

**2016 Annual Report
New York State Senate
Judiciary Committee**



Senator John J. Bonacic, Chairman

**Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson,
Ranking Minority Member**

January 9, 2017

Senator John Flanagan
President Pro Tempore
New York State Senate
Room 330 Capitol
Albany, New York 12247

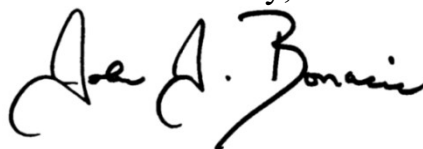
Dear Senator Flanagan:

As Chairman of the New York State Senate Judiciary Committee, I am pleased to present to you the Committee's 2016 Annual Report.

The attached report details the New York State Senate Judiciary Committee's activities over the past year. I would like to thank the Ranking Minority Member, Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, for her hard work and attentiveness to this committee. I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their participation and commitment.

I look forward to working with the members of the New York State Senate Judiciary Committee to ensure that we continue to move in a positive, productive direction in 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Bonacic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

JOHN J. BONACIC
State Senator

Committee Members

Senator John J. Bonacic, Chairman
Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Ranking Minority Member

Senator George A. Amedore
Senator Tony Avella
Senator Phil Boyle
Senator Neil D. Breslin
Senator Leroy Comrie
Senator Thomas D. Croci
Senator Ruben Diaz
Senator Martin Malavé Dilan
Senator Kemp Hannon
Senator Brad Hoylman
Senator Andrew J. Lanza
Senator Kenneth P. LaValle
Senator Thomas F. O'Mara
Senator Bill Perkins
Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer
Senator Diane J. Savino
Senator Susan J. Serino
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky

Committee Staff

Jessica Cherry, Counsel
David Gruenberg, Majority Counsel

Judiciary Budget for State Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The Legislature adopted a Unified Court System Budget increase to \$1.9 billion. This reflects an increase of \$44.4 million. The overall Judiciary budget increase was 2.4%.

Summary of Judiciary Committee Action on Bills

Total bills referred to Committee in 2016	295
Total bills reported by Committee in 2016	29
Total number of bills reported by Committee that passed the Senate	15
Total number of bills reported by Committee that became law in 2016	11
Total number of bills reported by Committee that were vetoed in 2016	0

Bills Reported by Judiciary Committee that were Enacted Into Law in 2016

1. **Chapter 47 of the Laws of 2016 – S.7254 Bonacic/A.9572 Braunstein**
Relates to service of process upon limited liability corporations and limited liability partnerships.
2. **Chapter 48 of the Laws of 2016 – S.7351 Bonacic/A.9686 Bronson**
Extends expiration of provisions of judiciary law authorizing referees to determine applications for orders of protection while family court is in session.
3. **Chapter 128 of the Laws of 2016 – S.6824A Marchione/A.9568A McDonald**
Relates to the tolling of the statute of limitations relating to personal injury caused by contact with superfund site substances.
4. **Chapter 198 of the Laws of 2016 – S.7132A Ortt/A.2125A Abinanti**
Relates to guardianship of people who are intellectually disabled and people who are developmentally disabled.
5. **Chapter 205 of the Laws of 2016 – S.7328 O’Mara/A.10130 Friend**
Relates to merging town justice courts.
6. **Chapter 320 of the Laws of 2016 – S.7248 Bonacic/A.9474 Weinstein**
Requires applicants for licenses as real estate brokers and real estate salesmen and for renewals thereof to complete instruction in the law of agency.
7. **Chapter 354 of the Laws of 2016 – S.7604A Bonacic/A.9910A Weinstein**
Relates to the administration of digital assets.
8. **Chapter 356 of the Laws of 2016 – S.1606B Bonacic/A.10071 Weinstein**
Relates to judicial wellness and assistance committees.
9. **Chapter 365 of the Laws of 2016 – S.5189 Bonacic /A.7253 Weinstein**
Relates to providing additional enforcement mechanisms for collection of spousal or child support.
10. **Chapter 387 of the Laws of 2016 – S.5691 Bonacic/A.7637 Seawright**
Relates to spousal maintenance and child support in Supreme and Family court.
11. **Chapter 492 of the Laws of 2016 – S.7209A Bonacic/A.10360 Lentol**
Relates to off-hours arraignment parts in counties outside the city of New York.

**Bills Reported by Judiciary Committee that were Vetoed by the Governor in
2016**

None.

**Bills Reported by Judiciary Committee that were Enacted into Law Through
Ballot Proposals in 2016**

None.

2016 Judicial Confirmations

On Wednesday, January 20, 2016, the Senate Judiciary Committee met and approved the nomination of **Janet DiFiore to serve as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals** for a term commencing January 21, 2016 and expiring January 20, 2030.

On Monday, February 8, 2016, the Senate Judiciary Committee met and considered the nomination of **Michael Garcia to serve as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals** for a term commencing February 8, 2016 and expiring February 7, 2030.

On Wednesday, June 15, 2016, the Senate Judiciary Committee met and approved the nominations of the following judges to serve on the Court of Claims:

Hon. James H. Ferreira (to appear)
Hon. Gina M. Lopez-Summa (to appear)

On Wednesday, June 15, 2016, the Senate Judiciary Committee met and approved the nominations of the following judges for appointment to the New York State Supreme Court:

Hon. Steven Lloyd Barrett (to appear)
Hon. Antonio I. Brandveen (to appear)
Hon. Robert David Kalish (to appear)
Hon. Alan C. Marin (to appear)

In summary, eight judges came before the Senate Judiciary Committee and sent to the Senate floor for confirmation. This included two Court of Appeals Judges, four Interim Supreme Court Judges and two Court of Claim Judges.