

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”

**Ahead of Upcoming Vacancy on the Court of Appeals, Commission on Judicial Nomination
to Hold Open Discussions About the Nomination Process**

Under the Constitution of the State of New York, judges of the State’s highest court, the Court of Appeals of the State of New York, must retire at the end of the year in which they turn age seventy. As of January 1, 2013, there will be a vacancy at the Court of Appeals upon the retirement of Senior Associate Judge Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick. Judge Ciparick has held judicial office for more than 30 years and has served on the Court of Appeals with distinction since 1993. She is rightly regarded by the bench, bar and public as a jurist of inestimable competence, character and commitment. All New Yorkers owe Judge Ciparick a profound debt of gratitude for her extraordinary contribution to the law.

Consistent with its constitutional mandate, 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 nominates 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.

As part of the Commission's process of identifying and nominating potential successors to Judge Ciparick, it will be conducting several meetings around the State 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 on Judicial Nomination, will host each meeting. It is anticipated that Judge Kaye will be joined by prominent representatives of the bench, bar, and state government for what promises to provide exceptional insight into the process of judicial nomination leading to the Court of Appeals. The meetings will be as follows:

May 8, 2012, Tuesday, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, at the New York State Bar Association, 1 Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207;

May 16, 2012, Wednesday, 12:15 PM – 1:30 PM, at the Michael A. Telesca Center for Justice, One West Main Street, Rochester, New York 14614; and

June 19, 2012, Tuesday, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, at the New York City Bar Association, 42 West 44th Street, New York, New York 10036.

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: Stephen P. Younger, Commission Counsel, c/o Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10023; or to: spyounger@pbwt.com. The Commission will register the address and make every effort to distribute its future press releases in the designated manner.