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# Pay Raise Panel Schedules Organizational Meeting

Joel Stashenko, New York Law Journal

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With Gov. Andrew Cuomo and state Senate Republicans filling the last openings on a commission to study pay raises for state commissioners, legislators and judges, the panel has scheduled an organizational meeting for this week.

The meeting is open to the public but is not a public hearing. The commission will hold a public hearing in the coming weeks.

The Special Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation will meet Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the New York City Bar Association at 42 W. 44th St. in Manhattan.

The panel is an expanded version of a commission that was formed in 2010 to recommend pay increases only for state-paid judges. The commission ended up recommending three years' worth of raises for judges averaging 27 percent between April 2012 and April 2014.

The Legislature and Cuomo expanded the commission's purview to include the pay of commissioners and state legislators, who have not seen increases since 1999 (NYLJ, April 2).

The three members of the commission appointed by Cuomo are: Mitra Hormozi, general counsel of the Revlon Corporation; Gary Johnson, executive legal counsel at Medgar Evers College; and Fran Reiter, partner at the Reiter Giuliani Group.

Senate Republicans have selected James Lack, a former Court of Claims judge and former state senator.

Previously, Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman had announced his selections to the commission as Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan partner Sheila Birnbaum and LeClairRyan senior counsel Barry Cozier, a former Appellate Division justice. Assembly Democrats appointed former Assembly Ways and Means Committee Secretary Roman Hedges (NYLJ, July 1).

Birnbaum will chair the panel, which is scheduled to propose new pay levels by Dec. 31.

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