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## **Women Sidelined by Court Nominating Commission** *National Organization for Women Urges Commission to Nominate Women for Chief Judge*

New York, NY- December 3, 2008 - The state Commission on Judicial Nominations has put forth its list of seven candidates to succeed Chief Judge Judith Kaye, and there is not one woman on this short list.

“It is deeply disturbing that in a state as diverse as New York and with such a wide pool of talented women, this commission was hard-pressed to find even one woman qualified for the post,” said Sonia Ossorio, president of the National Organization for Women in New York City. “It is simply unacceptable to exclude women from the recommendations.”

NOW-NYC applauds Governor David A. Paterson and State Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo for recognizing the lack of diversity in this nominating process and working to find solutions to ensure qualified women are not excluded from being considered for important positions in New York State leadership.

The National Organization for Women is the nation’s largest organization working to advance women’s rights and improve women’s lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is one of the largest chapters in the country with over 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to protect women’s reproductive choices, end violence against women and eliminate sex discrimination in our schools, workplaces, and the justice system in New York.

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