

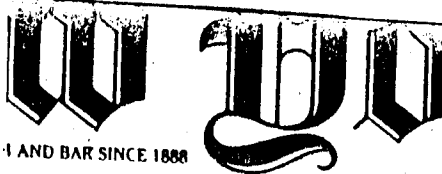
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NEWS

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The Commission on Judicial Nomination interviewed between 15 and 20 candidates, about half of those who had applied, for an opening on the New York Court of Appeals over three days last week, according to sources. Among those who were reportedly interviewed were Justice Albert M. Rosenblatt, of the Appellate Division, Second Department; Justices D. Bruce Crew 3d and Thomas E. Mercure of the Third Department; Charles G. Moerdler, a partner at Strock & Strock & Lavan; and Michael J. Hutter Jr., special counsel at Thuillez, Ford, Gold & Johnson in Albany. With the opening created by the resignation of Judge Vito J. Titone who came from the Second Department, Justice Rosenblatt is considered the favorite-son candidate of Second Department justices who would like to see Judge Titone's successor come from their department, sources said.

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S NEWS

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The State Commission on Judicial Nomination will not meet until next month to vote on a list of names from which Governor Pataki must select the successor to Judge Vito J. Titone on the New York Court of Appeals, sources report. The commission had previously scheduled a meeting for last Thursday at which it was expected to vote on its list of recommended candidates. Because the Governor has 15 to 30 days to make his choice after receiving the list, the revised schedule may push the outside deadline for the Governor's selection past the state's general election on Nov. 3.

Ex "A-2"