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TODAY'S NEWS

TRIAL LAWYERS

Jeff Korek was installed as the new president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association on Wednesday night, succeeding Joseph Awad. Korek, 45, is the youngest president in NYSTLA's 54-year history and is expected to move the influential organization in a more aggressive direction. One focus is passing the Grieving Families Act, which would let families of accident victims receive more compensation. Korek, a partner in Gersowitz Libo & Korek, was a commentator on Court TV and recently won one of the largest medical malpractice settlements in New Jersey history.

BOARDS STAND UP

Eyes are on Community Board 9 as it submits its 197-a plan for the future of Manhattanville. The plan is to be considered in a parallel process with Columbia University's application to rezone and rebuild the neighborhood. This is the first time the city Planning Commission has considered community and developer proposals at the same time, but insiders say it won't be the last. Community Board 6 will present a 197-a in an attempt to modify developer Sheldon Solow's plan for the former Con Ed site he owns just south of the U.N. headquarters.

SUSHI SERVED

After a five-year fight with city officials, Sushi Samba 7 is scheduled to open its officially sanctioned second story on Wednes-

ICIP program extended as reform falls apart

The Legislature moved yesterday to extend the Industrial and Commercial Incentive Program for a year after support for reforms proposed by the Bloomberg administration collapsed.

ICIP provides property tax breaks for up to 25 years for industrial and commercial buildings that are built or improved. This spring, the mayor's office proposed changes that progressive activists and good-government groups cheered. The suggestions included ending tax breaks for projects that produce low-wage retail jobs in high-rent areas of Manhattan.

But the administration watered down the proposal, prompting labor unions and the Working Families Party to object. The initial supporters followed suit, and the Assembly refused to approve the reforms.

One insider says the progressive groups—who claim that ICIP tax breaks go largely to a few big developments—want more scrutiny of those projects. They also want applicants held accountable for not meeting job promises, and unions want wage standards. The one-year extension allows the program to continue while a reform plan is negotiated.

day. The popular restaurant, on Seventh Avenue in Greenwich Village, also expects to receive a sidewalk café license this week. The battle over expanding the Brazilian-Japanese spot was one of the longest in memory, as the business' plans ran afoul of the Village's aesthetics and the city Landmarks Preservation Commission. The owners paid \$500,000 last winter to settle the case.

SONYMA BOARD

The state Senate confirmed Karen Phillips yesterday to serve on the state Mortgage Agency board. She is the second public member named by Gov. Eliot Spitzer, after Chairman Judd Levy. Phillips, who was chief executive of the Abyssinian Development Corp., also serves on the city Planning Commission.

AT A GLANCE

MOVING ON: Bob Zuckerman has started as executive director of the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corp. and the new Gowanus Canal Conservancy. He was executive director of the Greenwich Village-Chelsea Chamber of Commerce for two years.

HELP WANTED: The city DOH is seeking a press secretary. Salary is \$60,000 to \$100,000. See nyc.gov/health/careers.

... Assemblyman Vito Lopez is seeking an attorney/legislative aide, preferably bilingual, willing to work evenings and weekends. Salary is \$45,000 to \$50,000. Contact levins@assembly.state.ny.us.
 Comments? Insider@crain.com

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