todd Whitman that she will retire on February 1, 2000.

Justice Garibaldi was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Thomas Kean. At the time of her appointment, Justice Garibaldi was a partner in the Morristown-based law firm of Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti. The first woman appointed to the high bench in New Jersey, she was also the first woman to serve as President of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

"On November 17, 1982, Marie Garibaldi took the oath of office as an Associate Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court and forever changed the way the Court works. She accepted the incidental consequences of being the first woman with grace and style. Being 'first' inevitably made outside demands on her time, but she never let those demands interfere with the quality of her performance as a Justice," said Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz, speaking for the Court.

The Court will sorely miss her decisiveness and her dedication to the administration of justice, particularly in the area of complementary dispute resolution, in which she is justly viewed as a driving force behind its success in the State.

During her more than seventeen years on the Court, Justice Garibaldi authored in excess of 225 opinions, covering widely disparate areas of the law. Her opinions are widely regarded as thoughtful and concise. They are particularly valued for the clear guidance they give to lower courts.

In addition to her work on the bench, Justice Garibaldi has been, and continues to be, an indefatigable champion of complementary dispute resolution. Under her stewardship as the long-time chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Complementary Dispute Resolution, the New Jersey Judiciary has developed a variety of ways to tailor the method of delivering justice to the needs of a particular case.

In 1998, the American Inns of Court Foundation established the Justice Marie L. Garibaldi American Inn of Court for Alternative Dispute Resolution. The inns-of-court movement is designed to enhance the professionalism of attorneys and judges.

Justice Garibaldi received her LL.B. from Columbia University in 1959 and her LL.M. in tax law from New York University in 1963. A 1956 graduate of Connecticut College, she became a member of the New York bar in 1960 and of the New Jersey bar in 1966. She is also admitted to the bar of the District of Columbia.

Prior to joining Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti, Justice Garibaldi was an attorney with McCarter and English and the Regional Counsel's Office of the Internal Revenue Service. She also served as a director of the State Chamber of Commerce, New Jersey Bell Telephone Co., and the Washington Savings Bank. She has been a trustee of St. Peter's College. In 1968 and 1969, she chaired the Weehawken Charter Commission and was a judge of that town's municipal court from 1973 to 1975.

Justice Garibaldi lives in Weehawken.