

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

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May 13, 2014

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**Ahead of Upcoming Vacancies on the Court of Appeals, Commission on Judicial
Nomination to Hold Open Discussion About the Nomination Process in Albany**

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 Tuesday, May 20, 2014, from 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM, at the New York State Bar Association, 1 Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207.

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 10 years.

On November 29, 2014, a first vacancy will exist on the Court due to the expiration of the term of office of Senior Associate Judge Victoria A. Graffeo; and a second vacancy will occur on January 1, 2015 due to Associate Judge Robert S. Smith’s mandatory retirement for age. As part of the Commission’s process of identifying and recommending candidates to fill these vacancies, the Commission will be conducting 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.

Judith S. Kaye, former Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the sitting Chair of the Commission, will host the first informational meeting on May 20 at the New York State Bar Association in Albany. She will discuss the process of applying to join the Court of Appeals with former Associate Judge Howard A. Levine. In addition to Judges Kaye and Levine scheduled speakers and panelists include:

Penelope Andrews, President and Dean of Albany Law School
Hon. Peter G. Crummey, President of the Albany County Bar Association
John A. Cirando, Commissioner, Commission on Judicial Nomination
Henry M. Greenberg, Counsel, Commission on Judicial Nomination.

It is not necessary to register in advance to attend.

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.