- 2011 -

HOW TO BECOME A JUDGE

by

The Association of the Bar of The City of New York
Special Committee To Encourage Judicial Service ©
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HOW TO BECOME A JUDGE

Association of the Bar of The City of New York
Special Committee To Encourage Judicial Service

I. Introduction

A. The Purpose of This Booklet

The original version of this booklet was issued by the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee To Encourage Judicial Service of the Association of the Bar of The City of New York in connection with a Conference on Opportunities for Judicial Service held at the Association of the Bar of The City of New York on November 22, 1986. The booklet has been revised and expanded in connection with subsequent conferences.

Through these conferences, and the issuance of this booklet, the Special Committee To Encourage Judicial Service is seeking to expand the number of qualified candidates for judicial office by encouraging applications from persons who previously have not applied, including those from groups historically unrepresented or underrepresented in the judiciary as a whole, or in specific judicial offices, such as appellate courts.

In furtherance of these goals, this booklet is intended to provide a description of the methods of judicial selection; the relevant governmental, political and other bodies that participate in the selection processes; and the statutory and other criteria applicable to the selection process for each judicial position. This information applies to federal and state judicial offices in The City of New York, although some information is also applicable to judicial positions outside The City of New York.

While many judicial positions are elective, a substantial number are appointive and are based on the recommendations of judicial screening or nominating committees, which accept applications from all eligible attorneys. In some instances, appointments are also made to fill vacancies in elective positions. The following is a partial list of judicial positions that are filled by appointment: Family Court, Criminal Court, Interim Civil Court, Housing Court, Interim Supreme Court, Court of Claims, Interim Surrogate’s Court and Court of Appeals. All federal judicial positions are filled by appointment.

This booklet also describes several paid and unpaid quasi-judicial positions, such as arbitrator and hearing examiner, which may provide a lawyer with an opportunity to serve in a decision-making capacity, as opposed to an adversarial position, to determine his or her affinity for a judicial role.

The processes for selecting or electing judges in New York State are always subject to change, but they appear to be entering a fairly stable period. The election processes by which State Supreme Court Judges are chosen was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in New York State Board of Elections v. Lopez Torres, 552 U.S. 196 (2008). With respect to the majority of appointed judicial positions, there is no imminent change among the top decision-makers. Mayor Bloomberg has three more years remaining in his last term as Mayor. The State’s U.S.
Senators will remain the same for at least another two years. Andrew Cuomo has taken office as the state’s new governor; it is not known as yet if his approach to judicial appointments will vary from his predecessors’ approach.

One issue that is in flux is compensation for New York State’s Judges. New York State’s Judges have not received a raise since 1999. Several lawsuits have been filed to challenge this inaction on judicial salaries. In a trilogy of judicial pay cases decided in 2010 (Larabee v. Governor, Marin v. Silver and Chief Judge v. Governor), the Court of Appeals held that the impasse on judicial pay violated the state constitution. The Court held that by failing to consider judicial compensation independently on the merits, and instead tying it to unrelated legislative objectives and policy initiatives, the New York Legislature threatened the structural independence of the judiciary in violation of the separation-of-powers doctrine. The Court deferred to the legislature in the first instance to determine whether judicial salaries should be adjusted, and by how much, while warning that the legislature “should keep in mind . . . that whether the Legislature has met its constitutional obligations in that regard is within the province of this Court.” In December 2010, the State enacted a law that creates a seven-member quadrennial salary commission for Judges that must report to the Governor, Legislature and the Chief Judge with recommendations for pay changes for Judges. These recommendations, which cover judicial pay for the four-year period following the commission’s report, will take effect by operation of law on April 1st each year, starting in 2012, unless specifically rejected or modified by the Legislature.

Those interested in these issues are urged to follow developments in the press and on government websites.

B. Sources of Further and Updated Information

Much of the information in this booklet is subject to change. The booklet is current through December 2010. Current information about specific judicial offices may be obtained from the sources identified in each respective section of this booklet.

In particular, the judiciary committees of county bar associations in The City of New York, listed in Appendix A, may be sources of further information.

C. Changes in Judicial Selection - Prior Trial Experience and Political Party Affiliation or Activity May Not Be Necessary

1. Political Party Affiliation and Activity

Political party affiliation and activity, once a virtual prerequisite to obtaining judicial office, appears to be declining in influence as criteria relevant to certain judicial offices, especially in certain counties of The City of New York. Political party affiliation or activity is not a criterion employed by the statutory nominating bodies (e.g., the State of New York Commission on Judicial Nomination and the Advisory Council to the Housing Part of the Civil Court of The City of New York) and other merit selection nominating bodies (as opposed to screening bodies) described in this booklet, nor is it a criterion of the Mayor’s Advisory
Committee on the Judiciary or the State Judicial Screening Committee. However, political affiliation or activity may be a consideration of the ultimate appointing authority.

In some counties, historically dominated by a single political party, the selection of candidates for nomination by that party has been virtually tantamount to election in the general election. Also, in some counties, the selection of nominees is determined by local political party organizations, with little or no involvement by an independent screening body. In some of these instances, political considerations, including a history of political party activity, contributions to political party organizations, and acquaintance with political party officials, may influence the selection process to varying degrees. Even where the nomination process appears to be virtually controlled by local political party organizations, the use of screening panels by these organizations has resulted in the nomination of candidates with little prior political involvement. The use of screening committees by the various county political organizations has expanded in recent years.

Because political party organizations have been involved in the selection of candidates for some of the judicial positions described in this booklet - especially elected judgeships - it may be helpful to communicate with local or county political party organizations to obtain further information about candidate selection, including the application process for any pre-primary election screening bodies. This is important because the procedures of these screening bodies may change from year to year.

Appendix B to this booklet lists some of the political organizations involved in the process of judicial selection.

2. Litigation Experience

Traditionally, it was believed that a candidate for judicial office was required to possess substantial trial experience in order to receive serious consideration. While trial experience remains helpful, extensive trial experience may not be essential for many judicial positions.

Over the years, non-litigators, including law secretaries, law clerks, professors, administrators and lawyers holding positions in government and private sector organizations, have been selected for judicial office and have proven their ability to learn and perform the duties of judicial officers. The realization that good jurists do not come exclusively from the courtroom, combined with the goal of many merit selection judicial screening or nominating bodies to broaden the pool of potential candidates, has led to a decrease in the importance of prior litigation experience.

D. Bar Association Review of Candidates

In addition to the selection processes discussed in this booklet, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Association of the Bar of The City of New York, in conjunction with the county bar association in the relevant county, investigates and evaluates the qualifications of all candidates for judicial office in The City of New York. The results of these reviews are reported to the appointing authority in the case of appointed judgeships, and to the public by press release in the case of elective judgeships.

A bar association review typically includes the candidate’s response to a questionnaire submitted by the association, one or more interviews with representatives of the judiciary
committee of the association, review of the candidate’s writings, and interviews by committee members of adversaries, judges and others with whom the candidate has dealt.

Appendix A lists the various county bar associations, and Appendix C to this booklet lists the members of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Association of the Bar of The City of New York. See Appendix J for a sample of questions a committee may ask.

E. Standards of Review

The descriptions of the judicial positions discussed in this booklet indicate the minimum qualifications required by statute for each position. In addition, the various nominating, screening, reviewing and appointing bodies may have developed other requirements.

It is difficult to set forth definitive criteria for evaluating candidates for judicial office. The general standards most often stated include:

General intellectual ability;

Knowledge of the law, including knowledge of the specific body of law applicable to the court in which the position is sought. Because judges often sit in courts to which they were not originally elected or appointed (e.g., Civil Court judges may sit by assignment in the Criminal Court or in the Criminal Term of the Supreme Court), knowledge of other areas of the law also is important;

Appropriate demeanor and judicial temperament, including an ability to deal patiently and considerately with both attorneys and pro se litigants and, in the case of appellate courts, with other judges in a collegial setting;

Industriousness and a proven willingness to work hard;

An ability to discern facts and weigh conflicting evidence;

An ability to understand legal arguments and to make prompt, correct determinations of legal issues;

An absence of bias and a commitment to equal justice for all;

Integrity, candor and an absence of outside political or other influence; and

A commitment to public service, particularly to judicial service.

