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## Judge Kaye's new term Now Spitzer can help achieve reforms

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New York Chief Judge Judith Kaye has more than earned her reappointment to another term on the state's top court. Though she faces mandatory retirement in less than two years, that should be enough time to complete her worthy agenda of improving the court system and the way judges are selected.

Initially appointed by Gov. Mario Cuomo in 1983 as the first woman on the Court of Appeals, and then elevated to chief judge 10 years later, Kaye has been a model of integrity and moderation on the bench. As head of the state judicial system, she has been a force in improving the lot of jurors, by shortening service and increasing pay; creating specialized courts to focus on drugs and domestic violence; and getting better pay for court-appointed attorneys.

Kaye sought the new term so she could continue her push for judicial pay raises, consolidation of trial courts, upgrading facilities and better oversight of town and village justices. She was also concerned about unsettling the seven-member bench, which already has gained two new members in past few months. Now Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who reappointed Kaye, has time to search for a top-notch replacement and be a partner in achieving her much-needed but difficult reforms.

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