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Two New Judges Appointed to Bench in Manhattan's Commercial Division

Starting next year, two new judges will be serving on the bench in Manhattan Supreme Court's Commercial Division of the world's most highly regarded business courts.

By [Andrew Denney](#) [\(/author/profile/Andrew-Denney/\)](#) | November 20, 2018 at 07:23 PM

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Starting next year, two new judges will be serving on the bench in Manhattan Supreme Court's Commercial Division, one of the world's most highly regarded business courts.

The new judges are Acting Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Joel Cohen, who worked with Davis Polk & Wardwell as a commercial litigator for 30 years before Gov. Andrew Cuomo appointed him to the state Court of Claims this year; and Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Andrew Borrok, **who was sworn in** [\(http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/2018/11/11/hon-andrew-borrok-sworn-brooklyn-supreme-court-justice\)](http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/2018/11/11/hon-andrew-borrok-sworn-brooklyn-supreme-court-justice) to Civil Court in 2015 and then elected to the state Supreme Court last year.

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Cohen and Borrok are succeeding Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Eileen Bransten, who has served in the Commercial Division since 2008; and Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Charles Ramos, who has served on the Commercial Division since 1996.

Both Bransten and Ramos are retiring from the bench, according to an announcement by state Supreme Court Justice Deborah Kaplan, administrative judge for the Manhattan Supreme Court, that was distributed to court personnel and Commercial Division practitioners.

Cohen, who was a partner at Davis Polk for 22 years, has represented clients in complex commercial matters, Kaplan said in the announcement, and Borrok has handled commercial matters both as an in-house attorney and for firms that have included Arent Fox and Proskauer Rose.

Borrok's past exploits as a [real estate investor](https://therealdeal.com/issues/articles/celebrity-real-estate/) (<https://therealdeal.com/issues/articles/celebrity-real-estate/>) and [socialite](https://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/16/fashion/16borrok.html) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/16/fashion/16borrok.html>) have also earned him [media attention](https://nypost.com/2014/06/30/real-estate-millionaire-spending-wealth-to-become-judge/) (<https://nypost.com/2014/06/30/real-estate-millionaire-spending-wealth-to-become-judge/>).

Mark Zauderer, a name partner at Ganfer Shore Leeds & Zauderer, said that appointing the new judges before the end of the year will give them time to learn the ropes before the start of the new year.

"I'm delighted to see that the administration has moved so swiftly to appoint new judges to the Commercial Division to allow them time to familiarize themselves with the process so that they will be able to take over the caseloads of Justices Bransten and Ramos without missing a beat," Zauderer said.

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