

**MICHELE M. OVESEY TO BE NAMED
NEW YORK CITY COMMISSIONER OF HOMELESS SERVICES**

Legal counsel and advocate for homeless to take on lead role at Agency

The Department of Homeless Services today announced the appointment of Michele M. Ovesey as Commissioner. Ms. Ovesey will direct the City's efforts to prevent homelessness, and provide short-term emergency shelter and re-housing support for New Yorkers in need. Commissioner Ovesey succeeds Seth Diamond, who will be continuing his career in public service with the Governor's Office as State Director of Storm Recovery, overseeing recovery and resiliency efforts for New York.

"It has been an honor to work for the City of New York the past 23 years," said Seth Diamond. "While we have faced challenges at Homeless Services, the progress and improvements made to the system are undeniable. Today we provide for clients in a modern and effective system, and are on the cutting edge of prevention programs to keep families from entering shelter. I am proud of this Department, and I cannot think of a better person to continue these efforts in the future than Michele."

"It is a privilege to serve the Department of Homeless Services, each and every day," said Commissioner Michele M. Ovesey. "I believe so strongly in the quality of the work we do and the peoples' lives we touch. We will support those in shelter so they may rejoin their communities as quickly as possible, while pursuing prevention efforts for those at risk of homelessness. We will continue each day to meet our 'right to shelter' mandate efficiently and compassionately. Those we serve deserve nothing less."

Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Ms. Ovesey served as General Counsel of Homeless Services since 2006. She joined the Law Department's Family Division in 1979 and subsequently worked in General Litigation from 1980 to 1985. Commissioner Ovesey then entered into private practice with former Corporation Counsel Allen G. Schwartz's firm, which later merged with Proskauer Rose LLP. In 2005, Ms. Ovesey returned to public service as Homeless Services' Deputy General Counsel.

Commissioner Ovesey's tireless work ethic and sharp legal skills have led the Agency to landmark legal decisions. A demonstrative achievement during her leadership of the Homeless Services law department was the settlement of the 25-year McCain litigation in 2008. Ms. Ovesey played a key role in settlement negotiations, ending decades of court oversight that had burdened the City shelter system with court orders and paperwork that interfered with the City effectively providing shelter.

Ms. Ovesey received her J.D. from New York University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts from New York University. She grew up in Manhattan, and still presently resides there with her husband. They have two college-age children.