

**State of New York**  
**Commission on Judicial Nomination**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

On April 14, 2017, the Commission on Judicial Nomination received formal notice from the Clerk of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York of the vacancy on the Court that had occurred by reason of the untimely passing of Associate Judge Sheila Abdus-Salaam. Judge Abdus-Salaam was a remarkable human being who exhibited singular warmth to all who knew her, and was a distinguished jurist who epitomized the scholarship and collegiality that are hallmarks of the Court of Appeals. The Commission is now taking up the task of filling the void left on the Court, following the procedures established by Judiciary Law Section 68(2).

The Commission was created by Article 6, § 2 of the New York State Constitution. Consistent with its mandate, the Commission is entrusted with responsibility for evaluating, and then recommending to the Governor, candidates to fill vacancies on the Court of Appeals. The Commission vigorously seeks out, carefully evaluates and then nominates to the Governor three to seven well-qualified candidates from the extraordinary, diverse community of lawyers admitted to practice in New York State for at least ten years. The Governor's appointment is subject to confirmation by the New York State Senate.

To fill past judicial vacancies on the Court, the Commission has nominated to the Governor a wide variety of lawyers, including private practitioners, public interest attorneys, law professors, government officials and sitting Federal and State judges. While prospective

candidates must file an application with the Commission, recommendations may be made by anyone who believes that a prospective candidate could be an excellent Judge of the Court. Recommendations of qualified candidates for a vacancy are encouraged and may be made to the Commission's Counsel.

Candidates for Judge Abdus-Salaam's vacancy may download an application from the Commission's website ([www.nysegov.com/cjn](http://www.nysegov.com/cjn)) or contact the Commission's Counsel, Henry M. Greenberg, c/o Greenberg Traurig, LLP, 54 State Street, 6th Floor, Albany, New York 12208 [Tel.: (518) 689-1492; e-mail: [greenbergh@gtlaw.com](mailto:greenbergh@gtlaw.com); Fax: (518) 689-1499]. Applications may be filed electronically by e-mailing them to [CJN\\_Applications@gtlaw.com](mailto:CJN_Applications@gtlaw.com) or submitted by mail to the Commission's Counsel. **The deadline to submit applications is May 19, 2017.** As required by law, the Commission will make its recommendations to the Governor for the Judge Abdus-Salaam vacancy by no later than August 15, 2017.

If any person or organization wishes to receive copies of future Commission press releases, please provide an e-mail or mailing address to the Commission's Counsel. The Commission will register the address and make every effort to distribute future press releases in the designated manner. Persons interested in learning more about the Commission are encouraged to visit its website: [www.nysegov.com/cjn](http://www.nysegov.com/cjn).