

State of New York
Commission on Judicial Nomination

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May 30, 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**Commission on Judicial Nomination to Hold Open Discussion About
the Court of Appeals and the Nomination Process in New York
with Former Governor Mario M. Cuomo**

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 State’s highest court, the Court of Appeals of the State of New York. 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 Senior Associate Judge Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, who must retire under the State’s Constitution, the Commission has been conducting 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.

Following up on successful meetings in Albany and Rochester, the final informational meeting will be on 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. Hon. Judith S. Kaye, former Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the sitting Chair of the Commission on Judicial Nomination, will host the meeting, and will conduct what is sure to be a fascinating conversation with former Governor Mario M. Cuomo. Judge Kaye and Governor Cuomo will discuss, among other things, the nomination and appointment process, including Judge Kaye's appointment by Governor Cuomo as the first female Judge of the Court of Appeals, Governor Cuomo's views on the importance of the Court, and their first person accounts of their Court experiences, Judge Kaye as Associate and Chief Judge, and Governor Cuomo as a law clerk to Hon. Adrian P. Burke.

In addition to Judge Kaye and Governor Cuomo, scheduled speakers include:

Hon. Leslie Leach, Appointments Secretary to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; Judge George Bundy Smith, former Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals; Stewart D. Aaron, President, New York County Lawyers' Association; Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF; Hon. Jacqueline Silbermann, incoming President of the New York Women's Bar Association; Milton L. Williams, Jr., Chair of the Fund for Modern Courts; and Stephen P. Younger, Counsel to the Commission.

It is not necessary to register in advance to attend.

Candidates for the upcoming vacancy may download an application from the Commission's website, www.nysegov.com/cjn. The deadline to submit applications is August 1, 2012. In addition to this vacancy, there will be a number of scheduled vacancies arising at the Court of Appeals over the next several years. Applicants will also have the option to request that their applications be considered by the Commission for such future, scheduled vacancies.

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. Persons interested in learning more about the Commission on Judicial Nomination are encouraged to visit the Commission's website: www.nysegov.com/cjn.