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# Birnbaum, Cozier Chosen for Judicial Pay Panel

Andrew Keshner, New York Law Journal

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Sheila Birnbaum, a partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, and Barry Cozier, senior counsel at LeClair Ryan and a former state judge, have been chosen by the state court system as members of a commission on judicial compensation.

Birnbaum, a high-profile litigator and special master of the revived September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, will chair the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation.

Cozier had a two-decade judicial career and left the bench in 2006 as an Appellate Division, Second Department, justice.

The commission is established every four years to make recommendations on compensation for the state's judges, legislators and state-wide elected officials.

It first convened in 2011 and made raise recommendations that broke a judicial pay freeze in effect from 1999 to 2011. The panel recommended a three-year, 27 percent raise that began phasing in on April 1, 2012.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo will name three appointees to the commission. Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, R-East Northport, and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, D-Bronx, each get one selection.

On June 9, Heastie chose Roman Hedges, said a spokeswoman. Hedges is a 12-year member of the state Dormitory Authority and previously served as a deputy secretary in the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee.

Spokespersons for Cuomo and Flanagan could not be reached for comment.

In a statement, Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman said Birnbaum and Cozier "bring enormous skills, experience and credibility to their respective roles. I have every confidence they will be great assets to the commission and its important work."

The news release noted Cozier left the bench "in large measure due to the lengthy pay freeze" and said he was "acutely aware of the importance of setting a fair judicial pay scale."

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