

“THE TOP 10 WAYS TO FACILITATE YOUR PATHWAY TO THE JUDICIARY”

(With apologies to David Letterman)

Linda E. Giles, Associate Justice, Massachusetts Superior Court

10. Judges need to understand and listen well to people and ask the right questions, so start right now developing good people skills by getting out into and working with a variety of communities.
9. A judicial clerkship during or after law school is often considered an important stepping stone on the “judges’ track.”
8. Get as much litigation experience, both civil and criminal, as possible.
7. Keep an ongoing record of your most important cases or trials, including names of opposing counsel and judges.
6. Network at every opportunity at bar association and legal organization functions and volunteer time or writing skills to their programs, panels, and causes.
5. Create a “Six Degrees of Separation” list of people who are wired to the judicial decisionmakers in your state.
4. Download the application form to become a judge and familiarize yourself with the judicial appointment or electoral process.
3. Reach out to judges, particularly those recently appointed or elected, to hear about their experiences and to get their advice.
2. Distinguish yourself in some valuable, memorable, or high-profile way—you need to stand out in an often crowded field.
1. Always practice good karmic lawyering—your reputation always remains with and precedes you.