



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. A. Gail Prudenti
Chief Administrative Judge**

**Contact:
David Bookstaver
Communications Director
Arlene Hackel, Deputy Director
(212) 428-2500**

www.nycourts.gov/press

Date: March 30, 2015

Chief Judge Designates Members of New Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline

New York – Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman today announced the members of the new Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline. Chaired by Chief Administrative Judge A. Gail Prudenti and made up of leaders from New York’s bench and bar, the Commission will conduct a comprehensive review of the state’s attorney disciplinary system to determine what is working well and what can work better, and offer recommendations to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of New York’s attorney discipline process. Former Appellate Division, Second Dept., Associate Justice Barry Cozier, currently with the law firm of LeClairRyan, will serve as the Commission’s vice chair. The creation of this new Commission was first publicized by Judge Lippman last month during his State of the Judiciary address, in which he also announced that attorneys’ public disciplinary histories will now be accessible via the Unified Court System’s website.

Among the issues to be studied by the Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline are whether New York’s departmental-based system leads to regional disparities in the implementation of discipline; if conversion to a statewide system is desirable; and how to achieve dispositions more quickly in an effort to provide much-needed closure to both clients and attorneys.

“The distinguished members of this new Commission, under the dynamic leadership of Chief Administrative Judge Prudenti, will carefully examine the need for change in New York in the area of discipline for professional misconduct by lawyers, thoroughly assessing our current system and proposing viable reforms where appropriate. I have every confidence that their efforts will help to enhance both the consistency and effectiveness of New York’s attorney discipline system, which is integral to the fair administration of justice,” said Chief Judge Lippman.

“I am grateful to Chief Judge Lippman for the opportunity to spearhead such a critical endeavor and look forward to working with my esteemed vice chair, the Hon. Barry Cozier, and the Commission’s talented members as we seek to reshape attorney discipline in New York. Ensuring the fairness and efficiency of New York’s attorney disciplinary process is vitally important to attorneys throughout the state, their clients, and to the integrity of the legal profession as a whole,” said Judge Prudenti.

A membership roster of the Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline is attached.

#