F. When to Apply

Vacancies in judicial offices and the commencement of selection processes are usually announced in the press. However, the announcement may be small and may be printed only by the New York Law Journal and on courts’ websites. In some cases (e.g., selections made by the Mayor’s Advisory Committee), the selection process is an ongoing one. Accordingly, regular inquiry of the appointing, nominating, reviewing and screening bodies listed in this booklet is suggested in order to assure that a potential candidate is aware of a vacancy in time to complete the application process.
II. New York City Courts

A. Appointments to Terms on the Family Court and Criminal Court and to Interim Appointments To Fill Unexpired Terms for Vacancies on the Civil Court

General Comments - Appointment of Family Court and Criminal Court Judges and interim appointments (of up to one year) to fill vacancies on the Civil Court are made by the Mayor of The City of New York from a list of candidates submitted by the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary.

The Mayor’s Advisory Committee is composed of up to 19 members, all of whom are volunteers and are appointed as follows: The Mayor selects 9 members. The Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals nominates 4 members; the Presiding Justices of the Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court for the First and Second Judicial Departments each nominate 2 members, and deans of the law schools in The City of New York, on an annual rotating basis, each nominate one member. The Mayor’s approval of selections is necessary. See Appendices D and E.

Questionnaires and other information may be obtained from the Committee at:

Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary
Desirée Kim, Executive Director
100 Gold Street, 2nd Floor
New York, New York 10038
(212) 788-2401

Additional information is available at http://www.nyc.gov/html/acj/html/home/home.shtml. Generally, nominees of the Mayor’s Committee are reviewed by the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary and the Judiciary Committee of the Bar Association of The City of New York and will not be selected or appointed if found not qualified by those committees. For a list of the present membership of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee, see Appendix D. The application for the Mayor’s Advisory Committee is available on the Internet at http://www.nyc.gov/html/acj/html/application/judicial_application.shtml. See also Appendix J.

1. Jurisdiction of Family Court, Criminal Court and Civil Court

i. Family Court

The Family Court has jurisdiction over actions and proceedings concerning (1) the protection, treatment, correction and commitment of minors in need of the exercise of the authority of the court because of circumstances of neglect, delinquency or dependency, as the legislature may determine; (2) the custody of minors except for custody incidental to actions and proceedings for marital separation, divorce, annulment of marriage, and dissolution of marriage; (3) the adoption of persons; (4) the support of
dependents except when incidental to actions and proceedings in this state for marital separation, divorce, annulment of marriage or dissolution of marriage; (5) the establishment of paternity; (6) proceedings for conciliation of spouses; and (7) as may be provided by law, the guardianship of minors, in conformity with the provisions of section seven of this article, and crimes and offenses by or against minors or between spouses or between parent and child or between members of the same family or household. The family court may also take jurisdiction over certain matters referred to it by the Supreme Court. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 §§ 13(b)(1) – 13(b)(7), 13(c), and Art. 6 § 7(a).

ii. **Criminal Court**

The Criminal Court has City-wide criminal jurisdiction over crimes and other violations of law, other than those prosecuted by indictment, provided, however, that the Legislature may grant to the Criminal Court jurisdiction over misdemeanors prosecuted by indictment; and over such other actions and proceedings, not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, as may be provided by law. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 15(c).

Specifically, this includes jurisdiction to hear, try and determine all misdemeanor charges, except libel, and all offenses of a grade less than misdemeanor. N.Y. City Crim. Ct. Act § 31. In addition, the Criminal Court has trial jurisdiction over all offenses other than felonies and preliminary jurisdiction of all offenses, subject to divestment by the Supreme Court and its grand juries. N.Y. Crim. Proc. Law § 10.30.

iii. **Civil Court**

See point B below.

2. **Selection Process**

Appointment by the Mayor of The City of New York from a list of candidates submitted by the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary. See General Comments, II(A), supra; Fam. Ct. Act § 123; N.Y. City Crim. Ct. Act § 22(2).

3. **Eligibility Requirements**


i. New York City resident.

ii. Admitted to practice as an attorney in New York for ten years before selection.

iii. Age limit - Service until December 31 of the year in which the judge reaches 70. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 25(b).
4. Term

Ten years. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 13(a); Fam. Ct. Act § 123; N.Y. City Crim. Ct. Act § 22(2).

5. Salary

Family Court - $136,700. N.Y. Jud. Law § 221-e. Criminal Court - $125,600. N.Y. Jud. Law § 221-g.

B. Election to the Civil Court of The City of New York

General Comments - Political party nomination (especially the Democratic Party nomination, in all counties except Richmond) is very important for election. In the counties, the presence of competing factions within the political parties has provided an opportunity for many well-qualified persons to be nominated in spite of past political inactivity. Interested persons should communicate with any screening panels and the various political party organizations active in their respective districts. See Appendix B.

1. Jurisdiction

City-wide jurisdiction over actions and proceedings for the recovery of money and chattels; foreclosure of mechanics' liens and liens on personal property up to $25,000 exclusive of costs and interest; summary proceedings to recover possession of real property and to remove tenants therefrom; and unlimited jurisdiction to enter judgment upon a counterclaim for the recovery of money. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 15(b).

2. Selection Process

Election from districts, with vacancies filled by the mayor and service continuing until the last day of December after next election. See N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Act § 102-a.(3).

3. Eligibility Requirements

i. New York City resident. N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Act § 102-a(1).

ii. Admitted to practice as an attorney in New York for ten years before taking office. N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Act § 102-a(1).

iii. Age Limit - Service until December 31 of the year in which the judge reaches the age of 70. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 25(b).

4. Term

Ten years.
5. **Salary**

$125,600. N.Y. Jud. Law § 221-g.

**C. Housing Part of the Civil Court**

**General Comments** - Judges of the Housing Part of the Civil Court are appointed by the Administrative Judge of the Civil Court from a list of candidates found qualified by the Advisory Council to the Housing Part of the Civil Court. N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Act § 110(f).

The Advisory Council is a statutory body composed of fourteen members, who serve without compensation, appointed by the Administrative Judge with the approval of the Presiding Justices of the Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court for the First and Second Judicial Departments. The Advisory Council members represent the real estate industry (2), tenants' organizations (2), civic groups (2), bar associations (2), the public (4), the Mayor of The City of New York (1), and the Commissioner of Housing and Community Renewal (1). N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Act § 110(g). For a list of the present membership of the Advisory Council, see Appendix F.

Persons interested in positions as Housing Judges should request questionnaires and additional information from:

Chief Administrative Judge  
Civil Court of the City of New York  
111 Centre Street, Room 1240  
New York, New York 10013  
(646) 386-5400

1. **Jurisdiction**

Actions and proceedings involving the enforcement of state and local laws for the establishment and maintenance of housing standards including, but not limited to, the Multiple Dwelling Law and the Housing Maintenance Code, and the Building Code and Health Code of the Administrative Code of The City of New York, as provided in N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Act § 110(a).

2. **Selection Process**

Appointment by the Administrative Judge from a list of candidates selected annually by the Advisory Council. N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Act § 110(f).

3. **Eligibility Requirements**

Admission to practice as an attorney in New York for five years, two of which must have been in active practice, before taking office. Reappointment possible. N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Act § 110(i).

4. **Term**

Five years. Id.
5. Salary


III. New York State Courts

A. Election to the Supreme Court of the State of New York

General Comments – The following information is a description of the current statutory scheme for election to the State Supreme Court.

Democrats are most often elected as Supreme Court Justices in New York City as a result of New York City’s predominantly Democratic electorate. Under current procedures, each political party holds a judicial nominating convention for each judicial district. The conventions are attended by delegates elected in each Assembly District or, in some cases, a part thereof, at the primary immediately preceding the election involved. N.Y. Election Law § 6-124. The rules governing time, place and procedure of conventions are left to committees appointed under the rules of the state committee of each political party. Id. § 6126(1).

For administrative purposes, New York State is divided into 13 judicial districts, with the following judicial districts in New York City (N.Y. Judiciary Law § 140):

- First District - Manhattan (New York)
- Second District - Brooklyn (Kings)
- Eleventh District - Queens
- Twelfth District - Bronx
- Thirteenth District - Staten Island (Richmond)

Each judicial district has the following number of justices of the Supreme Court (N.Y. Judiciary Law § 140-a):

- First District - 38
- Second District - 49
- Eleventh District - 39
- Twelfth District - 25
- Thirteenth District - 3

Nominees need not be enrolled members of the political party by which they are nominated. Historically, Supreme Court nominees usually have been selected from sitting Criminal Court, Civil Court or Family Court Judges.

