

**2017 Annual Report  
New York State Senate  
Judiciary Committee**



**Senator John J. Bonacic, Chairman**

**Senator Brad Hoylman, Ranking  
Minority Member**

January 3, 2018

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

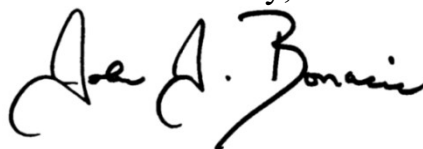
Dear Senator Flanagan:

As Chairman of the New York State Senate Judiciary Committee, I am pleased to present to you the Committee's 2017 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 Brad Hoylman, for his 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 2018.

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 Brad Hoylman, Ranking Minority Member

Senator George A. Amedore  
Senator Tony Avella  
Senator Jamaal Bailey  
Senator Phil Boyle  
Senator Neil D. Breslin  
Senator Thomas D. Croci  
Senator Ruben Diaz  
Senator Martin Malavé Dilan  
Senator Jesse Hamilton  
Senator Kemp Hannon  
Senator Chris Jacobs  
Senator Todd Kaminsky  
Senator Andrew J. Lanza  
Senator Kenneth P. LaValle  
Senator Velmanette Montgomery  
Senator Thomas F. O'Mara  
Senator Elaine Phillips  
Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer  
Senator Diane J. Savino  
Senator Susan J. Serino  
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky

**Committee Staff**

Brielle Christian, Senate Judiciary Counsel  
David Gruenberg, Majority Counsel

**Judiciary Budget for State Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

The Legislature adopted a Unified Court System Budget increase to \$2.18 billion. This reflects an increase of \$42.7 million. The overall Judiciary budget increase was 2%.

**Summary of Judiciary Committee Action on Bills**

Total bills referred to Committee in 2017	290
Total bills reported by Committee in 2017	47
Total number of bills reported by Committee that passed the Senate	17
Total number of bills reported by Committee that became law in 2017	7
Total number of bills reported by Committee that were vetoed in 2017	0

**Bills Reported by Judiciary Committee that were Enacted Into Law in 2017**

1. **Chapter 98 of the Laws of 2017 – S.6494 Golden/A.8101 Weinstein**  
Relates to terms and conditions of employment of certain non-judicial officers and employees of the unified court system.
2. **Chapter 99 of the Laws of 2017 – S.6408-A Bonacic/A.8127 Weinstein**  
Relates to the use of electronic means for the commencement and filing of papers in certain actions and proceedings.
3. **Chapter 116 of the Laws of 2017 – S.5737 Bonacic/A.6955 Buchwald**  
Relates to contracts for publication of official court reports.
4. **Chapter 215 of the Laws of 2017 – S.6077 Felder/A.8154 Simanowitz**  
Authorizes the holding of arbitration and mediation proceedings on Saturday and/or Sunday when all parties and the tribunal consent thereto.
5. **Chapter 229 of the Laws of 2017 – S.2058 Bonacic/A.6655 Titone**  
Relates to out of state hospital records produced pursuant to subpoena.
6. **Chapter 278 of the Laws of 2017 – S.2079 Bonacic/A.1482 Weinstein**  
Provides that adjustments made by a trustee, under the prudent investor act, shall be deemed to be re-characterizations for the purposes of the payment of commissions.
7. **Chapter 338 of the Laws of 2017 – S.1152 Ortt/A.559-A Woerner**  
Relates to the inherent risks of operating agricultural tourism areas and participating in activities in agricultural tourism areas.

**Bills Reported by Judiciary Committee that were Vetoed by the Governor in 2017**

None.

**Bills Reported by Judiciary Committee that were Enacted into Law Through Ballot Proposals in 2017**

1. **S.2414 Little/A.8301 Englebright**  
Authorizes public utility line and bike paths located within the forest preserve, and establishes land banks within such preserve for public projects.

## 2017 Judicial Confirmations

On Monday, February 6, 2017, the Senate Judiciary Committee met and approved the nomination of the following judge to serve as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals for a term commencing February 6, 2017 and expiring February 5, 2031.

Judge Rowan Wilson

On Monday, June 19, 2017 the Senate Judiciary Committee met and approved the nominations of the following Judges to:

Court of Claims

Hon. Donald Cerio, Jr.  
Hon. Leonard Livote  
Hon. Martin Marcus  
Hon. Michael Melkonian  
Hon. Frank P. Milano  
Hon. Wayne Ozzi  
Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick  
Sanford Neil Berland  
Gordon J. Cuffy  
Kathleen B. Hogan  
Steven M. Jaeger  
Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson  
Joseph Risi  
Hon. Walter Rivera  
Carmen Victoria St. George  
Hon. Peter F. Vallone, Jr.

Interim Supreme Court

Hon. John W. Carter  
Hon. Robert A. Neary  
Hon. Barry R. Ostrager

On Tuesday, June 20, 2017, the Senate Judiciary Committee met and approved the nomination of the following judge to serve as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals for a term commencing June 20, 2017 and expiring January 26, 2030.

Judge Paul Feinman

In summary, 21 judges were presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee and sent to the Senate floor for confirmation. This included 2 Court of Appeals Judges, 3 Interim Supreme Court Judges, and 16 Court of Claims Judges.