

## **Kimberly Hinden**

*Registrar of Motor Vehicles, Massachusetts  
Class of 1983*



Kimberly graduated the year of the 100th Anniversary of the Needham/Wellesley Football Rivalry and remembers being a proud member of the Tau Phi gamma community service sorority.

She describes herself as a very social student; so much so that her mother often joked that she majored in "socializing." She feels very privileged to have received an education in what she believes is one of the best school systems in the state. She cites her teachers, the curriculum and the sociological environment as the main factors that helped her learn as a student in Needham.

Kimberly holds the position of Registrar of Motor Vehicles, she is the first female in the 100 year history of the Registry of Motor Vehicles to hold that post. More importantly, Kimberly earned her position through many years of diligence and hard work in state government. Originally appointed by Acting Governor Jane Swift, Kimberly's accomplishments earned her reappointment by Governor Mitt Romney. The path of her rise to success is a remarkable one.

After graduating from Needham High School in 1983, Kimberly attended Mount Ida College where she graduated with a degree in Communications. In May 2003, Kimberly received the prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award from her alma mater.

Her first job was an assignment editor at WCVB-TV (Channel 5) in Needham. Her first day on the job was January 28, 1986, the day the space shuttle Challenger blew up. She remembers how difficult her first days at work were given the local ties of one of the victims, teacher Christa McAuliffe. Kimberly met the challenges and spent six years working in television. She met some amazing people and has maintained relationships developed during those years.

In 1991, Kimberly began her work for the state as Press Secretary for the Attorney General's office. In 1994, she went on to work at the Boston Housing Authority as a Press Secretary. Ambitious to continue her amazing rise in government, Kimberly took the job of Deputy Director for the Office of Consumer Affairs, a position she held for four years.

Kimberly began working for the Registry of Motor Vehicles as Deputy Registrar in 1998. She was an integral part of overhauling the

Registry's image and operations. Three short years later, in 2002 Kimberly was appointed as the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. Having worked with four Republican governors, Kimberly's proudest political experience was meeting President George W. Bush last year when he was in town campaigning for Mitt Romney. Most people think of the Registry as the place you go to get a driver's license or to register a car. Did you know that the Registry is also the largest repository of information not only statewide, but also nationally? As such, the Registry played a key role in trying to find the terrorists who planned and executed the attacks on September 11, 2001.

Kimberly was recognized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for her participation in the post September 11th anti-terrorism task force. She was also a crucial member of a team of state and federal authorities who identified terrorists and their associates through Registry of Motor Vehicles records. Thanks to her efforts, the Massachusetts Registry now has the most secure licensing process in the country.

It is clear from this story of growth and achievement that Kimberly is dedicated to public service and is a valuable team player. In addition to her work with federal agencies and state government Kimberly is also dedicated to service on the local level. Kimberly recently moved back to Needham where she is involved with the Republican Town Committee.

Kimberly feels strong ties to Needham and about giving back to the town in which her father was raised, her parents Peter and Dolores still reside and her sister Michele has chosen to raise her family. Kimberly is truly an inspiration for her example of how with determination, hard work and social grace a person can rise to meet the challenges of life and achieve great success. She also demonstrates how rewarding a life dedicated to public service can be.

M.H.