

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
JANUARY 4, 2016

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NEW YORK STATE ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS SENDS GOVERNOR RATINGS OF CANDIDATES FOR VACANCY ON THE COURT OF APPEALS

The New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers President, Mitchell Proner, has sent a letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo with the Academy's ratings for the seven nominees under consideration for Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, in connection with the upcoming vacancy on the Court created by the retirement of Associate Judge Susan Read.

To assist with the appointment process, the Academy's 10-member Judicial Screening Committee reviewed each nominee's background, decisions and/or writings. The Committee then conducted personal interviews with the two new nominees, Hon Judith Gische and Benjamin Rosenberg, Esq., in Albany on January 4, 2016. Five other nominees, Michael J. Garcia, Esq., Caitlin J. Halligan, Esq., Hon. Erin M. Peradotto, Rowan D. Wilson, Esq., and Stephen P. Younger, Esq., had previously been nominated by the NYS Commission on Judicial Nomination to fill a vacancy. Having been interviewed by the Academy's Committee previously, they chose to use their prior ratings for this round of screenings as well.

In evaluating the nominees, the Academy's Judicial Screening Committee considered: judicial temperament; legal ability and experience; legal writing ability; general reputation, character and fitness; industriousness, diligence and promptness; and impartiality, freedom from bias and prejudice. The Committee also invited all of the more than 2,200 members of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers to provide the Committee with input regarding the qualifications of the nominees and considered all relevant information that was submitted by those members.

Based on those evaluations, the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers has rated the nominees as follows:

Michael J. Garcia, Esq. – Qualified
Hon. Judith J. Gische – Exceptionally Well Qualified
Caitlin J. Halligan, Esq. – Exceptionally Well Qualified
Hon. Erin M. Peradotto – Well Qualified
Benjamin E. Rosenberg, Esq. – Qualified
Rowan D. Wilson, Esq. – Exceptionally Well Qualified
Stephen P. Younger, Esq. – Exceptionally Well Qualified