

State of New York

Court of Appeals

Gary Spencer
Public Information Officer
20 Eagle Street
Albany, New York 12207-1095
(518) 455-7711

September 16, 2010

Court of Appeals Names New Clerk

The Court of Appeals announced today that it has chosen Andrew W. Klein to serve as the next Clerk of the Court. He will succeed Stuart M. Cohen, who plans to retire at the end of November after fourteen years in the post, supervising operations of the state's highest court.

Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman said, "On behalf of the Court of Appeals, I want to express our great gratitude to Stuart Cohen for his outstanding service. Stuart's stellar qualities as a lawyer and as a human being have served the Court well. His tenure as Clerk of the Court has been marked by the introduction of modern management principles and advanced computer technology, as well as significant improvements in the Court's facilities. Under his leadership, the Court has become more efficient, transparent and accessible to the public. The Judges salute Stuart on his many achievements and contributions to the administration of justice and we wish him a happy and healthy retirement from court service."

Mr. Cohen was appointed Clerk of the Court in November 1996, after serving nine years as Deputy Clerk. He had previously worked at the Court as a law clerk to Chief Judge Sol Wachtler from 1985 to 1987 and to Associate Judge Jacob D. Fuchsberg from 1982 to 1983. Born in Newark, New Jersey in December 1953, Mr. Cohen graduated from Connecticut College in 1976 and from New York University School of Law in 1979. He resides in Rensselaer.

Mr. Klein joined the Court's staff as the Assistant Consultation Clerk in November 1983 and has served as the Consultation Clerk since September 1990. Along with the Clerk of the Court, the two consultation clerks attend the conferences where the Court conducts its business and are responsible for recording all that takes place. The consultation clerks serve as the Court's expert resource on procedural matters, including issues of appealability, reviewability, and corrective action. As Consultation Clerk, Mr. Klein also oversees preparation of the Court's decisions for release to the public.

Judge Lippman said, "I know Andy Klein will be a worthy successor to Stuart Cohen. Andy has worked closely with the Judges of the Court for more than two decades, helping them perform their most important work of deciding appeals and motions. He enjoys the full confidence of the Court and is certain to provide a seamless transition. I have no doubt he will uphold the high standards and great tradition of the Clerks of the Court of Appeals."

Mr. Klein was born in Manhattan in September 1952. He graduated from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1974 and St. John's University School of Law in 1977. He served as a law clerk on the Court's Central Legal Research Staff from 1977 to 1980, then practiced law as a litigation associate with Whitman & Ransom in Manhattan and Whiteman Osterman & Hanna in Albany before returning to the Court of Appeals. Mr. Klein resides in Middleburgh with his wife, Sheryl.