

Women's Bar

OF THE STATE



Association

OF NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATE WOMEN'S BAR RELEASES RATINGS
FOR COURT OF APPEALS VACANCY**

NEW YORK, N.Y. (October 20, 2000)- Deborah Kaplan, President of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) today released the association's ratings of the seven candidates proffered by the Commission on Judicial Vacancies to Governor Pataki to fill the Associate Justice vacancy on the New York Court of Appeals created by the retirement of the Hon. Joseph Bellacosa.

WBASNY's Judiciary Committee Chaired by Marjorie Lesch, Esq., immediate past President of the association and Ginger Schroeder, Esq., current Vice President was comprised of State Officers and representatives of each of the association's fifteen chapters across the State. The Committee conducted an extensive review of the qualifications of the nominees, and subsequently held personal interviews with each on October 19, 2000, at the Harvard Club, New York City. The ratings are as follows:

- Hon. Susan Phillips Read, Presiding Justice, Court of Claims;
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- Hon. Victoria Graffeo, Associate Justice, Appellate Division;
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- Hon. Richard Andrias, Associate Justice, Appellate Division;
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

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- Hon. Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge;
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- Hon. Stephen Crane, Administrative Judge;
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- Hon. Steven Fisher, Administrative Judge;
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- James Moore, Esq.;
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

“The Women’s Bar Association is pleased that the Governor’s Screening Panel has recognized the exemplary professional achievements of these seven candidates in offering them to Governor Pataki for consideration to fill the Associate Justice vacancy on the Court of Appeals.” stated Deborah Kaplan, President of WBASNY. “WBASNY takes its responsibility as participants in this process very seriously, and is confident that it has rendered fair and accurate judgments about the qualifications of each nominee for appointment to the highest court of our State.”

About WBASNY

The Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York works to advance the status of women in society and of women in the legal profession. It is dedicated to promoting the fair administration of justice, and acts as a unified voice for its members with respect to issues of statewide, national and international significance to women generally and to women attorneys in particular.