

## Activist denied entrance to judge's confirmation hearing

Woman protests being shut out of hearing for Rosenblatt

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**WHITE PLAINS** — A judicial-reform activist contends she was unfairly prevented from testifying against the promotion of state Justice Albert Rosenblatt to New York's highest court.

The state Senate unanimously confirmed Rosenblatt's nomination to the Court of Appeals on Thursday after no one spoke

against him during a Judiciary Committee hearing. Officials said testimony at the hearing was "by invitation only."

Elena Sassower, coordinator of the nonprofit Center for Judicial Accountability, said she tried repeatedly to arrange an appearance at the hearing to protest Rosenblatt's nomination. She said she was told Wednesday that she could not speak at the hearing, but was not told it would take place the next day.

"Justice Rosenblatt's nomination would not have survived our

opposition — that's why they rammed it through," Sassower said.

David Gruenberg, chief counsel to the Judiciary Committee, confirmed that he barred Sassower from speaking at the hearing.

"We decided to have testimony by invitation only," he said.

Sassower's opposition to Rosenblatt stems in part from his role as an Appellate Division judge in upholding the suspension of her mother's law license.