

CHIEF JUDGE JUDITH S. KAYE: A MODERN-DAY ARTHUR VANDERBILT

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Others have written about Chief Judge Judith Kaye's many contributions to the substantive law of New York and to the delivery and administration of justice in its courts. We write from the vantage point of our involvement with her on the board of the Dwight D. Opperman Institute of Judicial Administration (IJA). Founded by Arthur Vanderbilt—the legendary former dean of NYU School of Law, president of the American Bar Association, chief justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, and noted scholar of administrative law—IJA is NYU Law's principal bridge to the judiciary.

Judith has been unstinting in her support of IJA programs in many ways. She somehow found the time to provide guidance to new appellate judges by lecturing at our annual Appellate Judges Seminars. She inaugurated the premier American lectureship for state judges by delivering the first William J. Brennan, Jr. Lecture on State Courts and Social Justice and went on to introduce many of the jurists that followed her. Most importantly in our capacity as faculty co-directors of IJA, she served on our Board with great generosity of time and spirit, offering wise counsel at Board meetings, always responding to our requests for advice and support, and often calling to suggest ways that she could help or to tell us of judges in need of guidance and assistance. We remember most vividly being able to call on her, on less than optimal notice, to deliver the keynote address for a conference on diversity in the legal profession that we had sponsored with other units of the Law School. No sooner had our invitation letter been faxed than we received her handwritten note via facsimile: "I would love to come and help."

No two people are the same, but Judith comes closest, we think, to embodying the energy, spirit, and vision of Chief Justice Vanderbilt, IJA's founder. Vanderbilt once wrote, "If they have respect for the work of the courts, their respect for law will survive the shortcomings of every other branch of government." Chief Judge Kaye is our

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modern-day Arthur Vanderbilt—building in New Yorkers and all who come to know her respect for the courts and for the law. We are all in her debt.