1. Jurisdiction

General original and appellate jurisdiction in law and equity (see Appellate Term and Appellate Division, infra). In The City of New York, jurisdiction concurrent with that of the Criminal Court over certain misdemeanors prosecuted by
indictment and with the Family Court over crimes and offenses by or against minors or between members of the same family or household, and exclusive jurisdiction over all other crimes prosecuted by indictment. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 7; N.Y. Fam. Ct. Act §§ 115, 812; N.Y. City Crim. Ct. Act § 31.

2. Selection Process

Election by judicial district. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 6(c); N.Y. Judiciary Law § 140-a.

3. Eligibility Requirements

i. Admission to practice as an attorney in New York for ten years. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 20(a); N.Y. Judiciary Law § 140-a.

ii. Age Limit - A Supreme Court Justice may serve until December 31 of the year in which he or she reaches age 70, and may thereafter perform duties as a Supreme Court Justice if it is certified that his or her services are necessary to expedite the Court’s business, and that he or she is physically and mentally competent to fully perform the duties of such office. Certification is valid for a two-year term and may be extended for up to two additional two-year terms, but in no event longer than December 31 in the year in which he or she reaches age 76. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 25(b).

4. Term

14 years. Id. § 6(c).

5. Salary

$136,700. N.Y. Jud. Law § 221-b.

B. Interim Appointments To Fill Vacancies and Unexpired Terms on the Supreme Court

General Comments - Appointments to fill vacancies on the Supreme Court in the five counties of New York City, created other than by expiration of a term, are made by the Governor upon advice and consent of the State Senate. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 21(a).

C. Acting Supreme Court Justice

1. Jurisdiction

Same as Supreme Court Justice.

2. Selection Process

Designation by the Chief Administrator of the Courts upon consultation and agreement with the presiding justice of the appropriate Appellate Division. Selection made upon recommendations from an evaluatory panel consisting of the
appropriate Deputy Chief Administrator for the Courts, the Deputy Chief Administrator for Management Support, the Administrative Judge for Matrimonial Matters, and the Administrative Judge of the court where the judge serves. The panel shall consult with Administrative Judges, bar associations, and other persons or groups as may be appropriate, and shall consider the productivity, scholarship, temperament and work ethic of eligible candidates and any complaints made against an applicant. See 22 N.Y.C.R.R. Parts 33 and 121.2.

3. Eligibility Requirements

Service as a judge in a court of limited jurisdiction (Court of Claims, County Court, Surrogate’s Court, Civil, Criminal or Family Court) for at least two years, 22 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 121.2(c), and residence in the Department for which the appointment is made. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 26.

4. Term

No greater than one year. 22 N.Y.C.R.R. § 121.3. Judges are eligible for redesignation at the end of term. Id.

Judges interested in serving as Acting Supreme Court Justices in The City of New York should proceed through the judicial administration of the court in which they sit.

D. Supreme Court, Appellate Terms

1. Jurisdiction

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in each Judicial Department may establish an Appellate Term for the Department, Judicial District or County within that Department, and may authorize the Appellate Term to hear appeals authorized by law to be taken to the Supreme Court or the Appellate Division, other than appeals from the Supreme Court, a Surrogate’s Court or appeals in criminal cases prosecuted by indictment or information. See N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 8(a), (d).

2. Selection Process

The Appellate Term is composed of between three and five Supreme Court Justices designated by the Chief Administrator of the Courts with the approval of the presiding justice of the appropriate appellate division. Id. § 8(a).

3. Eligibility Requirements

Service as a Supreme Court Justice. Id.

E. Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First and Second Departments

1. Jurisdiction

Appeals from judgments or orders as to which appeal is authorized, from the Supreme Court, Surrogate’s Court, Appellate Term of the Supreme Court, Family

2. Selection Process

Designation by the Governor from among the Supreme Court Justices of the State (N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 4(c)). See Appendices G & I.

3. Eligibility Requirements

Supreme Court Justice. The Presiding Judge must be a resident of the Department for which the designation is made. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 4(c). A majority of Associate Judges also must be residents of the Departments in which they serve. Id. § 4 (f).

4. Term

i. Presiding Judge - until expiration of term as Supreme Court Justice. Id. § 4(c).

ii. Associate Judge - earlier of five years from date of appointment or expiration of term as Supreme Court Justice. Id.

5. Salary

i. Presiding Judge - $147,600. N.Y. Judiciary Law § 221-a.

ii. Associate Judge - $144,000. Id.

F. Court of Claims

1. Jurisdiction

i. "Part A Judges" - Court of Claims Act § 2. The 17 originally authorized judges of the Court of Claims have jurisdiction over, inter alia, claims against the State for the appropriation of any real or personal property, breach of contract, torts of state officers and employees committed while acting as such, claims for damages against the State for unjust conviction and imprisonment, and special proceedings to distribute moneys pursuant to Eminent Domain Procedure Law § 304(E). N.Y. Ct. Cl. Act §§ 9(2) and 3(3-a).

ii. "Part B Judges" - Pursuant to Sections 2(2)(b)-(d) of the N.Y. Court of Claims Act, a specified number of additional Court of Claims judges may be appointed. Pursuant to 22 N.Y.C.R.R. Parts 33 and 121.2, most of the additional "Part B" Court of Claims Judges have been appointed immediately to serve as Acting Justices of the Supreme Court, Criminal Term.
2. Selection Process

Appointment by the Governor with the consent of the State Senate. N.Y. Ct. Cl. Act § 2(2)(a). See Appendices G & I.

3. Eligibility Requirements

Admission to practice as an attorney in New York, with at least ten years experience in practice. N.Y. Ct. Cl. Act § 2(7). No age limit.

4. Term

Nine years. N.Y. Ct. Cl. Act § 2(3).

5. Salary

i. Presiding Judge - $144,000. N.Y. Jud. Law § 221-c.

ii. Judge- $136,700. Id.

6. Vacancies and Unexpired Terms

Vacancies other than by expiration of term are filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 21(b).

G. Surrogate's Court

General Comments - There are two Surrogates in New York County and Kings County; there is one in each of the other counties in New York City.

1. Jurisdiction

Full and complete general jurisdiction in law and in equity to administer justice in all matters relating to estates and the affairs of decedents. N.Y. Surrogate’s Court Procedure Act § 201(3).

2. Selection Process

County-wide election. Candidates should communicate with political party organizations and judicial screening panels in the county in which they seek to be elected. See Appendix B.

3. Eligibility Requirements

i. Admission to practice as an attorney in New York for ten years. N.Y. Surrogate’s Court Procedure Act § 2603(4).

ii. Age Limit - Service until December 31 of the year in which the judge reaches the age of 70.
4. **Term**

Fourteen years in New York City. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 12(c).

5. **Salary**

$136,700. N.Y. Judiciary Law § 221-f.

6. **Vacancies and Unexpired Terms**

Appointments to fill vacancies in the Surrogate’s Court, other than those created by expiration of a term, are made by the Governor upon advice and consent of the State Senate. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 21(a).

H. **Court of Appeals**

General Comments - Appointments by the Governor as Associate Judge or Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals are made from a list of nominees found well-qualified by the State of New York Commission on Judicial Nomination. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 2(c). The members of the Commission, who serve without compensation, are appointed by the Governor (4), the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals (4), the Speaker of the State Assembly (1), the Temporary President of the State Senate (1), the Minority Leader of the State Assembly (1) and the Minority Leader of the State Senate (1). N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 2(d). Among each group of four members appointed by the Governor and the Chief Judge, respectively, no more than two may be enrolled in the same political party, two must be members of the bar of the State and two must be laypersons. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 2(d). See Appendix H.

1. **Jurisdiction**

Jurisdiction is limited to the review of questions of law except where the judgment is of death, or where the Appellate Division, on reversing or modifying a final or interlocutory judgment in an action or a final or interlocutory order in a special proceeding, finds new facts and a final judgment and a final order pursuant thereto is entered. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 3.

2. **Selection Process**

Appointment by the Governor from a list of nominees prepared by the Commission on Judicial Nomination, with the advice and consent of the State Senate. Id. § 2(e).

