

Newsbriefs

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Sharpe Sails Through Confirmation Hearing

Northern District U.S. Magistrate Judge Gary Sharpe, who has been nominated by the White House to fill a vacancy on in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, sailed through his confirmation hearing yesterday before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Magistrate Judge Sharpe, 56, received strong support at the hearing from New York's Democratic senators, Charles Schumer, a member of the committee, and Hillary Rodham Clinton. *¿ Associated Press*

Class Action on Strip Searches May Proceed

A lawsuit claiming the New York City Police Department illegally strip searched suspects arrested in Brooklyn on misdemeanor charges before their arraignments should proceed as a class action, Eastern District Judge Charles P. Sifton ruled last week. Since 1998, tens of thousands of suspects were searched in front of others arrested under a "blanket" practice, said Richard J. Cardinale, who represents the class in *Spinner v. City of New York*, 01-2715. Muriel Goode-Trufant, chief of the Corporation Counsel's Special Federal Litigation Division, countered that Justice Sifton's ruling was "procedural" and "does not affect the case's merits." A similar case involving strip searches in Queens and Manhattan was settled in 2001. In that case, *Tyson v. City of New York*, 97-3762, some \$26 million is being paid to 6,800 people, according to the class' attorney, Richard D. Emery of Emery Cuti Brinckerhoff & Abady. *¿ Daniel Wise*

Jury gets Quattrone Case

Prosecutors have put Frank Quattrone through a "nightmare" by twisting facts in a case that amounts to a "made-for-TV soap opera," the Credit Suisse First Boston investment banker's lawyer said yesterday before deliberations got under way at his obstruction trial. "They're trying to tap into the hatred and prejudice that people feel for corporate executives these days," defense attorney John W. Kecker said of the government's case. U.S. District Judge Richard Owen handed the case to the jury around 3:30 p.m. In order to convict Mr. Quattrone of obstruction, the judge said, the jurors would not have to conclude that government probes were actually hindered *¿* just that Mr. Quattrone tried to do so. On Friday, government evidence showed he discussed allocations of three initial public offerings with CSFB executives who were trying to decide who would receive shares. Mr. Quattrone, 47, is charged with obstruction of justice and witness tampering. The charges carry up to 25 years in prison, although federal sentencing guidelines would likely mean a far shorter sentence if he is convicted. *¿ Associated Press*

Comment Sought on Housing Judges

The Advisory Council of the Civil Court's Housing Part is seeking comment to assist the reappointment of the following judges: Bruce M. Kramer and Mark Finkelstein in Brooklyn, and Arlene Hahn and Elizabeth J. Yalin Tao in the Bronx. Send comments to Stanley Ostrau, Civil Court Administrative Office, Room 1240, 111 Centre Street, New York, N.Y., 10013.

Personal Notes on Lawyers

¿ **Arent Fox Pintner Plotkin & Kahn** has added partner **Marylee Jenkins** and associate **Melodie Young** to its intellectual property group.

¿ **The Lawyers' Committee of the Archdiocese of New York** presented its St. Thomas More Award to **Thomas A. Moore** on Friday. The annual award honors a member of the legal profession who exemplifies the virtues of St. Thomas: scholarship, leadership, and loyalty to God and country.

¿ **Coudert Brothers** has named **Robert L. Clare III** as a partner, focusing on corporate finance and corporate trusts. He had been with White & Case.

¿ **Alan W. Friedberg** has been named chief attorney in the New York City office of the **State Commission on Judicial Conduct**.