

*Reaffirmation of the Judicial Compact Procedure  
for Relationship Between the Governor and  
the New Jersey State Bar Association*

**WHEREAS** the Governor of the State of New Jersey and the New Jersey State Bar Association have, in past years, found substantial public benefit in devising, developing and implementing a process for the nonpartisan evaluation of candidates for judicial and prosecutorial office; and

**WHEREAS** the Governor and the New Jersey State Bar Association recognize the value of reaffirming such a process to assure the continued nomination of highly qualified judges and prosecutors;

**THEREFORE**, it is on this, 15th day of May 2006, agreed that the relationship between the Governor and the New Jersey State Bar Association with respect to the process of evaluating such candidates is as follows:

1. Names of candidates being considered by the Governor as possible nominees for judicial appointment or reappointment to the Supreme Court and Superior Court, and for appointment or reappointment to the position of County Prosecutor will be referred to the New Jersey State Bar Association Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee for review and report to the Governor. The Governor will submit a completed questionnaire for each candidate providing biographical material regarding the candidate's educational background, professional qualifications and experience and civic activities.
2. The State Bar Committee shall meet with proposed candidates under consideration for an original appointment. If the Committee deems it appropriate, candidates for reappointment will appear before the Committee.
3. The State Bar Committee will contact the County Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee ("the County Committee") by providing a copy of the candidate questionnaire and seeking the recommendation of the County Committee concerning the qualifications of the candidate.
4. In the event that the State Bar Committee and County Committee differ on their final qualification of a candidate, representatives of the County Committee will be asked to appear before the State Bar Committee to discuss and present their views.
5. The State Bar Committee will provide the Governor with a "Qualified" or "Not Qualified" determination for each candidate reviewed. When asked by the Governor, the State Bar Committee will also provide an explanation of its determination.
6. All members of the State and County Bar Association Committees involved in this procedure are committed to adhere to strict confidentiality of all matters relating to these Committees. No member of the State or County Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committees shall speak to anyone outside of the Committees, with the exception as noted in Paragraph 7 of this Compact, regarding its deliberations or recommendation concerning a particular candidate. Strict confidentiality is particularly important in view of the fact that some candidates who come before the Committees may never be appointed. Any publicity about an individual under consideration who is not ultimately nominated could put this individual in an unfair position and could be harmful to his or her professional reputation.
7. The Chair of the State Bar Committee will communicate the Committee's determination of candidates considered to the Governor's office only. In the event the Governor appoints a nominee despite a "Not Qualified" determination by the State Bar Committee, the New Jersey State Bar Association may appear and testify before the State Senate Judiciary Committee concerning its determination and the reasons therefor.
8. In order for the State Bar and County Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee to have sufficient time to consider a candidate's qualifications and submit an accurate report to the Governor, a minimum of twenty (20) calendar days between the time a name is provided to the State Bar Committee and the date the report is made to the Governor is recommended.

*Signed on this day,  
May 15, 2006*

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**Stuart A. Hoberman**  
President  
New Jersey State Bar Association

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**Jon S. Corzine**  
Governor  
State of New Jersey