

# New Yo

SERVING THE BENCH AND BAR SINCE 1888

VOLUME 27—NO. 14

1/22/02

## TODAY'S NEWS

### *Update*

**Justice A. Gail Prudenti**, a former Surrogate and administrative judge, who was appointed by Governor Pataki to the Appellate Division, Second Department, in October, was the only person interviewed by Governor Pataki's screening panel last Thursday to become that court's presiding justice. With the First Department's screening panel set to interview candidates for presiding justice on Thursday, sources said that a likely leading contender is Justice Milton L. Williams. Justice Williams, 69, if appointed, would be the third of the last four presiding justices in the First Department to have to step down after one year because of the state's age requirement. The fourth served as presiding justice for only two years before turning 70. Other potentially strong candidates in the First Department are reportedly Justices Richard T. Andrias, John T. Buckley and George D. Marlow. Meanwhile, speculation abounds as to whether the Governor has an outside candidate because of the creation of new 16th seat in the First Department in September. Insiders say, though, that Bronx Supreme Court Administrative Judge Luis A. Gonzalez may be in line for an associate justice appointment either to the open seat in the First Department should an insider be elevated, or in the Second Department should Justice Prudenti, 48, be appointed as presiding justice.

EX "A-1"

# New Yo

SERVING THE BENCH AND BAR SINCE 1888

VOLUME 226—NO. 122

12/26/01

## TODAY'S NEWS

### *Update*

**As early as June**, Governor Pataki quietly approved a new — 16th — seat for the Appellate Division, First Department, several sources report. Presiding Justice Joseph P. Sullivan said last week that he could not comment on “internal court” matters. The Governor’s counsel’s office did not return requests for comment. One courthouse source said that the news that a new seat has been created has fueled speculation that the Governor may reach outside of the First Department to appoint a successor to Justice Sullivan, who must step down at the end of the year because he has turned 70. Others say, though, that justices in the First Department have been “assured” that there is no significance in the move. Meanwhile, with the presiding justice position also opening up in the Second Department, court watchers report that Justice A. Gail Prudenti, who was appointed to the Appellate Division in October, remains the odds-on favorite to lead the court.

EX "A-2"