



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES
22ND ANNUAL STAFF AWARDS**

PARTICIPANTS HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LAW DEPARTMENT IN 2003

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New York, Jan. 2, 2004 – The New York City Law Department has announced its 2003 staff awards, honoring a select number of employees for their outstanding achievements and accomplishments over the past year.

“These awards verify the dedication, commitment and excellence of the Law Department staff,” noted Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo, who joined Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in presenting the awards to employees late last month at City Hall Chamber. The event also included the presentation of an American flag flown in Iraq in honor of the Law Department by Alan Sputz, a Law Department attorney and military reservist.

The 2003 awards included:

Corporation Counsel's Award for Distinguished Legal Service

The Corporation Counsel's Award for Distinguished Legal Service is awarded annually to an attorney who has served the Law Department for at least 10 years and who has consistently demonstrated the superior achievement and dedication that defines a distinguished career.

- **G. Foster Mills, Recipient** – G. Foster Mills joined the Law Department in 1985 and spent a decade as Deputy Chief of the Contracts and Real Estate Division. Mills has served as Managing Attorney since 1997 and is directly involved in every aspect of the Law Department's workings. Last August's blackout demonstrated his unwavering commitment to the agency, with Mills getting office functions restored by the weekend (and wearing down six cell phone batteries in the process). On a much grander scale, Mills spearheaded the agency's response to Sept. 11th and found space for hundreds of displaced employees – while he himself was displaced both from his home and office. In addition to his duties as Managing Attorney, Mills oversees the functioning of several divisions and offices, including Administration, Operations and Legal Recruitment. Colleagues nominating Mills for this award said he “epitomizes” what distinguished legal service represents.

Martin J. Devine Memorial Award

The Martin J. Devine Memorial Award is given each year to a member of the non-legal staff who has shown distinguished performance, achievement, dedication and initiative during a Law Department career of at least 10 years.

- **Joe Falco, Recipient** – Joe Falco joined the Law Department in 1989, serving as a part-time receptionist for what was then the Real Estate & Litigation Division. Falco was recently appointed Office Manager in the Commercial & Real Estate Litigation Division. He is responsible for countless tasks, including supervising the division's clerical staff, maintaining files for the Law Department's tracking system, monitoring the progress of cases and handling other key office functions. His kind, hard-working and generous attitude has distinguished him as an outstanding employee, worthy of the recognition for which the Martin J. Devine Memorial Award stands.

Law Department Achievement Awards

The Law Department Achievement Awards are given each year to members of the full-time non-legal staff for special achievements during the past year as well as for overall dedication and superior performance.

- **Christopher Dickerson, Recipient** – Christopher Dickerson is the Coordinator for all Affirmative Litigation insurance claims and cases. Dickerson is responsible for pursuing takeovers and preparing files for declaratory judgment actions when takeovers are denied. Due in large part to his efforts, Affirmative Litigation has never lost a declaratory judgment action. In addition to his other tasks, Dickerson undertook last year a major project of entering pertinent information on the division's insurance cases into its case-tracking system to better monitor outcomes. His dedication, patience and constant good humor make him an ideal candidate for the Law Department Achievement Award.
- **Lisa Forrester-Campos, Recipient** – Lisa Forrester-Campos is the Special Federal Litigation's first and only Paralegal Supervisor. Among her many responsibilities are the training and supervision of the paralegal staff. In addition to her regular duties, Forrester-Campos has undertaken several additional projects this year, including working with the Division Chief on rewriting and restructuring the division's paralegal manual, which resulted in a new, invaluable 300-page resource guide. She has also worked with Information Technology to improve the accuracy of the office's paralegal case-tracking reports and instituted a paralegal mentoring program. These achievements – and her superlative dedication, remarkable aptitude and stellar attitude – make Forrester-Campos deserving of the Law Department Achievement Award.
- **Connie Francis, Recipient** – Connie Francis is a member of the Insurance Group of the Tort Division's Early Intervention Unit. Francis' responsibilities include identifying, negotiating, facilitating and pursuing insurance takeovers in Tort cases against the City when insurance coverage is available to the City. By her own initiative, she undertook updating and maintaining valuable reference files and expediting interagency communication. As the division's franchise bus company liaison, Francis has secured 50 insurance takeovers for the City and its agencies, amounting to \$7.4 million in potential savings. Her many accomplishments merit her a fitting recipient of this award.
- **William Garfinkle, Recipient** – William Garfinkle has served for six years as the Principal Title Examiner in the Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation Division, saving the City extra transactional work and millions of dollars in litigation costs. Garfinkle has traced complex chains of title and aided in the retrieval and interpretation of numerous documents and maps, including many relating to the World Trade Center site. In tort litigation, he has provided testimony at depositions to prove that the City does not own the property where accidents occurred in contested cases, and he has done outstanding work in support of City development projects. His excellent title research and work ethic have earned Garfinkle the respect of the Law Department. He is greatly deserving of this award.
- **Jonathan Pinn, Recipient** – Jonathan Pinn serves as the Deputy Chief of Operations. Pinn supports the division's initiatives and strategies in carrying out policy and monitoring performance. Recent achievements include Pinn implementing service enhancement meetings, in which the Operations Division had the opportunity to reach out to all agency divisions in an effort to streamline and improve services, and a series of Operations Division team meetings, which bring together support and supervisory staff in a forum of open discussion and idea exchange. Pinn exemplifies achievement and is a fitting recipient of this year's Law Department Achievement Award.

