

New York Daily News - <http://www.nydailynews.com>

Give okay to Judge Kaye

Friday, February 9th, 2007

For 24 years, Judith Kaye has served on the state Court of Appeals, the last 14 as the panel's chief judge. Hers has been a distinguished tenure, and she richly deserves reappointment.

New York's high court is among the nation's most respected, and Kaye helped move the panel to the middle on issues such as criminal justice. Often we agreed with her, as in the court's ruling that the city's kids had been wrongly denied fair school aid, and sometimes we differed, as in the court's hypertechnical evisceration of the death penalty. But she called them as she saw them.

As the top court administrator, Kaye also instituted landmark reforms, notably opening Family Court to the public and battling courthouse patronage.

Gov. Spitzer nominated Kaye to serve two years, until the mandatory retirement age of 70. The state Senate should confirm her speedily.

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