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Gottfried, Kellner Commend Paterson On Historic Judicial Appointment Of Rosalyn Richter

Statement by Assembly Members Richard N. Gottfried and Micah Z. Kellner

“New York State will now have its first appellate court judge who is openly gay and is a person with a disability. Today Governor David Paterson announced that he is appointing Rosalyn Richter, Justice of the New York County Supreme Court, to the First Department of the Appellate Division of New York State. Justice Richter has spent her career as a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community and disabilities rights advocate. With this appointment the Governor has sent a clear signal to LGBT and disabilities communities that he believes in equality in our legal system.

“In addition to her breadth of experience as a judge, Justice Richter has been a strong voice in the LGBT community for almost thirty years. From 1980 to 1983 she was Executive Director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and from 1994 to 1997 was Chair of the New York City Bar Association Committee on Lesbians & Gays in the Profession. Justice Richter has also given back to her community by teaching classes at New York Law School, Pace University, Hunter College, and Brooklyn Law School on Sexual Orientation and the Law and Women and the Law, helping to educate the next generation of legal professionals in order to continue to expand our legal system.

“As a member of the disability community, Justice Richter has fought to expand the legal rights of people with disabilities. Since 1997, she has also been a co-chair of the Office of Court Administration’s Advisory Committee on the Americans with Disabilities Act. The committee, of which she is a founding member, seeks to improve the conditions for people with disabilities in New York courts through statewide training for jury commissioners, court clerks, judges, and attorneys on access issues.

“We look forward to her historic swearing in ceremony and commend the Governor on this excellent appointment. We know that Rosalyn Richter will be an outstanding jurist on the Appellate Division representing all New Yorkers.”

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