

New Steps To Control Judicial Appointments

Chief Judge Judith Kaye has initiated steps to review and enforce court rules governing judicial appointments of fiduciaries such as guardians, guardians ad litem, referees and receivers. The steps were described in her annual State of the Judiciary message.

The Chief Judge announced that she will appoint a Special Inspector General for Fiduciary Appointments. The new agency will work with the commission on Judicial Conduct and lawyer disciplinary committees to enforce existing rules. Also, the administrative judges will review present judicial practices in appointment and recommend reforms.

The Chief Judge will also create a blue-ribbon panel to report whether the present appointment process is functioning properly and to recommend reforms.

In December, two lawyers resigned from the law committee of the Brooklyn Democratic Party in protest against discriminatory judicial appointments.