

## Chief Justice Responds to Petition

The following letter, dated July 14, was sent to attorney James M. Carroll in response to his [letter](#) to the Chief Justice Broderick concerning the termination of Superior Court stenographers. Carroll's letter was signed by 39 Belknap County attorneys.

Dear Jim:

I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 9, 2004, which enclosed a petition in support of stenographic staff signed by numerous respected counsel in Belknap County.

As you know I spent more than two decades as a trial lawyer before coming on the bench in 1995. Much of that time was spent trying cases in the superior courts across our state. Over that time I came to know firsthand the professionalism and competence of stenographers who over many many years have been an important and integral part of the administration of justice.

I do not have to be persuaded of their dedication and value and I am not unsympathetic to their current plight. However, my duties as Chief Justice are different than those I had as a lawyer and I must deal with realities as they are not as I would like them to be. My colleagues and I are required to consider what is best for the judicial system and the citizens of New Hampshire as a whole and the administrative decisions that we make, whether they relate to stenographers or other matters, must be made from that perspective.

Please understand that I accept and acknowledge that not all of our administrative decisions will be accepted or approved by all members of the Bar. I appreciate your taking time to write me and for the obvious effort it took to circulate the petition. I will certainly share the concerns you expressed with my colleagues.

Very truly yours,  
*John T. Broderick, Jr.*  
Chief Justice