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Spitzer Reappoints Kaye as State's Top Judge

By MARIA NEWMAN

Gov. Eliot Spitzer today nominated Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye to continue serving as the state's chief judge when her current term ends next month.

Judge Kaye, who has been called a reformer, has served on the New York State Court of Appeals for more than 20 years and became the first woman to occupy the highest judicial post when Gov. Mario M. Cuomo appointed her chief judge in 1993.

"Throughout her two decades of service on our highest court, Judge Kaye has served the people of this state with distinction," Mr. Spitzer said in a statement.

The governor said he admired Judge Kaye's "dedication, integrity, respect for the Constitution and people of this state."

The governor can appoint the judge to serve a 14-year term, but Judge Kaye has said she would serve only until the end of 2008, the year she turns 70, which is the state's mandatory retirement age.

Judge Kaye said in November that she would ask the governor to reappoint her, saying she looked forward to working with "a governor who has expressed not only interest in some of these initiatives, but enthusiasm."

The nomination now goes to the State Senate for confirmation.

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