3. **Eligibility Requirements**

Residence in New York and admission to practice as an attorney in New York for ten years. Id. No age limit.

4. **Term**

Fourteen years. Id. § 2(a).
5. Salary

   i. Chief Judge - $156,000. N.Y. Judiciary Law § 221.

   ii. Associate Judges - $151,200. Id.

6. Vacancies and Unexpired Terms

   Appointments to fill vacancies on the Court of Appeals are made in the same manner as original appointments. N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 2(f). The Commission publishes notices of vacancies and application information locally in the New York Law Journal.

I. Judicial Hearing Officer

1. Jurisdiction

   Judicial Hearing Officers have been assigned to hear and report, with recommendations, to a judge of the Unified Court System.

2. Selection Process

   Subject to the rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts, any person who has served as a judge or justice of a court of record of the Unified Court System or of a city court which is not a court of record, but who no longer holds judicial office, may, upon completion of a prescribed application, be designated by the chief administrator as a judicial hearing officer upon the determination of the chief administrator that (a) the former judge has the mental and physical capacity to perform the duties of such office and (b) the services of that former judge are necessary to expedite the business of the courts. N.Y. Judiciary Law § 850(1).

3. Eligibility Requirements

   Any person who has served for at least one year as a judge or justice of a court of the Unified Court System, other than a town or village court, who is no longer serving in such capacity, except a person who was removed from a judicial position pursuant to N.Y. Const. Art. 6 § 22(h). Uniform Rules of Chief Administrator, 22 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 122.1.

4. Term

   One year, with possible extension for an additional year without further application, and with possible designation for additional two-year terms. Uniform Rules of Chief Administrator, 22 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 122.3.

5. Salary

   Reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in performance of duties, plus compensation in an amount established by the Chief Administrator of the Courts, currently, $300 per diem. 22 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 122.8. Such expenses and compensation shall be state charges payable out of funds appropriated to the
administrative office for the courts for this purpose. A judicial hearing officer shall receive no other compensation for the performance of services in this capacity. N.Y. Judiciary Law § 852(1).

J. **Supreme Court Special Master (volunteer)**

Special Masters dispose of disputes between parties relating to discovery matters. Ten years’ intensive motion/trial experience is required. An attorney wishing to perform as a special master must submit an affirmation declaring his or her good standing as an attorney, the absence of any prior instances of misconduct, and the extent and nature of his or her trial experience. Applications may be obtained from:

New York County Lawyers’ Association  
14 Vesey Street  
New York, New York 10007-2992  
(212) 267-6646

The Special Masters Committee reviews the applications of prospective Special Master candidates.

Special Masters serve on a continuing basis, provided that they respond affirmatively to the annual inquiry sent to Special Masters requesting whether they wish to continue to serve.

K. **Civil Court Arbitrator (paid)**

**General Comments** - The Chief Administrator of the courts may establish an arbitration program in any trial court. 22 N.Y.C.R.R. § 28.2(a).

1. **Jurisdiction**

In each county with an arbitration program, all civil actions for a sum of money, except those commenced in small claims parts and not subsequently transferred to a regular part of the Court, that are noticed for trial or commenced in the Supreme Court, County Court, the Civil Court of The City of New York, a District Court or a City Court, where recovery sought for each cause of action is $6,000 or less or $10,000 or less in the Civil Court of the City of New York, or such other sum as may be authorized by law, exclusive of costs and interest, shall be heard and decided by a panel of arbitrators. 22 N.Y.C.R.R. § 28.2(b). Includes jurisdiction of any counterclaim or cross-claim without reference to amount. Id. § 28.2(d).

In addition, parties may stipulate that any civil action pending or thereafter commenced for a sum of money, regardless of the amount in controversy, shall be arbitrated, with the award not limited to the monetary jurisdiction of the court. Id. § 28.2(c).

Unless the award is vacated or a demand is made for a trial de novo, with the fees of the arbitrator paid simultaneously therewith, arbitrator’s awards are final and judgment may be entered thereon. Id. § 28.11(b).
2. Selection Process

Members of arbitration panels are appointed by the Arbitration Commissioner from the list of attorneys established by the Chief Administrator of the courts. Names of attorneys are drawn at random. Where a three-arbitrator panel is utilized, the first name drawn for each three-arbitrator panel shall be the chairperson thereof. Id. §§ 28.4(a), (b).

3. Eligibility Requirements

The panel chairperson must be admitted to practice in New York for at least five years. Other panel members must be admitted, but there is no durational requirement. Id. §§ 28.4(a), (b).

4. Term

No attorney who has served as arbitrator is eligible to serve again until all other attorneys on the current list of the Chief Administrator of the courts have had an opportunity to serve. Id. § 28.4(c).

5. Salary

The Chief Administrator of the Courts provides for compensation and expenses to the extent funds are available for this purpose. Id. § 28.10(a).

I. Civil Court Small Claims Arbitrator (volunteer)

1. Jurisdiction

Any claim for money not in excess of $3,000, exclusive of costs and interest, may be arbitrated where the defendant (except an infant or incompetent) resides or transacts business or is regularly employed within the City. N.Y. Civil Court Act § 1801; 22 N.Y.C.R.R. § 208.41(n).

2. Selection Process

Volunteer arbitrators are appointed by the Administrative Judge of the Civil Court for duty at that term of the court. Id. § 208.41(n)(l).

M. Family Court Hearing Examiner (paid)

General Comments - Hearing Examiners hear and decide support proceedings under the New York Court Family Court Act, except issues of violations of a support order, commitment, contested paternity, custody, visitation, orders of protection, and exclusive possession of the home. N.Y. Fam. Ct. Act § 439(a). Hearing examiners hear and determine all matters in any proceeding to establish paternity, including the making of an order of filiation, where admitted or acknowledged. Id. § 439(b). Hearing examiners can issue subpoenas, administer oaths and direct disclosure. Id. § 439(d). In proceedings presenting issues of commitment, custody, visitation, orders of protection, or exclusive
possession of the home, the hearing examiner makes a temporary order of support and refers the matter to a judge. N.Y. Fam. Ct. Act § 439(e).

1. **Selection Process**

   The Administrative Judge for the New York City Family Court will publish an announcement in the *New York Law Journal* and communicate directly with bar associations to invite applications from the bar. Applicants are screened for character and ability to handle hearing examiner responsibilities by a Committee consisting of an administrative judge, a judge of the Family Court and a designee of the Chief Administrator of the courts, which submits recommendations to the Chief Administrator who makes the order of appointment. 22 N.Y.C.R.R. § 205.32(c).

2. **Eligibility Requirements**

   Hearing examiners must be admitted to practice in New York State for at least five years and must be knowledgeable about Family Court, family law and federal and state support law and programs. N.Y. Fam. Ct. Act § 439(b); 22 N.Y.C.R.R. § 205.32(a).

3. **Term**

   Full-time appointment for three years, remaining eligible for subsequent reappointment for additional term which may be 5 years in length. N.Y. Family Court Act § 439(f).

4. **Salary**

   Compensation is fixed by the Chief Administrator of the courts. 22 N.Y.C.R.R. § 205.32(e).

**N. Community Dispute Resolution Mediator (paid)**

Seeking to resolve minor disputes expeditiously, especially those that would otherwise be handled by the criminal justice system. Community Dispute Resolution Centers provide services without cost to indigents or at nominal or no cost to other participants. Centers are administered by nonprofit organizations established to resolve disputes or for religious, charitable, or educational purposes. The Chief Administrator of the courts selects Centers for funding pursuant to contracts between the Unified Court System and grant recipients. See, e.g., 22 N.Y.C.R.R. § 116.

**O. State Administrative Law Judge**

**Parking Violations Bureau**

Applicants must be attorneys admitted to practice three or more years in New York State.
Application forms may be obtained from:

Mary Gotsopoulos, Chief Administrative Judge
Department of Finance, Adjudications Division
Municipal Building
One Centre Street, Room 936
New York, New York 10007
(212) 361-8291

IV. United States Courts

Court of Appeals and District Court

United States Court of Appeals and District Court judges are appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each is a lifetime appointment, except in the territories (but not Puerto Rico), where appointments are for eight-year terms.

