

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/6/94

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE HARRY A. BLACKMUN

April 6, 1994

Dear Mr. President:

I advised you some time ago that I had concluded that the Supreme Court's present Term was to be my last as an active Justice. Therefore, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 371(b), I shall assume retirement status as of the date this Court "rises" for the summer recess (presumably on a day in late June) or as of the date my successor has qualified, whichever is later, but, in any event, not subsequent to September 25, 1994.

It has been a distinct privilege to have served on the Federal Bench since November 4, 1959, a period of over 34 years, and on this Court since June 9, 1970, a period embracing 24 Terms. It has been an extraordinary experience, one that comes to very few lawyers. Being a Justice places one in a position of controversy — as Justice Holmes described it, "in the fray" — but the Federal Judiciary is in the business of resolving controversy, developing the law, and seeking and determining "justice." One does the very best he can with such talent as he possesses. Through you, as Chief Executive, I express my gratitude to the Nation.

Sincerely,



The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.