

New York State Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NYC Human Rights Commissioner Appointed to Lawyers' Fund

The New York State Court of Appeals has appointed attorney Patricia L. Gatling to the Board of Trustees of the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. The Lawyers' Fund is a state agency created in 1981 to protect law clients from the misuse of their money by dishonest attorneys and to promote public confidence in the administration of justice in New York State.

The Lawyers' Fund is financed by New York's legal profession and administered by seven trustees appointed by New York's high court. Of the seven trustees, five are lawyers and two are community leaders. Ms. Gatling was appointed by the Court to a three-year term, filling the vacancy created with the expiration of the term of attorney Bernard Ashe of Albany, Albany County.

Ms. Gatling is the Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights. She is responsible for enforcing Human Rights Law and combating discrimination in New York City. Ms. Gatling is a former First Assistant District Attorney with the Kings County District Attorney's Office, former President of the National Black Prosecutors Association, and has served as a Special Assistant Attorney General in the prosecution of corruption cases.

A resident of Manhattan, Ms. Gatling is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. She also received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies from The Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Gatling is active in community outreach programs and in 2006 was ranked 4th of "10 Who Made their Mark" by *Advertising Age* for the successful campaign she led to address the lack of diversity in the advertising industry.

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In 2007, the Trustees for the Lawyers Fund awarded \$7.1 million to 185 eligible law clients. These awards involved misconduct by only 64 former attorneys, less than one-third of one percent of New York's 237,000 licensed attorneys.

Since 1982, the Fund has granted 6,348 awards involving misconduct by 885 former lawyers. The types of losses reimbursed by the Fund involve the thefts of real property escrows, estate and trust assets, settlement proceeds in litigation, and money embezzled in investments arising from an attorney-client relationship. The Fund does not have jurisdiction over attorney malpractice claims or disputes involving alleged neglect or legal fees.

The offices of the New York Lawyers' Fund are located in Albany. Telephone: 800-442-3863. Website: www.nylawfund.org

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