Appointments to federal judgships historically have been made at the suggestion of a United States Senator from the state within the territorial jurisdiction of the court.

A. United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

1. Selection Process

The President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints thirteen judges for the Second Circuit. 28 U.S.C. § 44(a).

2. Eligibility Requirements

Each Circuit Judge must be a resident of the Circuit. 28 U.S.C. § 44(c).

3. Term

Circuit Judges hold office during good behavior. 28 U.S.C. § 44(b).

4. Salary

$171,800.

B. United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York

1. Selection Process

The President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints district judges for the various judicial districts, i.e., 28 district judges for the Southern District of New York, and 15 district judges for the Eastern District of New York. 28 U.S.C § 133.

2. Eligibility Requirements
District Judges in the Eastern and Southern District must reside within twenty miles of the districts for which they are appointed. 28 U.S.C. § 134(b).

3. Term

District Judges hold office during good behavior. Id. § 134(a).

4. Salary

$162,000.

C. United States Magistrate Judge

General Comments - Vacancies or positions as U.S. Magistrates in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York (and instructions to applicants for submission of their qualifications) are announced in the New York Law Journal as such vacancies arise.

1. Selection Process

The judges of each U.S. District Court appoint a screening committee of attorneys and community leaders to make recommendations to them. Magistrate Judges are then selected with the concurrence of a majority of the judges in the District for which the appointment is made, or by the Chief Judge of the District. 28 U.S.C. § 631(a).

2. Eligibility Requirements

i. Member in good standing of the bar for five years. 28 U.S.C. § 631(b)(1);

ii. Competence to perform the duties of the office, as determined by the appointing court. Id. § 631(b)(2); and

iii. No relationship by blood or marriage to any Judge of the District for which the appointment is made at the time of initial appointment. Id. § 631(b)(4).

3. Term

Eight years (four years for part-time Magistrate Judges). Id. § 631(e).

4. Salary

$149,132 (full-time).

D. United States Bankruptcy Judge

1. Jurisdiction

Bankruptcy Judges may hear and determine all cases arising in or related to Title 11 of the United States. 28 U.S.C. § 157.

2. Selection Process

Appointments as Bankruptcy Judges of the Judicial Districts are made by a majority of Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for each Circuit upon the recommendation of the Judicial Conference of the United States, or by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals where a majority of judges cannot agree. 28 U.S.C. § 152(a)(1), (3). A panel of circuit judges and district judges from the district where the judge will serve makes recommendations for appointments.

3. Term

14 years. 28 U.S.C. § 152(a)(l). Removal during term only by the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit for incompetence, misconduct, neglect of duty, or physical or mental disability. Id. § 152(e).

4. Salary

$149,132.

E. Administrative Law Judge

General Comments - ALJs are quasi-judicial officers who work in the various federal administrative agencies in New York and elsewhere. Depending on the agency to which they are assigned, they preside over a variety of matters such as licensing, rate-making, rule-making, and benefit appeals. Those interested in applying should contact:

U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Employment Service
Office of Administrative Law Judges
1900 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20415-0001
(202) 606-1800

1. Selection Process

Appointment by the various administrative agencies with the approval of the Office of Personnel Management. 5 U.S.C. § 3105; 5 C.F.R. § 930.201 et seq.

2. Eligibility Requirements

The Office of Personnel Management requires seven years formal administrative law or litigation experience (or some combination of the two), and membership in good standing in a bar for the seven years immediately preceding application. It also requires two years of qualifying experience at a level of difficulty and responsibility commensurate with the position.
3. Term

Not specified; removal may be made for good cause. 5 U.S.C. § 7521.

4. Salary

Within a range established by the Office of Personnel Management and depending on the ALJ’s responsibilities, experience, and the agency in which he or she works.

F. Arbitrator for the Eastern District of New York

1. Jurisdiction

Any civil case in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York for a money claim not in excess of $100,000, exclusive of costs and interest, is automatically sent to arbitration, with the exception of social security cases, tax matters, prisoners’ civil rights cases and any action based on an alleged violation of a constitutional right or if jurisdiction is based in whole or in part on 28 U.S.C. § 1343. In addition, arbitrators handle cases involving damages in excess of $150,000 where the parties stipulate to submit to arbitration. Local Civil Rule 83.10(d)(1). The arbitration shall be held before a single arbitrator, unless a panel of three is requested by a party and the amount of controversy exceeds $5,000. Local Civil Rule 83.10(a)(4), and 83.10(e)(4).

2. Selection Process

Arbitrators are randomly selected by the Clerk of the Court from a list of attorneys certified by the Chief Judge or his designee to act as arbitrators. Local Civil Rule 83.10(a)(4), (e)(4).

3. Eligibility Requirements

Member for at least five years to the bar of the highest court of a state or the District of Columbia and admission to the district court for the Eastern District of New York. Local Civil Rule 83.10(a)(2). Application and information concerning “Court-Annexed Arbitration” may be obtained from:

ADR Administrator and Arbitration Clerk
United States District Court for the
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East, Rm. 172
Brooklyn, New York 11201
(718) 613-2577

4. Salary
Where parties have agreed to arbitration before a single arbitrator, compensation is $250. Where parties have agreed to arbitration before a panel of three arbitrators, compensation is $100 per arbitrator. Local Civil Rule 83.10 (b).
The Association of the Bar of The City of New York
Special Committee To Encourage Judicial Service

Hon. Peter H. Moulton, Chair
New York County Civil Court
111 Centre Street, Room 111
New York, New York 10013

Jacqueline A. Berrien
Hon. Arlene P. Bluth
Roy H. Carlin
Sarah Loomis Cave
James G. Clynes
Hon. Carol R. Edmead
Hon. Lenora Gerald
David B. Goldin
Hon. Doris M. Gonzalcz
Hon. Gabriel W. Gorenstein
Evelyn Konrad
Louis L. Nock
Hon. Rosalyn Heather Richter
Tracey Salmon-Smith
Vera M. Scanlon
Hon. Michelle Schreiber
Hon. Beatrize Shainswit
Hon. Ellen M. Spodek
Hon. Elizabeth S. Stong
Anne Taylor
Richard M. Zuckerman

Association of the Bar of the City of New York
42 West 44th Street
New York, New York 10036
(212) 383-6664
(212) 382-6760 (fax)
www.abcny.org

Individuals interested in joining this committee should contact the Honorable Peter J. Moulton. Special Committee members must be members of the Association of the Bar of The City of New York. The Committee expresses its appreciation to Beldock Levine & Hoffman LLP for providing secretarial services and Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP for duplicating this booklet.
APPENDIX A

New York City Bar Associations

(Partial Listing)

Bronx County Bar Association
851 Grand Concourse, Room 124
Bronx, New York 10451-2937
(718) 293-5600
www.bronxbar.com

Brooklyn Bar Association
123 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201
(718) 624-0675
www.brooklynbar.org

New York County Lawyers’ Association
14 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10007
(212) 267-6646
www.nycla.org

Queens County Bar Association
90-35 148th Street
Jamaica, New York 11435
(718) 291-4500
www.qcba.org

Richmond County Bar Association
152 Stuyvesant Place, Ste. 203
Staten Island, New York 10301

or
P.O. Box 140593
Staten Island, New York 10314
(718) 442-4500
www.richmondcountybar.org
APPENDIX B

Political Organizations

(Partial Listing)

**Bronx County**

Bronx County Democratic Committee
135 Westchester Square
Bronx, New York 10461
(718) 931-5200
www.bronxdemocrat.org

Bronx County Republican County Committee
2113 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, New York 10461-1606
(718) 792-5800
www.bronxcountygop.com

**Brooklyn/Kings County**

Kings County Democratic County Committee
16 Court Street, Suite 1207
Brooklyn, New York 11241
(718) 875-5870

Kings County Republican County Committee
1662 Sheepshead Bay Road
Brooklyn, New York 11235
(718) 332-5796
www.booklyngop.com

**Manhattan/New York County**

New York County Democratic County Committee
461 Park Avenue South, 10th Floor
New York, New York 10016
(212) 687-6540
www.nycountydemocrats.org

New York County Republican County Committee
122 East 83rd Street, 2nd Floor
New York, New York 10028-0838
(212) 517-8444
www.nyc-republican.org
Queens County
Democratic Organization of Queens County
72-50 Austin Street
Forest Hills, New York 11375
(718) 268-5100

