



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Malcolm Smith

## Joint Statement From Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm A. Smith And Judiciary Democratic Ranker Ruth Hassell-Thompson On The Appointment Of Justice Theodore Jones Jr. To The Court Of Appeals

MALCOLM A. SMITH January 13, 2007

Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm Smith said "While Governor Spitzer made it quite clear that race would not be a factor in his judicial appointments, he also made it clear that he values a diverse judiciary. The appointment of Judge Jones is a clear indication that Governor Spitzer will set out to create a judiciary that is respected and trusted by all the people of New York State."

Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Ranking Democrat on the Senate's Judiciary Committee, said ""With the nomination of Judge Jones for the Court of Appeals, Governor Spitzer has done more to increase diversity on the State's highest Court than his predecessor did in 12 long years.

Judge Jones has shown himself to be a courageous and fair judge who will bring his unique perspective to the bench and will help to make the State's court system stronger and healthier. Governor Spitzer said in his State of the State address that there are chapters yet to be written in the nation's civil rights movement. I hope this is the first statement of the

Governor's chapter."

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