



# PRESS RELEASE

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

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Chief Administrative Judge**

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## **New Chair, Members Named to Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission**

**NEW YORK** – Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman today designated Hon. Richard B. Lowe III, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department, as Chair of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, which works to promote racial and ethnic fairness in the courts. Justice Lowe succeeds Justice Rose H. Sconiers, who has stepped down after serving as the Commission’s Chair since May 2009.

Chief Judge Lippman said, “We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Justice Sconiers for her exemplary leadership of the Commission, which over the course of her tenure has made significant strides on many important issues, including successfully advocating for improved minority representation on the bench and in our non-judicial workforce. I have enjoyed working with her and am confident that the Commission will continue to thrive under Justice Lowe’s stewardship.”

Justice Lowe has served as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department, since January 2011. Prior to his appointment to the Appellate Term, he sat for ten years on the New York Supreme Court Commercial Division bench and continues to preside over a number of high-profile commercial cases. Justice Lowe began his legal career in the New York County

District Attorney's Office, where he was eventually named chief of the trials division. Subsequently, he was Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and served as Chief Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight, and the Select Committee of Narcotics Abuse and Control. In 1985, New York City Mayor Edward Koch appointed him to the City's Criminal Court bench, where he served until his election in 1987 to the State Supreme Court, New York County. A member of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission for over 18 years, Justice Lowe sits on numerous other public service commissions and boards, including the New York State Justice Task Force.

Judge Lippman also announced the appointment of six new members to the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission: Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department; Paul Kenny, Esq., Chief Clerk of the Appellate Term, Second Department; Lenora Foote-Beavers, Esq., Support Magistrate, Buffalo Family Court; Hon. Joanne D. Quinones, Criminal Court, Kings County; Hon. Craig D. Hannah, Buffalo City Court; and Hon. Richard Rivera, Albany Family Court.

The appointments are effective immediately.

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