Queens County Republican Party
24-55 Francis Lewis Blvd.
Whitestone, New York 11235
(718) 690-3737
www.qgop.org

Staten Island/Richmond County
Democratic Committee of Richmond County
126 Bennett Street
Staten Island, New York 10302
(718) 983-5009

Richmond County Republican Committee
471 Bement Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10310
(718) 667-4600
www.sigop.com
APPENDIX C

Committee on the Judiciary of the Association of the Bar of The City of New York

Elizabeth Donoghue, Chair
15 Maiden Lane, 17th Floor
New York, New York 10038
Phone: (212) 349-3000
Email: edonoghue@hmgdjlaw.com

Vice Chair
Peter M. Kougasian
Stephen S. Madsen

Secretaries
Miriam M. Breier
Stephanie G. Wheeler

To contact the Judiciary Committee of the Association of the Bar of The City of New York, please direct your inquiries to:

Elizabeth Dorfman, Administrative Assistant
New York City Bar Association
42 West 44th Street
New York, New York 10036
Phone: (212) 382-6772
Fax: (212) 869-2145
edorfman@nycbar.org
APPENDIX D

Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary

Hon. Zachary W. Carter, Chair
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
250 Park Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, New York 10177
Tel: (212) 415-9345

Hon. Robert G. M. Keating, Vice Chair
Dean, New York State Judicial Institute
84 North Broadway
White Plains, New York 10603
Tel: (914) 824-5806/5800

Jennifer Baum
Austin V. Campriello
Dolly Caraballo
Hon. Michael A. Corriero
Hon. Barry A. Cozier
James A. Dollard
Nitza M. Escalera
Beth L. Kaufman
Chanwoo Lee
Hon. Milton Mollen
Marvin Ray Raskin
Crystal Screen
Hon. Felice K. Shea
Peter J. W. Sherwin
William J. Snipes
Hon. Mara T. Thorpe
Michael R. Young
APPENDIX E

Mayor’s Executive Order No. 8

March 4, 2002

MAYOR’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

By the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of New York, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Committee Established. The Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary (hereinafter called the “Committee”) hereby is established in the Office of the Mayor to recruit, to evaluate, to consider and to nominate judicial candidates highly qualified for appointment and to evaluate incumbent judges for reappointment to the following courts within The City of New York: Criminal Court, Family Court and for interim appointments, Civil Court.

Section 2. Functions. The Committee shall:

(a) Take steps to recruit and encourage highly qualified persons for such appointment to serve as a judge of a court in New York City and to receive from any source the names of candidates appearing to have the highest qualifications for judicial office;

(b) Evaluate and conduct all necessary inquiry to determine those persons whose character, ability, training, experience, temperament and commitment to equal justice under law fully qualify them for judicial office;

(c) Consider all relevant information to determine which of the highly qualified candidates are best qualified for judicial office, and refer to the Department of Investigation for screening all persons the Committee proposes to nominate for appointment;

(d) Nominate and present to the Mayor three candidates for appointment to each vacant judicial office, except that if there are numerous vacancies the Committee, in its discretion, may present less than three nominations (unless the Mayor requests three nominations) for each vacancy, and provide such information as may be necessary to inform the Mayor of the qualifications of each nominee; and

(e) Evaluate the qualifications of each incumbent judge for reappointment to judicial office and present the Committee’s recommendation to the Mayor, provided that if the Committee finds the incumbent is not highly qualified for reappointment, or if the Mayor, following receipt of the Committee’s recommendation, finds that the incumbent is not highly qualified for reappointment, the Committee shall nominate and present to the Mayor three candidates for appointment to the resulting vacancy other than the incumbent.
Section 3. Public Hearings.

(a) The Mayor shall notify the Committee of the name of any person chosen for appointment from among the nominees submitted by the Committee and shall notify the Committee of the name of each incumbent judge chosen for reappointment as recommended by the Committee. The Committee shall promptly thereafter conduct a public hearing except in the case of the appointment of an incumbent judge. Such hearings shall be upon reasonable notice and any person may present information concerning the fitness of the nominee for appointment. Based on the information received, the Committee may reconsider the nomination. If any reconsideration results in withdrawal of a nomination, the Mayor shall be notified immediately by the Committee and the nominee shall not be appointed.

(b) The Committee may from time to time conduct public hearings concerning the process of judicial selection.

Section 4. Appointments by the Mayor.

(a) The Mayor shall not appoint a judge unless nominated by the Committee, and shall not reappoint an incumbent judge unless recommended for reappointment by the Committee.

(b) Judicial vacancies shall be filled within ninety days unless a longer period is required in the public interest.

(c) After the Mayor appoints a nominee to fill a judicial vacancy, the remaining nominations submitted by the Committee for that vacancy shall expire immediately, unless a vacancy or vacancies exist in the same court. In such case the remaining nominations shall be valid for appointment to that court for six months after their submission to the Mayor or until such vacancy or vacancies are filled, whichever is earlier.

Section 5. Committee Membership.

(a) The Committee shall consist of nineteen members, each residing or having a principal place of business in the City of New York, all of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor. The Mayor shall select nine members, including the Chairperson who shall serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the Mayor, and, in the Mayor’s discretion, including a Vice Chairperson who shall serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the Mayor. The Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals shall nominate four members for appointment to the committee by the Mayor. The Presiding Justices of the Appellate Division of the First and Second Judicial Departments each shall nominate two members for appointment to the Committee by the Mayor. Two deans of law schools within the City of New York shall each nominate one member for appointment to the Committee by the Mayor, with authority to nominate rotating annually among eligible deans. If the Mayor decides not to appoint any person nominated by the Chief Judge, a Presiding Justice or dean, he shall notify the Presiding Justice or dean who made the nomination
to submit the name of another nominee. All members shall serve for terms of two years. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the members first appointed shall serve until December 31, 2003. Vacancies in the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments, and a member filling a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. Any member of the Committee may be removed by the Mayor for cause.

(b) Members of the Committee shall be selected in order to ensure that only candidates with the highest qualifications shall be nominated for appointment to judicial office. Members of the Committee shall be selected with due consideration for broad community and borough representation. The membership shall include men and women, and members of minority and other groups, who are qualified to perform the functions of the Committee.

(c) No person shall be considered by the Committee for judicial office while serving as a member of the Committee or within one year thereafter.

Section 6. Confidentiality. All Committee communications concerning the judicial qualifications of candidates shall be made and held in confidence, except such communications as the Committee may submit to the Mayor or receive at public hearings, or as otherwise may be necessary and proper to the conduct of Committee proceedings.

Section 7. Committee Action Procedure. The Committee may adopt such procedures and policies as it may deem appropriate to its functions, including standards for evaluating the best qualified candidates for nomination, and criteria for recommending the reappointment of incumbent judges.

Section 8. Financing and Staff.

(a) Members of the Committee shall receive no compensation for their service as members.

(b) The Committee shall be provided with paid staff and sufficient facilities to carry its functions, including the thorough investigation of the qualifications of all candidates for judicial office.

(c) Members of the Committee and its staff shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in connection with the responsibilities of the Committee.

Section 9. Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs. The Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs shall maintain liaison with and review the activities of the Committee, and shall advise the Mayor and the Committee regarding measures which may enhance the ability of the Committee to consider the best qualified candidates for judicial nomination.
Section 10. **Prior Order Revoked.** Executive Order No. 10, dated July 20, 1994 hereby is repealed, and the Committee on the Judiciary established thereunder hereby is abolished.

Section 11. **Effective Date.** This Order shall take effect immediately.

/s/
Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor
APPENDIX F

The Advisory Council of the Housing Part of the Civil Court of The City of New York

REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY:
Matthew S. Brett, Esq.
Ronald D. Hariri, Esq.

TENANTS’ ORGANIZATIONS:
Samuel J. Himmelstein, Esq.
Larry Jayson

CIVIC GROUPS:
Jean Callahan, Esq.
Wanda Jackson

PUBLIC-AT-LARGE:
Arthur J. Soong, Esq.
Eileen O’Toole, Esq.
Jenny Rivera, Esq.
Kimberly Allman, Esq.

BAR ASSOCIATIONS:
Nelson Aviles, Esq.
Derryl Zimmerman, Esq.

