

October 20, 2000

James M. McGuire  
Counsel to the Governor  
Capitol Building  
Room 210  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Mr. McGuire:

We are pleased to inform you that a panel of 16 members of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association convened on Thursday October 19, 2000 to interview all seven candidates put forth by the Commission on Judicial Nomination to fill the vacancy on the New York State Court of Appeals.

NYSTLA used the following rating system to review the candidates, "highly recommended", "recommended" and "not recommended." The result of the panel's findings are as follows:

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

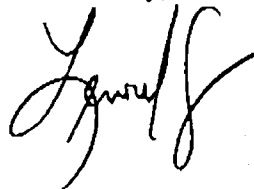
|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Richard T. Andrias  | Associate Justice, Appellate Division, 1st Department            |
| Stephen G. Crane    | Administrative Judge, Civil Term, Supreme Court, New York County |
| Victoria A. Graffeo | Associate Justice, Appellate Division, 3rd Department            |
| Juanita Bing Newton | Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives        |

**RECOMMENDED**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Steven W. Fisher | Administrative Judge Supreme Court, Queens County |
| James C. Moore   | Past President, New York State Bar Association    |
| Susan P. Read    | Presiding Judge, Court of Claims.                 |

Please feel free to contact me if either you or Governor Pataki believes that we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Lenore Kramer  
President

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