

**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 Smith**

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 Monday, September 8, 2014, 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 10 years.

On January 1, 2015, a vacancy will exist on the Court due to Associate Judge Robert S. Smith’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

these vacancies, 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.

In addition to Judge Smith's vacancy, there are three scheduled vacancies arising at the Court of Appeals over the next few years. Candidates will also have the option to request that their applications be considered by the Commission for such future vacancies. Moreover, candidates who currently have pending applications for the upcoming vacancy on the Court of Appeals that will occur as of November 29, 2014, due to the expiration of the term of office of Senior Associate Judge Victoria A. Graffeo, may be considered in connection with the vacancy created by Judge Smith's mandatory retirement **and do not need to submit a new application**, if they indicate to the Commission that they want to be so considered.

Judith S. Kaye, former Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the sitting Chair of the Commission, will host the informational meeting on September 8 at the New York City Bar Association. She will discuss the process of applying to join the Court of Appeals with former Associate Judges George Bundy Smith and Howard A. Levine. In addition to Judges Kaye, Smith, and Levine, scheduled speakers and panelists include:

Debra L. Raskin, 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.

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 12208; 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.