



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. A. Gail Prudenti
Chief Administrative Judge**

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Date: March 30, 2015

Chief Judge Designates Members of New Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline

New York – Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman today announced the members of the new Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline. Chaired by Chief Administrative Judge A. Gail Prudenti and made up of leaders from New York’s bench and bar, the Commission will conduct a comprehensive review of the state’s attorney disciplinary system to determine what is working well and what can work better, and offer recommendations to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of New York’s attorney discipline process. Former Appellate Division, Second Dept., Associate Justice Barry Cozier, currently with the law firm of LeClairRyan, will serve as the Commission’s vice chair. The creation of this new Commission was first publicized by Judge Lippman last month during his State of the Judiciary address, in which he also announced that attorneys’ public disciplinary histories will now be accessible via the Unified Court System’s website.

Among the issues to be studied by the Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline are whether New York’s departmental-based system leads to regional disparities in the implementation of discipline; if conversion to a statewide system is desirable; and how to achieve dispositions more quickly in an effort to provide much-needed closure to both clients

and attorneys. The Commission will issue a report with its findings and recommendations to Judge Lippman by August 1, 2015.

“The distinguished members of this new Commission, under the dynamic leadership of Chief Administrative Judge Prudenti, will carefully examine the need for change in New York in the area of discipline for professional misconduct by lawyers, thoroughly assessing our current system and proposing viable reforms where appropriate. I have every confidence that their efforts will help to enhance both the consistency and effectiveness of New York’s attorney discipline system, which is integral to the fair administration of justice,” said Chief Judge Lippman.

“I am grateful to Chief Judge Lippman for the opportunity to spearhead such a critical endeavor and look forward to working with my esteemed vice chair, the Hon. Barry Cozier, and the Commission’s talented members as we seek to reshape attorney discipline in New York. Ensuring the fairness and efficiency of New York’s attorney disciplinary process is vitally important to attorneys throughout the state, their clients, and to the integrity of the legal profession as a whole,” said Judge Prudenti.

A membership roster of the Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline is attached.

COMMISSION ON STATEWIDE ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

Hon. A. Gail Prudenti, *Chair*

Hon. Barry A. Cozier, *Vice Chair*

Members

Harvey B. Besunder, Esq., Partner, Bracken Margolin Besunder LLP

Hon. James M. Catterson, Special Counsel, Kaye Scholer LLP and former Associate Justice, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Judicial Department

Ronald M. Cerrachio, Esq., Chief Clerk, Richmond County Surrogate's Court and Member, Grievance Committee, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department, Second, Eleventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts

Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Of Counsel and Co-Chair, National Appellate Practice Group, Greenberg Traurig LLP, Chair of Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary and former Senior Associate Judge, New York State Court of Appeals

Lance D. Clarke, Esq., Managing Attorney, Cooke & Clarke and former President, Nassau County Bar Association

Hon. Jeffrey A. Cohen, Associate Justice, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department

John P. Connors, Jr., Esq., Partner, Connors & Connors, P.C. and Chairman, Grievance Committee for the Second, Eleventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts

Rita DiMartino, M.P.A., B.A., A.A., former Vice President of Congressional Relations for AT&T, Member, CUNY Board of Trustees and Member, Grievance Committee, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Judicial Department

Vincent E. Doyle III, Esq., Connors & Vilardo LLP and former president, New York State Bar Association

Monica Ann Duffy, Esq., Chief Counsel, Committee on Professional Standards, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Third Judicial Department

Donna M. England, Esq., England & England and President-Elect, Suffolk County Bar Association

Charlotte Moses Fischman, Esq., General Counsel, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP and Special Counsel to the Policy Committee of the Departmental Disciplinary Committee, First Judicial Department

Emily F. Franchina, Esq., Founding Partner, Franchina & Giordano, P.C.

Prof. Stephen Gillers, Elihu Root Professor of Law, New York University School of Law

Robert J. Giuffra, Jr., Esq., Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Nicholas A. Gravante, Jr., Esq., Administrative Partner and General Counsel, Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP

Robert P. Guido, Esq., Executive Director for Attorney Matters, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department

Sarah Jo Hamilton, Esq., Partner, Scalise, Hamilton & Sheridan LLP, former Special Trial Counsel and First Deputy Chief Counsel, Departmental Disciplinary Committee, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Judicial Department

Peter James Johnson, Jr., Esq., President, Leahey & Johnson, P.C., and Chairman, Committee on Character and Fitness, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Judicial Department

Frederick C. Johs, Esq., Founding Partner, Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles LLP and Vice Chairman, Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District

Hon. E. Michael Kavanagh, Neutral, National Arbitration and Mediation (NAM) and former Associate Justice, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First and Third Judicial Departments

Devika Kewalramani, Esq., Partner and General Counsel, Moses & Singer, and Chair of the New York City Bar Association's Committee on Professional Discipline

Glenn Lau-Kee, Esq., Partner, Kee & Lau-Kee, and President, New York State Bar Association

Hal R. Lieberman, Esq., Partner, Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady LLP, and co-author of “New York Attorney Discipline”

Hon. Stephen K. Lindley, Associate Justice, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial Department

Christopher D. Lindquist, Esq., Principal Appellate Court Attorney, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial Department

Hon. Angela M. Mazzaelli, Associate Justice, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Judicial Department

William T. McDonald, CPA, M.B.A, Partner and Healthcare Department Head, EFP Rotenberg, and Member, Grievance Committee, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial Department, Seventh Judicial District

Sean Michael Morton, Esq., Deputy Clerk of the Court, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Third Judicial Department

Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli, Counsel, Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, and former Associate Justice, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Judicial Department

Jerold R. Ruderman, Esq., Of Counsel, Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP, and Chairman, Grievance Committee for the Ninth Judicial District

Christina Leann Ryba, Esq., Special Projects Counsel for the Presiding Justice, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Third Judicial Department

Hon. Fred T. Santucci, former Associate Justice, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department, and Executive Director, Committee on Character and Fitness, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department

Hon. Peter B. Skelos, Associate Justice, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department

Sheldon K. Smith, Esq., Partner, Nixon Peabody, Past President of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York and Member at Large of the Executive Committee to the New York State Bar Association

Eun Chong Thorsen, Esq., Associate, Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP, and Vice President, Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York

Prof. W. Bradley Wendel, Cornell University Law School

Milton L. Williams, Jr., Esq., Partner, Vladeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard, P.C.

Akosua Garcia Yeboah, Senior Information Technology Project Manager, City of Albany, and Member, Committee on Professional Standards, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Third Judicial Department, Third Judicial District

Mark C. Zauderer, Esq., Partner, Flemming Zulack Williamson Zauderer LLP

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