GOVERNOR’S REPRESENTATIVE:
Gary R. Connor, Esq.

MAYOR’S REPRESENTATIVE:
Joseph Rosenberg, Esq.

To contact any of the members of the Advisory Council of the Housing Part of the Civil Court of The City of New York, please direct your inquiries to:

Housing Advisory Council
111 Centre Street, Room 1240
New York, New York 10013
ATTN: Ameela Mohamed
(646) 386-5420
APPENDIX G

Governor’s Executive Order No. 10.1

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHING JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEES TO ENSURE THAT JUDICIAL OFFICER APPOINTMENTS ARE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY

WHEREAS, under the Constitution and Laws of the State of New York the Governor is entrusted with the responsibility of appointing judicial officers to the offices of Judge and Presiding Judge of the Court of Claims; designating Justices of the Supreme Court to the offices of Justice, Temporary Justice, and Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court; and appointing judicial officers to fill vacancies in the offices of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the County Court, Judge of the Surrogate’s Court, and Judge of the Family Court outside the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, a fair, impartial, independent, highly qualified, and diverse judiciary is essential to ensuring justice for all who come before New York’s courts and to fostering public confidence in the integrity of the judicial process; and

WHEREAS, a fair, impartial, independent, highly qualified, and diverse judiciary is cultivated by:

1. encouraging highly qualified candidates from all parts of the State, with diverse backgrounds and experiences, to apply for judicial offices;

2. reviewing candidates for judicial office without regard to political beliefs or party affiliation; and

3. selecting judicial officers who reflect the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the residents of this State, based on their integrity, independence, intellect, judgment, temperament, and experience; and

WHEREAS, the highest quality of judicial appointments can best be assured with the assistance of credible, impartial and non-partisan judicial screening committees;

NOW THEREFORE, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New York, do hereby order as follows:

A. Purpose and Duties

1. The Judicial Screening Committees currently in effect are continued, and shall continue to evaluate the qualifications of candidates for appointment or designation to judicial
office throughout the State, and to recommend to the Governor those persons who are highly qualified to hold judicial office.

2. Each Judicial Screening Committee shall:

   a. Actively recruit candidates for appointment or designation to the judicial offices within the committee’s jurisdiction. In recruiting candidates, the Judicial Screening Committees shall strive to find candidates that reflect the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the citizens of this State;

   b. Review and evaluate the qualifications of all candidates for appointment or designation. In reviewing and evaluating the qualifications of candidates, each committee member shall give primary consideration to each candidate’s integrity, independence, intellect, judgment, temperament and experience, and shall not give any consideration to the age, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status or political party affiliation of the candidate;

   c. Recommend for appointment or designation only those candidates who, as determined by a majority vote of all members of the committee, are highly qualified for the judicial office for which they are being considered. No committee shall pass on the qualifications of any candidate until after a thorough inquiry has been made by the committee and its staff;

   d. Prepare written reports on the qualifications of each candidate it determines to be highly qualified and recommends to the Governor. Committee reports shall be made available to the public upon the announcement by the Governor of an appointment. All other records and deliberations of, and all communications to, any Judicial Screening Committee with respect to a candidate shall be held in confidence and shall not be disclosed to anyone other than the Governor, Counsel to the Governor, or their designees. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information submitted to any Judicial Screening Committee relating to an appointee may be disclosed to the Senate when necessary for confirmation of the appointee, and information submitted to a Judicial Screening Committee may be disclosed to any other person or organization if disclosure is required in connection with disciplinary proceedings or is otherwise required by law.

B. State Judicial Screening Committee

1. A State Judicial Screening Committee is hereby established.

2. The State Judicial Screening Committee shall consist of thirteen members: two individuals selected by the Governor; the Chairperson of each of the Departmental Judicial Screening Committees established by Section C of this Executive Order; one of the other members of each of the Departmental Judicial Screening Committees, who shall be selected by the Governor; two persons selected by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and one person selected by the Attorney General. The chairperson of the State Judicial Screening Committee shall be appointed by the Governor from among the members of the Committee.
3. The term of office of any member of the State Judicial Screening Committee who is a member of a Departmental Screening Committee shall expire at the same time as the member’s term of office on the Departmental Screening Committee expires.

4. The State Judicial Screening Committee shall have jurisdiction to consider the qualifications of candidates for appointment to the offices of Judge and Presiding Judge of the Court of Claims, and to recommend to the Governor all persons whom it finds highly qualified for those judicial offices.

5. When exercising the power to designate the Presiding Judge of the Court of Claims pursuant to section 2(6) of the Court of Claims Act; or the power to appoint a Judge of the Court of Claims pursuant to section 9 of Article VI of the Constitution and section 2(2) and 2(4) of the Court of Claims Act; or the power to fill a vacancy in the office of Judge of the Court of Claims pursuant to section 21(b) of Article VI of the Constitution, the Governor shall appoint or designate only persons who have been recommended by the State Judicial Screening Committee as highly qualified for the judicial office to which the appointment or designation is to be made.

6. The State Judicial Screening Committee shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to govern its proceedings and those of the Departmental and County Judicial Screening Committees established by this Order. The rules and regulations shall include standards and procedures for ensuring, to the extent possible, uniformity of criteria for evaluating the qualifications of candidates for appointment or designation to judicial office throughout the State.

C. Departmental Judicial Screening Committees

1. A Departmental Judicial Screening Committee is hereby established in each judicial department of the State.

2. Each Departmental Judicial Screening Committee shall consist of thirteen members: five members shall be selected by the Governor; two members shall be selected by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; two members shall be selected by the Attorney General; one member shall be selected by the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division for that department; one member shall be selected jointly by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Minority Leader of the Senate; one member shall be selected jointly by the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the Assembly; and one member shall be selected by the President of the New York State Bar Association. The Chairperson of each Departmental Screening Committee shall be appointed by the Governor from among the members of the Committee. Each member of the Committee shall be a resident of, have an office in, or work in the judicial department in which he or she is to serve.

3. Each Departmental Judicial Screening Committee shall have jurisdiction to consider the qualifications of candidates for designation to the offices of Justice, Additional Justice, Temporary Justice and Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for such department, and candidates for appointment to the office of Supreme Court Justice
within such department, and to recommend to the Governor all persons whom it finds highly qualified for those judicial offices.

4. When exercising the power to designate the Presiding Justice of each Appellate Division pursuant to section 4(c) of Article VI of the Constitution; or the power to designate other Justices of any Appellate Division pursuant to sections 4(c) and 4(d) of Article VI of the Constitution; or the power to designate Additional Justices of any Appellate Division pursuant to section 4(e) of Article VI of the Constitution; or the power to fill a vacancy in the office of Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to section 21(a) of Article VI of the Constitution, the Governor shall appoint or designate only persons who have been recommended by a Departmental Judicial Screening Committee as highly qualified for the judicial office to which the appointment is to be made.

5. A candidate recommended as highly qualified for the office of Justice or Additional Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court by a Departmental Screening Committee shall be eligible for appointment or designation by the Governor to such office in any judicial department. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a person serving as a Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court may be designated by the Governor to serve as an Additional Justice, and a person serving as an Additional Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court may be designated by the Governor to serve as a Justice, of the same or a different judicial department without the recommendation of a Departmental Screening Committee.

D. County Judicial Screening Committees

1. A County Judicial Screening Committee is hereby established in each county of the State, consisting of the members of the Departmental Judicial Screening Committee for the department in which the county is located plus one additional person who shall be resident of, have an office in, or work in the county in which he or she is to serve, to be selected by the chief executive officer of the county. The Chairman of the Departmental Judicial Screening Committee shall also serve as Chairman of the County Judicial Screening Committee. As used herein, the term “chief executive officer” for the county shall mean the appointed or elected county executive, as the case may be, or if there be no such office, the chairman of the governing body of the county; provided, however, that for counties within the City of New York, the term “chief executive officer” for the county shall mean the Mayor of the City of New York.

