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Spitzer reappoints Kaye as chief judge

State Senate must act within 30 days

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ALBANY -- Gov. Eliot Spitzer nominated Court of Appeals Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye for another term on New York's highest court today.

The announcement wasn't surprising, considering Kaye asked for the extension not only to continue in a job she loves but also to spare the new governor from having to choose the leader of the state's highest court after being in office for just five weeks.

She was one of seven judges and lawyers under consideration.

Kaye, 69, who is a native of Monticello, Sullivan County, became the first woman to serve on the Court of Appeals in 1983, after being appointed by Gov. Mario M. Cuomo.

She then became the first woman to hold the state Judiciary's highest office in 1993. She will reach mandatory retirement in fewer than two years.

The state Senate is required to take action within 30 days of Spitzer's nomination.

It has never rejected any governor's nomination for a Court of Appeals position.

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