

1 BEFORE THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING
2 STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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4 New York State Senate
5 Public Hearing on
6 the Selection Process for the
7 Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals

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9 Hearing Room A
10 Legislative Office Bldg.
11 Albany, NY

12 January 27, 2009
13 10:03 a.m.

14 PRESIDING:

15 Senator John Sampson
16 Chair
17 Senate Standing Committee on the Judiciary

18 PRESENT:

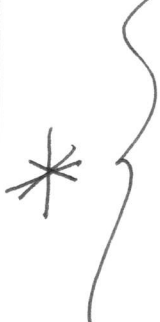
19 Senator George D. Maziarz (RM)
20 Senator Bill Perkins
21 Senator George H. Winner, Jr.
22 Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr.
23 Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer
24

1 wrong.

2 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And I agree,
3 Ms. Sassower. And right now, if you can, I
4 want you to try to -- just hold on. I want
5 you try to sum it up so we can come to some
6 sort of conclusion right now.

7 MS. SASSOWER: Okay. I think that,
8 as I said, you have your work cut out for
9 you. You are doing something that has not
10 been done, needed to be done.

11 Senator Dunne warned you you shouldn't
12 tinker with statute. Senator, you need to
13 overhaul the statute. Dramatically. And
14 you're starting -- and if you open up the
15 process, not only will you be faithful to
16 the constitutional amendment, which didn't
17 say we're going to keep the public out, but
18 you will find an enhanced process, a process
19 that will invite a wide range of applicants.

20 But finally, once again, even still,
21 you need to be sure that the regulatory
22  bodies, the Commission on Judicial Conduct,
23 the attorney disciplinary committees are
24 functioning, because they are one of the

1 first stops for the Commission on Judicial
2 Nomination in securing information about
3 candidates. And they are useless. They are
4 worthless and they are corrupt. And there
5 needs to be hearings and investigations of
6 those bodies.

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Ms. Sassower, I
8 wanted to thank you very much for your
9 comments and definitely we'll truly take
10 them under advisement. Thanks again.

11 MS. SASSOWER: Thank you for your
12 leadership. And I look forward to working
13 together closely with your committee and
14 providing any assistance and documentation
15 of the serious charges that I here present
16 with respect to the corruption of the
17 Commission on Judicial Nomination and of,
18 quote, merit selection to the New York Court
19 of Appeals.

20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very
21 much, Ms. Sassower. Thank you.

22 MS. SASSOWER: Thank you.

23 Oh, may I just make one fast comment.
24 The Commission on Judicial Nomination did