2. Each County Judicial Screening Committee shall have jurisdiction to consider the qualifications of candidates for appointment to the offices of Judge of the County Court, Judge of the Surrogate’s Court, and Judge of the Family Court outside of the City of New York, for such county, and to recommend to the Governor all persons whom it finds highly qualified for those judicial offices. When exercising the power of appointment to fill a vacancy in the office of Judge of the County Court, Judge of the Surrogate’s Court, or of Judge of the Family Court outside of the City of New York, pursuant to section 21(a) of Article VI of the Constitution, the Governor shall appoint only persons who have been recommended by the appropriate County Judicial Screening Committee as highly qualified for the judicial office to which the appointment is to be made.
E. General Provisions

1. The terms of office of the members of the Judicial Screening Committees established by this Executive Order shall be for a term of three years, except that with respect to the Departmental Screening Committees: one member first selected by the Governor shall serve for a term of one year; two members first selected by the Governor shall serve for a term of two years; one member first selected by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall serve for a term of two years; and one member first selected by the Attorney General shall serve for a term of two years. The terms of office of the members of the Judicial Screening Committees established by this Executive Order are subject to the provisions of section 5 of the Public Officers Law.

2. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments, and a person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. No member shall be removed during his or her term by the Governor except for cause.

3. No member of a Judicial Screening Committee shall hold any judicial or elected public office for which he shall receive compensation during his period of service, nor shall he hold any office in any political party. No member of a Judicial Screening Committee shall be eligible for appointment to any judicial office within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Screening Committee on which the member serves during the member’s period of service or within one year thereafter.

4. Members of Judicial Screening Committees shall receive no compensation for their service, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for any necessary expenses incurred by them in connection with the performance of their duties. Each judicial screening committee shall have a paid staff available to it sufficient to enable the committee to carry out properly its responsibilities including adequate investigations into all matters relevant to the qualifications of candidates for appointment to judicial office.

5. The current Chairpersons and members of the Judicial Screening Committee now in existence shall continue in such positions for their current terms unless replaced pursuant to the procedures set forth above.

GIVEN under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State in the City of Albany this eighteenth day of June in the year two thousand and eight.

/s/ David A. Paterson

BY THE GOVERNOR

/s/ Charles O'Byrne
Secretary to the Governor
APPENDIX H

State of New York Commission on Judicial Nomination
(Constit. Art. 6 § 2; N.Y. Judiciary Law Art. 3-A, § 61 et seq.;
22 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 7100)

The commission shall consider and evaluate the qualifications of candidates for appointment to the offices of chief judge and associate judge of the court of appeals and, as a vacancy occurs in any such office, shall recommend to the governor persons who by their character, temperament, professional aptitude and experience are well qualified to hold such judicial office.

The twelve-member Commission consists of four members (no more than two from the same party) appointed by the Governor (two lawyers, two laypersons), four members (no more than two from the same party) appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals (two lawyers, two laypersons), and one member appointed by each of the following: the Speaker of the State Assembly, the Temporary President of the State Senate, the Minority Leader of the State Senate and the Minority Leader of the State Assembly. Members serve four-year terms.

Members of the Commission may not hold judicial office or elected office for which compensation is received during the period of service, except that the Chief Judge and the Governor may each appoint one former judge of the Unified Court System. No member of the Commission may hold office in any political party, and none is eligible for appointment to any judicial post in New York during his or her term on the Commission or within one year thereafter. N.Y. Judiciary Law, Art. 3-A, § 62(1).

The Commission is authorized to appoint counsel and staff, as it deems necessary or appropriate. The Commission has subpoena power to require production of information and attendance of witnesses.

All candidates for appointment must be personally interviewed by a quorum of ten members of the Commission and submit applications and financial statements on prescribed forms. All proceedings and related communications are kept confidential, except for the written report of the Commission, which is released to the public at the time it is submitted to the Governor.
APPENDIX I

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APPENDIX J

SAMPLE JUDICIAL SCREEENEING COMMITTEE QUESTIONS

1. State date, place of birth (giving date, borough, if any, city or town, and state or country) and country of citizenship.

2. a. List name, occupation, residence and business address for each individual with whom you reside.

   b. In the case of a child, no matter where the child resides, list the child’s name, date of birth and residence address, occupation, if any, and business address, and the name of any school where the child is currently in attendance and its address.

3. State every residence you have had in the last ten years, including any temporary residence, in the United States or elsewhere, with the exact address of each, and the month and year of the beginning and ending of such residence.

4. State all colleges and professional schools (other than law schools) ever attended. If you did not receive a degree from any such institution, state that fact.

   a. List the post-law school continuing legal education courses in which you have participated within the past four years (in chronological order) that qualified for mandatory continuing legal education credit: (i) description of course, (ii) date, (iii) sponsor, (iv) number of hours.

   b. For your most recent biennial registration period, did you satisfy New York State’s mandatory continuing legal education requirement? If no, please describe the circumstances.

5. State if you ever attended any other schools of any kind, other than elementary or secondary, or pursued any course of study in addition to those mentioned above.

6. Have you ever served in the Armed Forces (reserves or otherwise)?

   a. If so, give the following information: (i) dates of service, (ii) branch of service, (iii) nature of discharge and rank at time of discharge, (iv) awards or citations.

   b. Have you registered under the U.S. Selective Service Act of 1948? If so, give the following information: (i) State original classification and each reclassification. (ii) If your classification or reclassification is other than 1A, give the reasons therefore.
7. Have you ever been rejected or released from service by any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable? If so, state the details.

8. 
   a. List, in chronological order, all employment and periods of unemployment since graduation from law school, including if you have practiced in partnership with others. Provide (i) Name of Firm or Employer; (ii) Address; (iii) Name of Supervisor; (iv) Dates of Employment or Unemployment; (v) Nature of Employment (or activity while unemployed); (vi) Reason for Leaving. In any instance where you practiced law as an associate or a partner and such association or partnership was terminated, state the reason for such termination.

   b. If law school attendance did not commence within a few months following completion of undergraduate course study, list all employment and periods of unemployment between college and law school. Provide: (i) Name of Employer; (ii) Address; (iii) Name of Supervisor; (iv) Dates of Employment or Unemployment (Month/Year of the beginning and ending thereof); (v) Nature of Employment (or activity while unemployed); (vi) Reason for Leaving.

   c. Have you ever been disciplined, in any manner, in connection with any employment (e.g., suspended, demoted, reprimanded, fined, penalized, or terminated)?

9. Have you ever been engaged on your own account or with others in any business or profession, part-time or full-time, other than those listed in your answer to question 8? 

   If so: (i) state under what name; (ii) give in detail the nature thereof; (iii) the month and year of the beginning and ending (if applicable) of your connection therewith; (iv) position held; (v) all business or professional addresses; (vi) Any such business or profession carried on by you either alone or with others or in partnership, and any incorporated business carried on by you either alone or with others, should be listed here with names and addresses of all partners or associates; (vii) If any business or profession has been discontinued, or if your connection therewith has ceased, state why and whether or not there are unpaid debts or claims or pending litigation.

10. State all courts (federal and state) in which you are admitted to practice, together with the dates of admission.

11. State all areas of the law in which you have concentrated or have had substantial experience and state the period during which you have had such substantial experience.
f. the number of cases listed in category (d) of this question which were tried before a jury;

g. the courts or other tribunals in which the cases were tried;

h. the number and types of appeals briefed in the past ten years;

i. the number of appeals argued and the courts in which the arguments were heard;

j. the number and types of dispositive motions you have litigated in the past ten years;

k. the number of dispositive motions you have argued and the courts or other tribunals in which the arguments were heard, and

l. the title and citation of reported cases in which you conducted the trial, wrote the brief and/or argued the appeal, or wrote the papers on the dispositive motion.

27. Submit a list of the last ten trials, dispositive motions, or appeals in which you have actively and substantially participated in any state or federal court at the trial or appellate level, including the title of the case, the index, docket or indictment number, the court in which the case was heard, a concise description of the nature of the case, the date of the trial or oral argument, the name, address and telephone number of each adversary and co-counsel, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the judges who presided at trial or sat on the appellate panel. For each appellate matter, please submit one copy of your brief.

28. Submit a list of the name, court and telephone number of the last ten judges before whom you appeared in the last three years (other than for routine calendar appearances).

29. a. Attach a statement describing your legal experience other than litigation. Include in that statement a general description of the last ten matters you handled and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the lawyers, other than your associates, employees, partners, co-tenants, supervisors or employers, with whom you worked on each of those ten matters. For example, judicial law clerks should list the attorneys with whom they had substantial contact. Similarly, law professors should list attorneys, judges and/or other law professors who are familiar with their work.