

- tice of the Superior Court selects the substitutes. (ch. 212, sec. 14B [1957]);
- F. to appoint and dismiss at his discretion his administrative assistant and executive clerk, both of which are statutory offices—the former created in 1963 (ch. 212, sec. 28 [1966 cum. supp.]);
 - G. to receive a detailed monthly statement of each instance of bail (ch. 276, sec. 61 [1957]);
 - H. to act as chairman of the probation committee (ch. 276, sec. 99A [1966 cum. supp.]); and
 - I. to act as a member of the judicial council which studies the judiciary (ch. 221, sec. 34A [1957]).

The Superior Court consists of the chief justice and forty-one associate justices (ch. 212, sec. 1 [1966 cum. supp.]), all nominated and appointed by the governor with his council's consent (Const., Art. IX, Sec. 65). When the chief judgeship becomes vacant, the senior associate judge assumes its duties (ch. 213, sec. 1). There are no residence requirements of county or district and, therefore, the new chief judge does not forfeit his former judgeship.¹

Chief Justice G. Joseph Tauro described the work of the Superior Court as follows:²

¹For a vigorous statement of the current administrative difficulties and methods by the present Chief Justice, the Hon. G. Joseph Tauro, see 49 Mass. L. Q. 7, 171 (1964).

²Letter from G. Joseph Tauro, Chief Justice, Superior Court of Massachusetts, to John C. Brooks, Executive Director, Constitutional Convention Commission of Maryland, August 4, 1966.

“The Superior Court was created by statute approximately 110 years ago, having statewide general jurisdiction in the trial of law, equity, and criminal cases. It now has 41 Associate Justices and one Chief Justice. In addition to general administrative duties, the Chief Justice, under statutory authority, sets up the necessary sittings of the Court throughout the Commonwealth and assigns Judges to their respective sessions.

“The Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice performs the ministerial work, handles much of the routine correspondence, and conducts many interviews with lawyers and lay persons desirous of obtaining information and assistance.

“All judicial appointments in Massachusetts are for life. They are made by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Governor's Council. Before the Governor makes a judicial appointment, he submits the names of candidates to a committee of the organized bar for its evaluation as to qualifications. Although the Governor is under no legal compulsion to follow the bar association's advice in this regard, except in rare instances he does not make an appointment unless the lawyer is approved by the bar association committee.

“As a member and presently First Vice-Chairman of the National Conference on Metropolitan Courts, I have had the opportunity to talk with other Judges and Chief Judges in the various jurisdictions. It is my belief that continuity in the office of Chief Justice is preferable, especially in the implementation and carrying out of specific programs. This seems to be the opinion of many others with