

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 Discussion About the Nomination Process in Albany**

In an effort to demystify the selection process for Judges of New York’s highest court, the Court of Appeals, the Commission on Judicial Nomination will host an informational meeting on Monday, July 13, 2026, from 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM, at the New York State Bar Association, 1 Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207.

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 Court of Appeals. The Commission vigorously seeks out, carefully evaluates, and then recommends to the Governor well-qualified candidates from the extraordinary, diverse community of lawyers admitted to practice in New York State for at least ten years.

On February 10, 2027, a vacancy will exist on the Court due to the expiration of the term of office of Senior Associate Judge Jenny Rivera. As part of the Commission’s process

of identifying and recommending candidates to fill vacancies on the Court, the Commission conducts meetings 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.

Elizabeth R. Fine, the Chair of the Commission, will host the informational meeting on July 13. She will discuss the process of applying to join the Court of Appeals with former Associate Judges Howard A. Levine and Leslie E. Stein. Other scheduled speakers and panelists include:

Michal J. Hutter, Commissioner, Commission on Judicial Nomination
Paul N. Samuels, Commissioner, Commission on Judicial Nomination
Lorraine R. Silverman, President, Albany County Bar Association
Henry M. Greenberg, Counsel, Commission on Judicial Nomination

It is not necessary to register in advance to attend the meeting in person.

For those who cannot attend in person, the meeting will also be administered as a Zoom webinar. Preregistration is required for anyone who wishes to participate virtually at the following link: <https://nysba.org/the-road-to-the-court-of-appeals/>. After registering you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom and will have the option to create an Outlook Calendar, Google Calendar, or Yahoo Calendar meeting reminder for yourself.

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: Henry M. Greenberg, Commission Counsel, c/o Greenberg Traurig, LLP, 54 State Street, 6th Floor, Albany, New York 12207; or to greenbergh@gtlaw.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: <https://cjn.ny.gov/>.