



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: The Appellate Division First Department Departmental Disciplinary Committee, the grievance committees of the various Judicial Districts and the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct

PURPOSE: This hearing will review the mission, procedures and level of public satisfaction with the Appellate Division First Department Departmental Disciplinary Committee, the grievance committees of the various Judicial Districts as well as the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct

New York City
Wednesday, December 16, 2009
10 A.M.
250 Broadway, 19th Floor Hearing Room
New York, New York 10007

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court is the entity that is legally responsible for enforcing the Rules of Professional Conduct governing the conduct of attorneys in New York State. The Appellate Division Departments have created grievance committees that are charged with the investigation of complaints against attorneys. Within the First Judicial Department the Departmental Disciplinary Committee of the Appellate Division investigates complaints against attorneys. The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct was created by the State Constitution and is charged with investigating complaints against Judges and Justices of the Unified Court System.

According to the 2009 Report of the Commission on Judicial Conduct, there were 1,923 complaints filed in 2008. Yet of these complaints only 262 were investigated and of those, 173 were dismissed. This hearing will examine the processes and procedures that are followed by the various agencies charged with the responsibility of enforcing the rules and regulations that must be followed by the Judiciary and the Bar in the State of New York. It will also evaluate public satisfaction with the disciplinary process.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Senate, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Senate facilities and activities.

**Senator John Sampson
Chair
Senate Standing Committee
on the Judiciary**

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail or fax it to:

Tim Spotts, Esq.
Counsel
Room 409 LOB
Albany, New York 12247
Email: spotts@senate.state.ny.us
Phone: (518) 455-2788
Fax: (518) 426-6806

- I plan to attend the public hearing to be held by the Senate Standing Committee on the Judiciary.
- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. I will answer any questions that may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will not be attending the public hearing, but I would like submit written testimony for consideration by the committee members. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I would like to be added to the Committee's mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee's mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:**

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX : _____