

NYS Commission on
Judicial Conduct
Annual Report 2001

BIOGRAPHIES OF COMMISSION ATTORNEYS

Gerald Stern, Administrator and Counsel, is a graduate of Brooklyn College, the Syracuse University College of Law and the New York University School of Law, where he earned an LL.M. in Criminal Justice. Mr. Stern has been Administrator of the Commission since its inception. He previously served as Director of Administration of the Courts, First Judicial Department, Assistant Corporation Counsel for New York City, Staff Attorney on the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, Legal Director of a legal service unit in Syracuse, and Assistant District Attorney in New York County.

Robert H. Tembeckjian, Deputy Administrator and Deputy Counsel, is a graduate of Syracuse University, the Fordham University School of Law and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, where he earned a Masters in Public Administration. He was a Fulbright Scholar to Armenia in 1994, teaching graduate courses and lecturing on constitutional law and ethics at the American University of Armenia and Yerevan State University. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School, and the Board of Directors of the Civic Education Project.

Stephen F. Downs, Chief Attorney (Albany), is a graduate of Amherst College and Cornell Law School. He served in India as a member of the Peace Corps from 1964 to 1966. He was in private practice in New York City from 1969 to 1975, and he joined the Commission's staff in 1975 as a staff attorney. He has been Chief Attorney in charge of the Commission's Albany office since 1978.

John J. Postel, Chief Attorney (Rochester), is a graduate of the University of Albany and the Albany Law School of Union University. He joined the Commission's staff in 1980 as an assistant staff attorney in Albany. He has been Chief Attorney in charge of the Commission's Rochester office since 1984. Mr. Postel is a past president of the Governing Council of St. Thomas More R.C. Parish. He is a former officer of the Pittsford-Mendon Ponds Association and a former President of the Stonybrook Association. He served as the advisor to the Sutherland High School Mock Trial Team for eight years. He is the Vice President and a past Treasurer of the Pittsford Golden Lions Football Club, Inc. He is an assistant director and coach for Pittsford Community Lacrosse. He is an active member of the Pittsford Mustangs Soccer Club, Inc.

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Alan W. Friedberg, *Senior Attorney*, is a graduate of Brooklyn College, the Brooklyn Law School and the New York University Law School, where he earned an LL.M. in Criminal Justice. He previously served as a staff attorney in the Law Office of the New York City Board of Education, as an adjunct assistant professor of business law at Brooklyn College, and as a junior high school teacher in the New York City public school system.

Cathleen S. Cenci, *Senior Attorney*, graduated summa cum laude from Potsdam College in 1980. In 1979, she completed the course superior at the Institute of Touraine, Tours, France. Ms. Cenci received her JD from Albany Law School in 1984 and joined the Commission as an assistant staff attorney in 1985. Ms. Cenci is a judge of the Albany Law School moot court competitions and a member of Albany County Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Seema Ali, *Staff Attorney*, is a graduate of York University in Toronto, Ontario, and the Syracuse University College of Law. She has been a law clerk with the New York State Attorney General's Office and the law firm of D.J. & J.A. Cirando in Syracuse. Ms. Ali is a mentor/tutor with the Monroe County Bar Association's Lawyers for Learning Program.

Vickie Ma, *Staff Attorney*, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Albany Law School, where she was Associate Editor of the Law Review. Prior to joining the Commission staff, she served as an Assistant District Attorney in Kings County.

Clerk of the Commission

Jean M. Savanyu, *Clerk of the Commission*, is a graduate of Smith College and the Fordham University School of Law (cum laude). She joined the Commission's staff in 1977 and served as Senior Attorney from 1987 to 2000, when she was appointed Clerk of the Commission. Prior to joining the Commission, she worked as an editor and writer. Ms. Savanyu teaches in the paralegal program at Marymount Manhattan College and is a member of its advisory board.