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# New York

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## TODAY'S NEWS

### Update

**Carlos H. Jenkins**, who was elected to the Civil Court from the Bronx last November, left the bench on March 8 under circumstances that could implicate his standing at the bar, sources report. Office of Court Administration spokesman David Bookstaver would confirm only that Mr. Jenkins had resigned from the bench for "personal reasons." Mr. Bookstaver added that Mr. Jenkins, while on the bench, had tried cases referred from other judges and had no inventory of cases that needed to be redistributed after he resigned. Mr. Jenkins could not be reached for comment.

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**The Office** of Court Administration announced yesterday that it has consolidated its three internal investigative offices into a single unit under the leadership of Sherrill R. Spatz, a former Manhattan prosecutor, who has been OCA's Special Inspector General for Fiduciary Appointments. OCA's other two inspectors general — William Gallagher, the current head of the Office of Inspector General, and Desiree Kim who has been in charge of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Bias Matters — will now report to Ms. Spatz.

**Governor Pataki** yesterday proposed a constitutional amendment that would enable New Yorkers to amend and enact laws through initiative and referendum. Under the Governor's proposal, citizen initiatives could be placed on the ballot by securing signatures from 5 percent of the total voters in the last gubernatorial election (roughly 250,000). At least 5,000 signatures would have to come from at least three-fifths of the state's congressional districts. Governor Pataki said at a press conference yesterday that the amendment would enable the citizenry to force action when the Legislature is unable or unwilling to undertake certain measures — such as Rockefeller Drug Law reform, campaign finance reform and an overhaul of the school aid formula. Although there is bipartisan support for the proposal, support is lacking from the top leadership in both the Senate and Assembly.

\* (handwritten mark)