

RICHARD RIFKIN

FAMILY:

March, 1994 - Present: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION. Appointed by the five bipartisan, part-time commissioners to run the Commission on a day to day basis. Responsible for all activities of the Commission, reporting to the commissioners. The Commission, with jurisdiction over 250,000 public employees, issues advisory opinions, investigates and prosecutes violations of the ethics laws, administers a financial disclosure program and engages in a continuous educational effort.

1979 - 1994: NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

1991 - 1994: FIRST ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL. Head of the largest of the three divisions of the Attorney General's office, reporting directly to the Attorney General. Supervised all litigation involving the State and its agencies. Supervision covered the New York City and Albany offices as well as 12 regional offices. Argued several significant cases on behalf of the Governor, including the reapportionment case in the Court of Appeals and the GRASSO case in the Eastern District of Oklahoma. Also continued to handle the responsibilities of Counsel to the Attorney General (described below), as that position was eliminated due to budget cuts.

1984 - 1991: COUNSEL TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. One of four top assistants serving on the Attorney General's executive committee and reporting directly to him. Overall responsibility for his legislative program and for issue and policy development. Represented the Attorney General on the New York State Law Enforcement Council, the State's leading law enforcement advocacy organization. Handled special projects as needed and advised the Attorney General on various matters.

1979 - 1984: DEPUTY FIRST ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL. Deputy to the First Assistant Attorney General, working directly under him in managing the largest division of the office, with approximately 250 attorneys. Directly supervised five bureau chiefs, each of whom headed a bureau with major litigation responsibilities. Also, personally handled several especially important cases, such as UNITED STATES v. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, commonly known as the "Baby Jane Doe" case.

1973 - 1979: COUNSEL TO THE BOROUGH PRESIDENT OF THE BRONX. Handled a variety of matters for the Borough President, reporting directly to him. Responsibilities included litigation, Board of Estimate matters and working with counsel for City agencies. Personally implemented the restructuring of borough government in the Bronx (creating new community boards and the Borough Board) following the adoption of the revised City Charter. Wrote the first article published on the new governmental structure, which appeared on the front page of the New York Law Journal.

1972 - 1973: Associate in a small midtown firm of four attorneys, engaged in the general practice of law.

1996 - 1972: Associate in a midtown firm of ten attorneys, engaged in the general practice of law. Spent substantial time in handling a variety of matters for a railroad corporation, including an internal proxy fight, SEC and ICC proceedings, and day to day corporate affairs.

1969 - 1973: COUNSEL TO ASSEMBLYMAN LEONARD PRICE STAVISKY (Part time). Legislative counsel to a member of the New York State Assembly. Drafted bills and supporting memoranda, negotiated with legislative staff and members, and acted as a legal advisor to a non-lawyer legislator.

EDUCATION

Yale Law School. LL.B. 1965

Washington and Jefferson College. B.A. 1962. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

New York City public high school and elementary schools

OTHER

1983 - Present: Member of the Chief Administrative Judge's ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CIVIL PRACTICE. Currently, working actively as a member of a subcommittee on the use of computer technology in the courts.

BAR ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES: Member of the State Bar Association, and alternate member of the House of Delegates. Member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and member of its Committee on Government Ethics. Former member of its Committee on Corrections.

1990 - 1991: Member of the GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON JUDICIAL DIVERSITY.