



# PRESS RELEASE

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks  
Chief Administrative Judge**

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## **New Chair and Vice Chair Appointed to Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline**

**New York** – Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman today announced the appointments of former Appellate Division, Second Department, Associate Justice Barry Cozier as chair, and Cornell School of Law Professor W. Bradley Wendel, an expert in the field of legal ethics, as vice chair, respectively, of the Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline. Justice Cozier, currently with the law firm of LeClairRyan and the Commission’s former vice chair, will replace Hon. A. Gail Prudenti, who retired from the New York State court system on July 31, vacating her post as Chief Administrative Judge.

Judge Lippman designated the Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline in March 2015 to 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. The group comprises leaders from New York’s bench and legal profession.

Among the issues under review by the Commission 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; the point at which disciplinary charges or findings should be publicly revealed; and how to achieve dispositions more quickly in an effort to provide

much-needed closure to both clients and attorneys. As part of its examination, the Commission has been holding public hearings across the state to receive the views of interested individuals, organizations and entities. To date, hearings have been held in Albany and Buffalo, with a third hearing scheduled for tomorrow (August 11) in lower Manhattan. The Commission will be considering both oral testimony and written submissions.

“I am delighted that Justice Cozier will be stepping in to fill the vacancy created by Judge Prudenti’s departure, and that Professor Wendel has so graciously agreed to assume the responsibilities of vice chair. We are extremely fortunate to have two such eminently qualified individuals to spearhead the efforts of the distinguished members of this vital Commission. Their vast expertise, unbridled energy and dedication will undoubtedly serve them well in their new roles. I, along with Chief Administrative Judge Marks, look forward to working with them and the other talented members of the Commission as we seek to make New York’s attorney discipline system more consistent and effective, which is essential both to the integrity of the legal profession and the fair administration of justice,” said Chief Judge Lippman. “I am also extremely grateful to Judge Prudenti for her tremendous efforts as chair of the Commission since its inception. The Commission has flourished under her highly capable stewardship, making significant progress over the past five months.”

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