

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. To order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers visit <http://www.djreprints.com>.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/cuomo-picks-former-aide-for-port-board-1432168092>

U.S. | NEW YORK | NY TRANSIT

Cuomo Picks Former Aide for Port Board

Steven M. Cohen once worked as governor's second-in-command



Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Steven M. Cohen. *PHOTO: LEANDRO JUSTEN/PATRICK MCMULLAN AGENCY*

By **ANDREW TANGEL**

May 20, 2015 8:28 p.m. ET

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Wednesday tapped an adviser and former aide to join the board of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Steven M. Cohen, who once worked as the governor's second-in-command, would fill a vacant seat on the board overseeing the agency at the center of the September 2013 George Washington Bridge scandal.

If confirmed by the state Senate, Mr. Cohen would become the sixth New York appointee on the board, balancing an equal number of commissioners from New Jersey.

The spot on the 12-seat board has remained unfilled since the April 2014 death of Basil Paterson, a former state senator who was serving his second stint as a commissioner when he died.

“The Port Authority is critical to the lives of all New Yorkers, and to the extent I’m capable of serving, if confirmed, I believe I can help realize the vision of this administration with the appropriate degree of independence,” Mr. Cohen, 51 years old, said on Wednesday. He declined to comment further, citing the coming confirmation process.

His nomination comes during a period of transition for the authority.

The bridge scandal, in which Port Authority officials closed lanes as an alleged act of political retribution, caused upheaval and triggered changes at the organization.

Commissioners have taken steps to guard against abuses, and at the end of 2014 began a restructuring aimed at insulating the authority from political influences.

Mitchell Moss, director of the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy & Management at New York University, who has been critical of the Port Authority board’s oversight in the past, predicted Mr. Cohen would bring attention to ethics and independence.

“He’s not going to kowtow to any governor,” Mr. Moss said. “He’s not going to be intimidated by anyone.”

The Port Authority’s board includes commissioners with backgrounds in fields such as investment banking, real estate and politics. Richard Bagger, for example, once served as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie’s chief of staff.

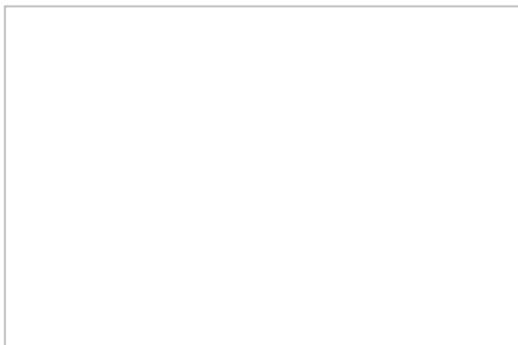
Mr. Cohen is an executive and general counsel at the investment firm MacAndrews & Forbes Inc. He is also listed as counsel at the law firm Zuckerman Spaeder, which, like MacAndrews & Forbes, is based in New York.

Before serving in the governor’s administration, Mr. Cohen served as his top aide during the Mr. Cuomo’s tenure as state attorney general.

Mr. Cohen also once worked as a prosecutor, serving as the chief of the violent gangs unit at the U.S. attorney’s office in Manhattan.

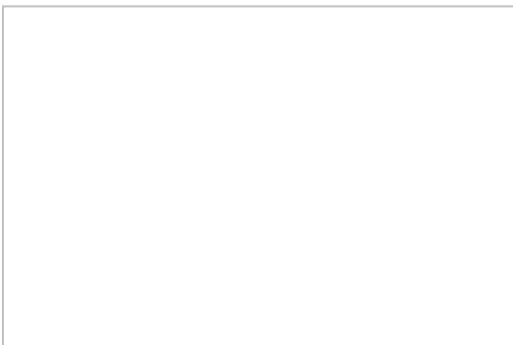
Write to Andrew Tangel at Andrew.Tangel@wsj.com

What To Read Next...



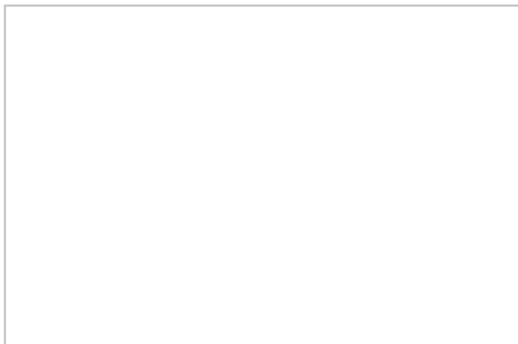
CULTURAL COMMENTARY

A Full-Scale Ark, Adrift on a Flood of Speculation



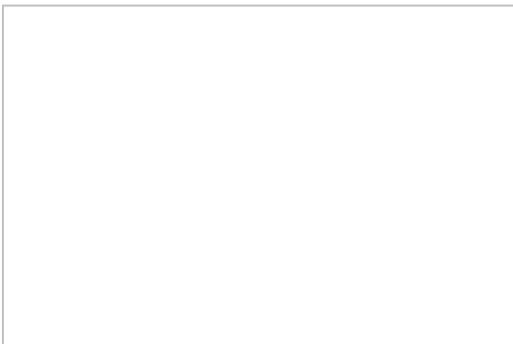
NEW YORK

Former Port Authority Chairman Pleads Guilty in Corruption Probe



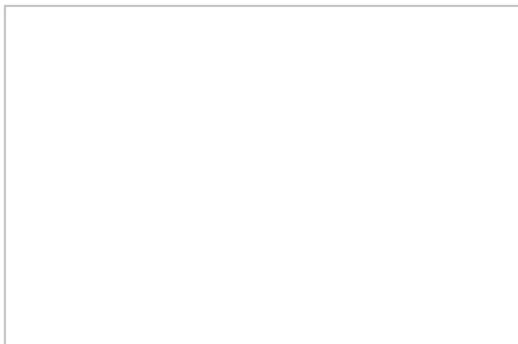
ELECTION 2016

Hillary Clinton Leads Donald Trump by 11 Points in Pennsylvania, Gains in Ohio



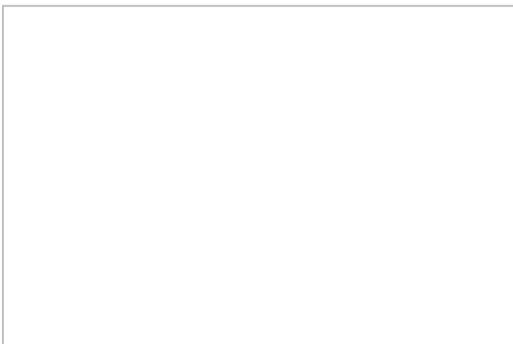
OLYMPICS

Rio 2016: Kristin Armstrong Wins Women's Cycling Time Trial Gold



NEW YORK

Guilty Plea Marks Long, Slow Fall for Former Port Authority Chairman



OLYMPICS

Rio 2016: It's the Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky Show

Copyright 2014 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our Subscriber Agreement and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit www.djreprints.com.