

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“The Road to the Court of Appeals: Demystifying the Process”

**The Commission on Judicial Nomination to Hold Open Discussions
About Nomination Process in Connection with the Coming Vacancy in the Seat Now
Held by Associate Judge Eugene F. Pigott, Jr.**

In an effort to demystify the selection process for Judges of New York’s highest court, the Court of Appeals, the Commission on Judicial Nomination will host an informational meeting on Thursday, September 8, 2016, from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM, at the New York City Bar Association, 42 West 44th Street, New York, New York.

Under the Constitution of the State of New York, the Commission on Judicial Nomination 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 recommends to the Governor well-qualified candidates from the extraordinary, diverse community of lawyers admitted to practice in New York State for at least ten years.

On January 1, 2017, a vacancy on the Court will exist due to Associate Judge Eugene F. Pigott, Jr.'s mandatory retirement by reason of age. Under the Constitution of the State of New York, Judges of the Court must retire at the end of the year in which they turn seventy. As part of the Commission's process of identifying and recommending candidates to fill vacancies on the Court, the Commission conducts meetings to discuss the requirements for the position and the Commission's procedures and rules for submitting recommendations of qualified candidates. The meetings are open to the public, and all are encouraged to attend and express their views (orally or in writing) about community needs, the general qualifications for judicial office, and the nominating process.

Alan Mansfield, Interim Chair of the Commission, will host the informational meeting on September 8, at the New York City Bar Association. He will discuss the process of applying to join the Court of Appeals with former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and Associate Judges Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick and Susan Phillips Read. Other scheduled speakers and panelists include:

John S. Kiernan, President, New York City Bar Association
Michael A. Cardozo, former Corporation Counsel for the City of New York
Henry M. Greenberg, Counsel, Commission on Judicial Nomination.

It is not necessary to register in advance to attend.

Additionally, the Commission has extended the deadline for submitting applications for the forthcoming Associate Judge vacancy on the Court. Applications for this vacancy must now be submitted to the Commission **no later than September 26, 2016**. The extension is intended to ensure that the size and composition of the pool of applicants for the State's highest court represents the broadest possible spectrum of qualified candidates, and to give applicants additional time during these summer months. The Commission will take a fresh look at all applications, evaluating candidates who previously submitted applications for past vacancies and reapply for the forthcoming Associate Judge vacancy, as well as considering all new applicants.

Applications may be downloaded from the Commission's website, <http://www.nysegov.com/cjn/>. Applications may be filed electronically by emailing them to CJN_Applications@gtlaw.com, or otherwise submitted by mail to the Commission's Counsel at the above address.

If any person or organization wishes to receive copies of future Commission press releases, please provide an email or mailing address to: Commission on Judicial Nomination, Attn: Henry M. Greenberg, Commission Counsel, c/o Greenberg Traurig, LLP, 54 State Street, 6th Floor, Albany, New York 12207; or to greenbergh@gtlaw.com. The Commission will register the address and make every effort to distribute its future press releases in the designated manner. Persons interested in learning more about the Commission on Judicial Nomination are encouraged to visit the Commission's website: www.nysegov.com/cjn.