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By: AP

Senate approves Lippman as top judge

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - The state Senate has approved the appointment of a longtime administrative judge to head New York's court system and preside at the Court of Appeals.

Judge Jonathan Lippman, confirmed Wednesday by voice vote, joins the top court to replace Judge Judith Kaye, who retired. Earlier, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted 22-0 with one abstention to advance the nomination.

While noting Lippman's qualifications, several senators criticized the selection process and the Commission on Judicial Nomination for failing to include any women on its short list of seven potential nominees.

Lippman, a midlevel appeals court presiding judge, is former chief administrative judge of the state court system. He worked for a decade with Kaye on court reforms.

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