

Honorable Jonathan Lippman



The Honorable Jonathan Lippman is Chief Judge of the State of New York and Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, appointed Chief Judge by Governor David A. Paterson in January 2009 and confirmed by the New York State Senate in February 2009. He presides over New York's highest court while heading a statewide court system with a budget of over \$2 billion, 3,600 state and locally paid judges, and 15,000 non-judicial employees in over 300 locations around the state. During his tenure on the Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Lippman has authored major decisions addressing constitutional, statutory, and common law issues shaping the law of New York, the contours of state government, and the lives of all New Yorkers. As the state's Chief Judge he has championed equal access to justice issues and taken an active leadership role in identifying permanent funding streams for civil legal services, strengthening the state's indigent criminal defense system, addressing the systemic causes of wrongful convictions, responding to the increased numbers of foreclosure cases entering the courts, reforming New York's juvenile justice system, and creating Human Trafficking Courts across New York State among many other areas. Furthermore, Chief Judge Lippman made New York the first state in the country to require 50 hours of law-related pro bono work prior to bar admission and established the Pro Bono Scholars programs to help alleviate the crisis in civil legal services and accelerate bar admission.

In May 2007, Judge Lippman was appointed to serve as the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Department, one of the largest and most influential appellate courts in the country by Governor Eliot Spitzer. In that capacity, he dramatically reduced the court's pending backlogs and served on the Administrative Board of the Courts, the policy and rule making body of the New York State Court System.

From January 1996 to May 2007, he served, by appointment of then Chief Judge Kaye, as the Chief Administrative Judge of all New York State Courts. As the longest-tenured Chief Administrative Judge in state history, Judge Lippman played a central role in many far-reaching reforms of New York's judiciary and its legal profession, including problem-solving community courts, drug courts, and domestic violence courts; specialized commercial and matrimonial parts; overhauling the state's jury system; opening Family Court to the public; and adopting new rules governing fiduciary appointments, mandatory continuing legal education, attorney-client fee dispute arbitration, and written letters of engagement.

Chief Judge Lippman's career in the court system spans four decades, starting as an entry level court attorney in Supreme Court and including service as a law clerk in Supreme Court and Surrogate's Court. In 1977, he became Principal Court Attorney for Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term. In 1983, he was named the Chief Clerk and Executive Officer of that court, a position he held until 1989 when he was appointed Deputy Chief Administrator for Management of the statewide court system. In 1995, he was appointed as a Judge of the New York Court of Claims by Governor George E. Pataki, who subsequently reappointed him to a full nine-year term on that court in 1998. In 2005, he was elected as a Justice of the Supreme Court for the Ninth Judicial District. He also served as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Term, Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts.

Judge Lippman's four decades in the courts have been marked by a deep commitment to fostering a justice system that is independent, open, accountable, and responsive to the people it serves. He has pursued these goals with a prodigious work ethic, energy, and passion. He is widely respected in legal and governmental circles for his competence, credibility, and encyclopedic knowledge of the courts.

Chief Judge Lippman is active in court improvement efforts at the national level, as a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute, Chair of the American Bar Association's Board of Elections, a member of the American Law Institute, a former member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Judges, a former President of the Conference of State Court Administrators and Vice-Chair of the Board of the National Center for State Courts. In 2013, the American Lawyer named Chief Judge Lippman one of its Top 50 Innovators in Big Law in the Last 50 Years. In 2008, Judge Lippman received the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, presented each year by the nation's Chief Justice to a state court judge who exemplifies the highest level of judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics. Judge Lippman was selected for his "unparalleled ability to promote and achieve reform in the state courts. His leadership in the New York courts has contributed to numerous improvements in that state's justice system and has served as an example for courts across the country." Judge Lippman lectures frequently in New York and around the country. In 2013 and 2014, he was a visiting professor of law at the University of Puerto Rico School of Law Summer Program in Barcelona, Spain (2013) and in San Juan, Puerto Rico (2014). He has published numerous articles and essays, and has received many awards and honors from the legal community.

Judge Lippman was born in New York City and raised on Manhattan's Lower East Side. He currently resides in Manhattan with his wife, Amy; they are the parents of Russell and Lindsay, who also reside in New York City, and the grandparents of Ryan and Juliette. Chief Judge Lippman is a product of the New York City public school system and received his B.A. in 1965 from New York University, from which he graduated *Phi Beta Kappa* and *cum laude*, with a major in Government and International Relations. Chief Judge Lippman received his J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1968, the same year he was admitted to the New York Bar.