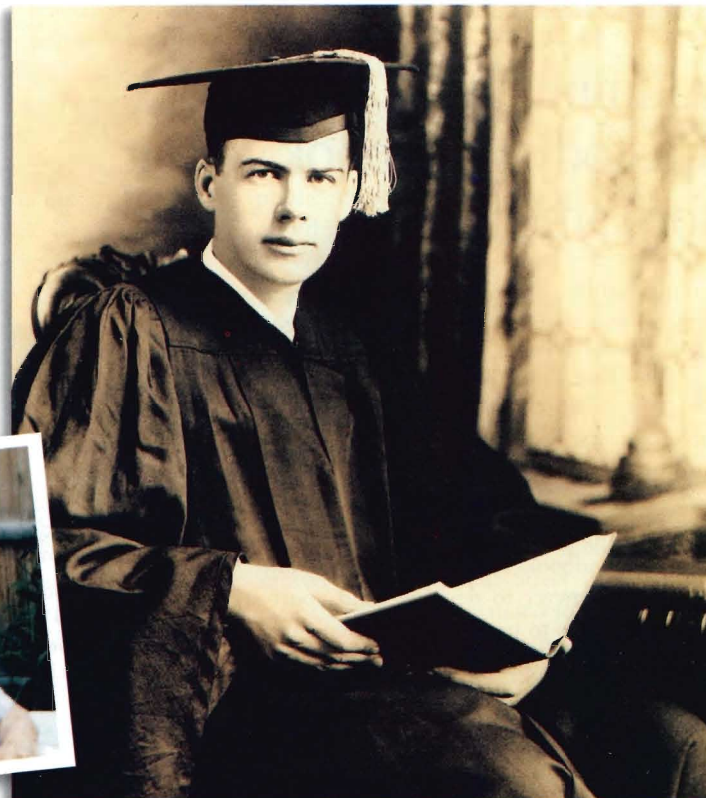


90th Birthday Is a Many-Splendored Hallmark

Eileen McCabe was recalling the birthday party given last summer for her father, James E. McCabe '32. Thirty family members had gathered to celebrate their patriarch's ninetieth year. One package among the many stood out. "You could just see it in his eyes," she says of the moment he opened a framed congratulatory letter from the dean of Boston College Law School. "He was really touched."

"As a member of our first class of graduates," the letter read, "you hold a special place of distinction in the annals of the Law School and in the history of what we have been and what we have become." McCabe was also saluted by Ann Pauly, president of the Boston College Law School Alumni Association, which honored him with a school lapel pin.

James McCabe, the son of a fireman, is believed to be the first applicant to the first class at Boston College Law School. He was also the first in his family to attend college, and he saw to it that all of his own children did, too. His striving for an education and his commitment to it are what make his daughter, Eileen, so proud of him.



James McCabe as he appeared at his 1932 graduation from the Law School and as he looked this summer at a family celebration of his ninetieth birthday.

She could think of no better way to say that to him than to offer him the Law School's tribute. "I wanted him to know that we remember what he did," she says. "Added to that is that fact that [his reaction] is now a lasting memory. Every time I talk to him, he mentions the letter. It's like he's reliving it over and over again." ■

African-American Judge Shatters Glass Ceiling



The Hon. Barbara Dortch-Okara

GARY GILBERT

The Honorable Barbara Dortch-Okara '74 in October became the first woman and first African-American named by the Supreme Judicial Court as chief justice for administration and management of the Trial Court of Massachusetts. In her new position, she is responsible for the daily management of the state court system, which includes directing 7,000 employees and a \$400 million budget. She is the fourth judge to hold this position since it was created in 1978. Her predecessor was fellow alumnus John J. Irwin Jr. '57, who has retired.

Upon hearing the news of her appointment, a friend, speaking anonymously to the *Boston Globe*, called Dortch-Okara "the American success story. She is elegant and she is eloquent."

For the past ten years, Dortch-Okara presided as a superior court judge in Suffolk County. First named to the bench by Governor Michael Dukakis in 1984, she was promoted by him to superior court judge five years later. In the Fall 1997 issue of the *Boston College Law School Magazine*, Dortch-Okara was profiled for her role as judge in the abortion-clinic shootings case of John C. Salvi III. ■

— Michael Higgins