



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator-Elect Agard Statement on the Passing of Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley Abrahamson

MADISON - Senator-Elect Melissa Agard (D-Madison) released a statement on the passing of former Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson.

“Like many, I am mourning the passing of a Wisconsin legend over the weekend. Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson achieved many trailblazing firsts; she was the first female justice on our state’s Supreme Court and the first female chief justice to preside over our state’s highest court. She dedicated her career to public service, serving 40 years on the Wisconsin Supreme Court and writing over a thousand opinions during her tenure. She will be remembered for her dedication to creating a transparent judiciary and for her tireless work ethic.

“Not only did she break glass ceilings herself, she forged a path for many women to follow in her footsteps. When I was first inaugurated to the State Assembly in 2013, I had the honor of having Chief Justice Abrahamson swear me into office. I admired her dedication to making the state of Wisconsin a fairer and just place for everyone. Throughout her career, she never swayed from her principles. She believed in the law and how the law could help Wisconsinites; this is what made her so profound. Her unwavering dedication to principles and the law are something that everyone admired about her, including myself. She truly was an extraordinary gift to our state.

“I am thinking of Chief Justice’s family and friends during this time, and mourn with Wisconsinites the loss of one of our state’s most dedicated public servants. While she will be greatly missed, she had a magnificent life and achievements that will enrich all our futures.”

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Melissa served on the Dane County Board and the Wisconsin State Assembly prior to being elected to represent the 16th Senate District. Concern for the greater community and a vision for a better Wisconsin brought her to public service and community activism. She is a proud mother of 4 boys, and lives on Madison’s northside.