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News In Brief

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Two Bronx Judges Tapped For First Department Bench

Governor David A. Paterson last night named Bronx Supreme Court Justices Nelson S. Roman and Sallie Manzanet-Daniels to the Appellate Division, First Department.

Justice Roman ([See Profile](#)) was elected to the Supreme Court in 2003. He sat on the Civil Court bench in the Bronx for the previous two years and was also a Housing Court judge for five years. He was a city police officer when he graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1989 and spent several years as a city prosecutor.

Justice Manzanet-Daniels ([See Profile](#)) was elected to the Supreme Court in 2002, having served the previous year on the Civil Court bench. After graduating from Hofstra University School of Law in 1988, she began her career as a lawyer at the Legal Aid Society.

Mr. Paterson made the surprise announcements last evening during a gathering at Manhattan Supreme Court to honor U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The appointments do not need state Senate confirmation.

Court of Appeals to Hear Judicial Pay Cases in January

The Court of Appeals has set Jan. 12, 2010, to hear oral arguments in two judicial pay suits. Parties in the cases, *Maron v. Silver* and *Larabee v. Governor*, were also notified by the Court this week of this fall's briefing schedule, said spokesman Gary Spencer. Though the Court did not indicate whether the two cases would be argued at the same time, it is the Court's custom to do so when like issues of law are involved in separate litigations.

It is also still possible that arguments in a third case seeking the first salary increase for state judges since 1999, *Chief Judge v. Governor*, will be argued before the Court of Appeals on Jan. 12. But the Court has yet to rule on whether to accept a direct appeal of Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Edward Lehner's decision in *Chief Judge* that accepted in part and rejected in part the chief judge's argument that a raise has been improperly denied by the governor and Legislature (NYLJ, June 16).

The Appellate Division has split on the raise question. The First Department found that judges were unfairly subject to the "whims and caprices" of politics in being denied an increase in *Larabee* (NYLJ, June 3), while the Third Department dismissed similar arguments by the judges who brought *Maron* (NYLJ, Nov. 14, 2008). — *Joel Stashenko*

Winston & Strawn Add Two Partners From Dewey

Winston & Strawn has added two telecommunications partners from Dewey & LeBoeuf, including the chair of Dewey's telecommunications industry sector group. Eric Cowan will become the global chair of Winston's media and telecommunications practice and will split time between New York and London. Also joining Winston is New York partner Glynn Christian, who will chair a sourcing practice. "I think those practices are hugely integral to the firm's short-term and long-term strategic plan around where they want to be generally," Mr. Cowan said. "For me that's a very different kind of challenge and an exciting one."

Mr. Cowan and Ms. Christian joined Dewey's predecessor LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae in 2005 from Thelen Reid & Priest along with three other partners. Mr. Cowan said he was in part attracted to Winston because several former Thelen partners now practice there. Winston's New York managing partner, Michael Elkin, joined from Thelen in 2007. Winston was also one of the firms that hired a large number of Thelen lawyers after that firm dissolved last year. — *Nate Raymond*

Referee Clears Way for Trial In \$40 Million Fee Case

A report by a Manhattan Surrogate's Court referee has paved the way for trial over whether law firm Graubard Miller should receive a \$40 million contingency fee from the estate of a real estate tycoon. Referee Howard A. Levine has recommended denying motions for summary judgment by both Graubard Miller and the estate of Alice Lawrence, the widow of a deceased real estate tycoon.

Surrogate Troy Webber still needs to adopt the recommendations of Mr. Levine, a former Court of Appeals judge. But as the report did not recommend granting any summary judgement motions, lawyers are now preparing for trial to begin on Oct. 5 in *Lawrence v. Graubard Miller*, 175/82.