

High Court Releases Names Of Clerks For New Term

By **Pete Brush**

Law360, New York (August 21, 2009) -- The U.S. Supreme Court has published its list of 38 clerks — four for each justice and two for two retired justices — who will be working at the high court term beginning in October.

According to attorneys Sigal P. Mandelker and Mark D. Harris of Proskauer Rose LLP, who both clerked at the Supreme Court, the job is a tough one to get, with hundreds of applicants for each slot.

The job can require long hours and has the potential to challenge those selected with thorny legal issues.

“The court is hearing the most difficult and most contested cases that are out there,” Harris said on Friday. “If you're a clerk and you have to help your justice, you've got to know that area of the law very, very well.”

Among other challenges, Supreme Court clerks — who usually range in age from mid-20s to late 30s and typically have completed another clerkship at a high level — must help review which cases ultimately are heard by the top court and must, sometimes on tight deadlines, review possible stays or other matters associated with death penalty cases.

One recent change in the job profile, lamented by Harris and Mandelker on Friday, is the high level of Internet scrutiny devoted nowadays to clerks' personal and professional records.

“When I clerked, we didn't have a blogosphere,” Mandelker said. “Some very unprofessional things are written about these law clerks.”

According to the list, dated Thursday, clerking for Chief Justice John Roberts are Roman Martinez V, James M. McDonald, Stephen E. Sachs and Erik R. Zimmerman.

Clerking for Justice John Paul Stevens are Hyland Hunt, Adam C. Jed, Merritt E. McAlister and David E. Pozen.

Clerking for Justice Antonin Scalia are Jonathan C. Bond, Steven P. Lehotsky, Daniel M. Sullivan and Katherine I. Twomey.

Clerking for Justice Anthony Kennedy are Daniel S. Epps, Allon S.I. Kedem, Scott A. Keller and Misha Tseytlin.

Clerking for Justice Clarence Thomas are Tyler R. Green, Brian P. Morrissey, Elizabeth P. Papez and Marah C. Stith.

Clerking for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg are Pamela K. Bookman, Vincent G. Levy, Elizabeth B. Prelogar and John M. Rappaport.

Clerking for Justice Stephen Breyer are Andrew M. Crespo, Bessie N. Dewar, Christopher C. Fonzone and Jennifer H.J. Nou.

Clerking for Justice Samuel Alito are Amit Agarwal, Kenneth W. Allen, Jaynie R. Lilley and Lucas C. Townsend.

Clerking for newly confirmed Justice Sonia Sotomayor are Jeremy C. Marwell, Eloise H. Pasachoff, Lindsey E. Powell and Robert H. Yablon.

Clerking for retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is Joshua A. Deahl, and clerking for retired Justice David Souter is Thomas G. Pulham.

A Supreme Court spokeswoman said Friday that additional biographical information about the clerks would be published in the near future.