HIGH POWER CIRCUIT: Roger J. Miner of Hudson was sworn in Saturday as a judge of the Second Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals, as 500 invited guests attended in the U.S. Courthouse on Broadway, Albany.

The Northern District of New York federal courtroom was filled with notaries such as keynote speaker U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., who nominated Miner for the appointment made by Pres. Ronald Reagan.

Top Shelf Caterers of Ballston Lake, who prepared the food, are not new to Miner — they have catered his Christmas parties. Prior to the investiture, there was a VIP reception for family, senators and judges in the executive chamber. The affair boasted smoked salmon with caviar, baked brie cheese en croute and New Zealand baby lamb chops with Dijon sauce, all washed down with mimosas and champagne.

Judge James L. Oakes, acting chief judge of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, presided. Howard G. Munson, chief justice of the Northern District (who forgot his robe and had to borrow one of Miner's) said of his colleague, "He has held this job for four years, and I hope at last that he has found a steady job."

Miner is the first second-chamber judge to be appointed in Albany. His oath of office was administered by his 81-year-old father Abram Miner, an attorney in Hudson in his 59th year of practice.

Attending the post reception and indulging in tortellini dipped in Alfredo sauce, egg and tuna salad in pastry torts, crab pate and assorted cheeses were Miner's wife Jacqueline, four sons Ronald, Ralph, Lawrence and Mark, Meyer "Sandy" Frucher, president and chief executive officer of the Battery City Park Authority and his wife Florence (the Fruchers own a weekend home in Columbia County). Also on hand: Albany attorneys Harold and Valerie Solomon (Valerie wore a red suit with black bodice), retired New York Court of Appeals Chief Judge Lawrence H. Cooke; Albany District Attorney Sol Greenberg; U.S. Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-Queensbury; Justin Vigdor, president of the state Bar Association, and Gerald Crotty, secretary to Gov. Mario M. Cuomo.

Also attending were Assemblyman Arnold Proskin, R-Menands; Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr., R-Millbrook; former Albany County Court Judge John Clyne; state Sen. Joseph Bruno, R-Brunswick; Albany Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III; the Rev. Laman Brunet Jr., rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church; Albert Callan; Brian Munford; Harry and Jan D'Agostino; Salvatore Beltrone; Richard Meyers; state Supreme Court Appellate Division Judge Leonard Weiss; Albany County Republican Chairman George Searinge; Albany County Surrogate Court Judge Raymond Marinelli and his wife Patricia; Albany County Sheriff George Infante; Matthew Matarasso, and state Supreme Court Justice Con G. Cholakis of Troy, who D'Amato says is his choice for the district judgeship vacated by Miner.