STATE OF NEW YORK
LIQUOR AUTHORITY

To: All wine licensees and agency staff

Subject: Duration of wine licenses

Unlike beer[1] and liquor[2] licenses, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law ("ABCL") contains no specific provision regarding the duration of licenses for the manufacture or sale of wine. Since ABCL §83 sets forth the "annual" fees for wine licenses, the Authority has issued such licenses on an annual basis. Other than brewery licenses, all beer licenses are issued for three years, and all liquor licenses are issued for two years. As a result, wine licensees are required to renew their licenses more often than other licensees.

Although there is no specific provision regarding the duration of wine licenses, ABCL §84 states that the provisions of ABCL §67 shall apply to all wine licenses. Pursuant to ABCL §67, distiller, wholesale liquor and package store licenses are issued for three years, and all on-premises liquor licenses are issued for two years. In order to lessen the burden on wine licensees associated with the renewal of their licenses, the Authority hereby finds that the provisions in ABCL §67 regarding the duration of liquor licenses should be applied to wine licenses. Accordingly, commencing on January 1, 2013:

- Winery and farm winery licenses, as well as special winery and special farm winery licenses shall be issued for three years, at three times the annual fee;

- Wine Wholesale licenses shall be issued for three years, at three times the annual fee;

- Wine Store and Satellite Store licenses shall be issued for three years at three times the annual fee;

- Direct Interstate Wine Shipping licenses shall be issued for three years at three times the annual fee;

- Licenses to sell wine at retail for consumption on the premises shall be issued for two years at two times the annual fee.

The filing fee for renewal applications, as ABCL §56-a, shall remain the same for all wine licenses.

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[1] See ABCL §§57 & 57-a.
[2] See ABCL §67.