

**The Association of the Bar
of the City of New York**

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October 18, 2000

The Honorable George Pataki
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

I am pleased to report to you that the Association of the Bar of the City of New York has completed its evaluation process for the seven candidates for the pending vacancy on the New York Court of Appeals, whose names were forwarded to you by the Commission on the Judicial Nomination on October 4, 2000. The Executive Committee of the Association has rated all the candidates in time to announce its ratings in advance of your appointment, which, we understand, may come as early as October 19, 2000.

The Association's evaluation process was conducted, in the first instance, by a Subcommittee of three Association members, one each from the Executive Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and the Committee on State Courts of Superior Jurisdiction. Each Subcommittee conducted a comprehensive review of a candidate's qualifications, including interviews with the candidate and those familiar with the candidate, and an examination of any materials written by the candidate. A report of the Subcommittee was made to the full Executive Committee, which rated each candidate as "qualified" or "not qualified." The Association's rules provide that for the purpose of determining ratings, each candidate must make an affirmative showing that he or she is qualified to serve in the position sought.

I am pleased to report that the Executive Committee concluded that all seven candidates are "qualified" to fill a position as Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals.

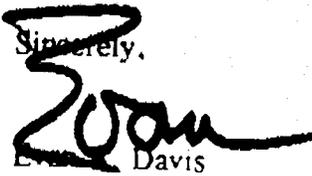
We are fully aware of the demands placed on you to choose the best possible candidate for New York's highest court. We are hopeful that, especially in light of the Association's long and respected history of performing evaluations in an independent, non-partisan manner, the Association's ratings in this instance will prove helpful to you in reaching a decision.

Enclosed is a copy of a press release we will be issuing describing the Association's ratings.

EX "A-1"

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Thank you for giving the Association the opportunity to participate in the judicial selection process.

Sincerely,

Evan Davis

Enclosure

For Immediate Release
October 18, 2000

Contact: Andrew J. Martin
Communications Director
(212) 382-6713

Evaluations to be sent to Governor Pataki

New York City Bar Issues Evaluations of Candidates for New York Court of Appeals

New York – The Association of the Bar of the City of New York announced today that it has found all seven candidates recommended by the New York State Commission on Judicial Nomination to be qualified for appointment to the State's highest court, the New York Court of Appeals. Gov. George Pataki has until November 3, 2000 to select one of the candidates to be a judge of the Court of Appeals as a replacement for Judge Joseph Bellacosa, who retired from the Court this summer. The Governor's nomination is subject to State Senate confirmation.

The seven candidates nominated by the commission are: **Richard T. Andrias**, Justice of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department; **Stephen G. Crane**, Justice of the Supreme Court and Administrative Judge of the Civil Branch of the Supreme Court, First Judicial District; **Steven W. Fisher**, Justice of the Supreme Court and Administrative Judge for the Eleventh Judicial District of the Supreme Court; **Victoria A. Graffeo**, Additional Justice, Appellate Division, Third Department; **James C. Moore**, partner, Harter, Secrest & Emery, LLP; **Juanita Bing Newton**, Judge of the Court of Claims and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives and **Susan P. Read**, Presiding Judge of the New York State Court of Claims.

The Association's Executive Committee extensively reviews the background and qualifications of the candidates. Additionally, representatives of the Association's Executive, Judiciary and State Courts of Superior Jurisdiction Committees interviewed each candidate, reviewed his or her writings, investigated the candidate's background, and interviewed judges and lawyers familiar with the candidate. The full Executive Committee then considered whether to rate each candidate either "qualified" or "not qualified" for the position of Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals after considering the candidate's intellectual ability, knowledge of the law, integrity, impartiality, judicial demeanor and temperament.

The Association of the Bar of the City of New York was founded in 1870, and is dedicated to maintaining the high ethical standards of the profession, promoting reform of the law, and providing service to the profession and the public. For more information on this release or to arrange for interviews, please contact Andrew J. Martin, Communications Director, at (212) 382-6713 or amartin@ahcnyc.org

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