

Honorable Patti B. Saris

United States District Judge

District of Massachusetts

A.B. '73, magna cum laude; J.D. '76, cum laude

Boston, MA

A U.S. District Judge, Patti Saris was appointed to the federal bench in 1994. She has served as a Massachusetts Superior Court Judge, a U.S. Magistrate Judge, and an Assistant U.S. Attorney. She worked for Senator Edward Kennedy on the United States Senate Judiciary Committee.

Elected Chief Marshal of her 25th reunion class, she serves on the Visiting Committees to Harvard College, Harvard Law School, and Harvard School of Education. She has also chaired three Harvard Law School reunions. She and her husband, Arthur Segel, '73, a Harvard Business School professor of real estate, have four children: Marisa, Barnard College; Edward, Harvard University ('06); Celia, Carleton College; Michael (age 13).

Judge Saris was appointed by Chief Justice Rehnquist to chair the Defender Services Committee which provides legal services for indigent defendants nationwide in federal court. She also has presided over many significant patent trials and frequently lectures on intellectual property. Active in various community-based groups that help inner-city high school students enter college, Judge Saris also co-chairs a court initiative providing summer jobs to Boston students.

"I grew up in West Roxbury and went through the Boston Public Schools. Once at Harvard, though, I found my world expanding far beyond the boundaries of Boston," she says. As women assumed a greater role on campus, I gained the self-confidence to believe I could make a difference in the world and the inspiration to go into public service. In a sense, I've never left Boston, but without my years at Harvard, I may never have dared to be a federal judge. Because of all that Harvard has done for me, I have been

proud to serve on the Board of Overseers.”