

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Diane B. Patrick

PERSON

Patrick, Diane B., 1951-

Alternative Names: Diane B. Patrick;

Life Dates: December 17, 1951-

Place of Birth: New York City, New York, USA

Residence: Richmond, Massachusetts

Occupations: Lawyer

Biographical Note

Lawyer Diane Patrick was born on December 17, 1951 in Brooklyn, New York to John Charles Bemus and Lilian Bemus. At a young age, Patrick and her family moved to the Hollis neighborhood in Queens. In 1972, she received her B.A. degree in education from Queens College of the City University of New York. Patrick went on to receive her J.D. degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California in 1980.

Between college and law school, Patrick worked as an elementary school teacher in the New York public school system. After graduating from Loyola Law School, Patrick joined O'Melveny & Myers as an attorney. In 1983, as a third-year associate, Patrick was asked to move to New York City along with three other associates and two partners to open the firm's New York office. Three years later, Patrick and her family moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where she served as university attorney for Harvard University before being promoted in 1992 to director and associate vice president of human resources. Patrick worked as an attorney at Hogan & Harston in Washington, D.C. for one year before returning to Boston in 1995 to join Ropes & Gray as a labor attorney. From 2006 to 2015, she served as First Lady of Massachusetts during her husband Deval Patrick's two terms as Governor. In 2010, Patrick was appointed chair of the diversity committee at Ropes & Gray; and, in 2013, she was promoted to co-managing partner at the firm. Patrick retired from Ropes & Gray in 2016.

Patrick served on the boards of the Epiphany School, the Posse Foundation, Massachusetts General Hospital, Partners Healthcare, United Way of Massachusetts Bay, and Jane Doe, Inc. She has volunteered with the Commonwealth's Foster Care Review Unit, the Boston Bar Association's Lawyer for a Day program, and the Boston Women Build in the Bayou project. Patrick served as a trustee for ArtsBoston, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Cambridge College, and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

While in law school, Patrick received the American Jurisprudence Award, Best Appellant Brief in Statewide Moot Court Competition, and Outstanding Graduate Award for outstanding academic performance and citizenship. In 2015, she was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Bostonians and received the Cushing-Gavin Management Attorney Award for Excellence from the Labor Guild. She received the Champion of Justice Award from Discovering Justice in 2017, and the Boston Bar Foundation's Public Service Award in 2019. Patrick and her husband, Deval Patrick, have two children: Sarah and Katherine.

Diane Patrick was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on September 12, 2019.

Related Entries

Queens College, City University of New York [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Loyola Law School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.D.

New York Public School System [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1977]

Elementary Teacher

[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

O'Melveny & Myers [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1986]

Founding Director

Harvard University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1986 to 1992]

University Attorney in the Office of General Counsel

Harvard University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1992 to 1994]

Director/Associate Vice President of Human Resources

Hogan & Harston [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1994 to 1995]

Attorney

Ropes & Gray [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1995 to 2013]

Labor Attorney

Governor Deval Patrick Administration [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2006 to 2015]

First Lady

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Ropes & Gray [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2013 to 2016]

Co-Managing Partner

Epiphany School [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Posse Foundation [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Massachusetts General Hospital [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Partners Healthcare [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

United Way of Massachusetts Bay [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Jane Doe, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Massachusetts Department of Children and Families [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Volunteer, Foster Care Review Unit

ArtsBoston [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Trustee and Director

Brigham and Women's Hospital [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Trustee

Children's Hospital Boston [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Overseer

Cambridge College [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Trustee

Massachusetts Maritime Academy [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Trustee

Boston Bar Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Volunteer, Lawyer for a Day Program

Boston Women Build in the Bayou [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Wives of the Bench and Bar [MEMBEROF]

[from 1979 to 1980]

Member

Ropes & Gray [MEMBEROF]

[from 2010 to 2016]

Chair, Diversity Committee