

State of New York

Court of Appeals

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

Media Advisory
April 30, 2002

Law Day 2002

Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye will preside at the annual Law Day ceremony at noon on Wednesday, May 1, at the Court of Appeals. She will address concerns about access to justice in the courts of New York. Other speakers will include Lieutenant Governor Mary O. Donohue, Attorney General Eliot L. Spitzer, and New York State Bar Association President Steven C. Krane.

Prior to the event, Chief Judge Kaye and Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman will speak at a rally in support of their proposed constitutional amendment to restructure the trial courts. The rally, organized by activists against domestic violence, will be held on the steps of the State Capitol at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. Two domestic violence survivors will describe the difficulties they encountered in navigating the nation's most complex trial court system.

The Court of Appeals ceremony will include award presentations to the court system's Chief of Public Safety, Matthew O'Reilly, for his leadership during and after the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center, and to Appellate Term Presiding Justice Michael L. Pesce for innovations in the court system's treatment of drug addiction, domestic violence and mental illness.

The ceremony will be webcast beginning at 2:30 p.m. on the Court of Appeals web site: www.courts.state.ny.us/ctapps.