FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  NEWS RELEASE CONTACT:
April 22, 2021  Steven M. Cordero, Esq.

Steven M. Cordero, Esq.
president@prbany.com

PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION SENDS TO GOVERNOR RATINGS OF NOMINEES FOR COURT OF APPEALS ASSOCIATE JUDGE VACANCY

New York, New York – The Puerto Rican Bar Association, Inc. (“PRBA”) has sent a letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo with the PRBA’s ratings for the seven nominees under consideration for Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals.

To assist with the appointment process, the PRBA’s Judicial Screening Subcommittee (“Committee”) reviewed each nominee’s background and evaluated their decisions/writings. The Committee then conducted personal interviews with the nominees via Zoom on April 21, 2021.

In evaluating the nominees, the Committee considered: judicial temperament; legal ability and experience; legal writing ability; general reputation, character and fitness; industriousness, diligence and promptness; impartiality, freedom from bias and prejudice; ability to lead; ability to innovate; ability to inspire; ability to build a consensus; appreciation of issues facing the justice system; appreciation of issues facing members of the judiciary; appreciation of issues facing members of the bar; and breadth of legal experience.

Under the Committee’s Guidelines, the issued ratings are “qualified,” “not qualified,” and “not rated because declined to participate.” Each of the nominees who came before the Committee were exceptional. Accordingly, the Committee has rated the nominees as follows:

Hon. Ellen H. Biben—Qualified  Hon. Erin M. Peradotto—Qualified
Hon. Valerie Bradwaite Nelson—Qualified  D.A. Madeline Singas—Qualified
Kathy H. Chin, Esq. —Qualified  Hon. Shirley Troutman—Qualified
Caitlin J. Halligan, Esq. —Qualified

The PRBA looks forward to learning the Governor’s choice and toward future cooperation with the Governor’s Office in participating in the judicial nominating process for candidates at the appellate level.

The Puerto Rican Bar Association