- **Loris Smith, Recipient** – Loris Smith serves as the Law Department's liaison between the Department of Finance and the Office of the Comptroller. Smith is an integral part of the daily operations in the Fiscal unit. He audits payment vouchers; reviews and monitors the agency's revenue, escrow and imprest fund accounts on a monthly basis; maintains various reports that are used by administration directors for budget related decisions; and frequently prepares fiscal reports that are used in a broad scope of analyses by supervisors. In 2003, he took the lead in compiling and submitting the agency's imprest fund accountability package to the Comptroller. Smith is a valued co-worker and colleague, and very deserving this award.

Legal Rookie Of The Year Award

The Legal Rookie of the Year award is given to attorneys who are members of the law school graduating class of 2002. Candidates must demonstrate outstanding performance, promise, dedication, a solid work ethic, a constructive attitude and willingness to contribute to building a positive work environment at the Law Department.

- **Kimberly Conway, Recipient** – Kimberly Conway is a talented, hardworking and enthusiastic Assistant Corporation Counsel who is an asset to the General Litigation Division. Conway has taken the initiative in seeking difficult legal assignments and is valued for her dedication, insight and thoroughness. For example, she has performed significant work in three complicated class actions. She also assisted in preparing a summary judgment motion in a case involving the Human Resources Administration's "Home Energy Assistance Program." Conway has demonstrated an uncommon ability to master complex legal and programmatic issues in her cases while displaying excellent judgment and maturity. She has a strong future in public service and is highly deserving of the Legal Rookie of The Year Award.
- **Anthony Crispino, Recipient** – Anthony Crispino is a staff attorney in the Brooklyn Family Court office working with the Juvenile Delinquency Unit. Crispino is responsible for conducting criminal investigations, engaging in legal research, drafting pleadings, completing trial preparation and presenting fact-finding, dispositional and post-dispositional hearings. Upon his arrival, he immediately delved into the Family Court Act – the division's governing statute – and achieved proficiency in less than a year. He has developed a good relationship with colleagues and adversaries alike and is known for his professional yet tough demeanor. He is a vital member of the staff and very deserving of this award.
- **Michael Daly, Recipient** – Michael Daly is a pretrial attorney in the Tort Division's Brooklyn Office. Daly is in charge of over 400 cases assigned to Justice Laura Jacobson, a position that requires him to supervise and work closely with other staff attorneys and pretrial investigators. Daly excels in this role by painstakingly ensuring that there is compliance with hundreds of discovery orders. He appears in court frequently to argue motions, attend compliance conferences and enter into preliminary conference orders. His superior analytical research and writing skills have enabled him to win six dismissals over the past year. Daly is a natural choice for this year's award.
- **Eric Eichenholtz, Recipient** – Eric Eichenholtz is an attorney in the Labor & Employment Law Division. Eichenholtz handles a diverse caseload, including discrimination claims brought under federal, state and city statutes and claims under the civil service law. Based on the high quality of his work, he has also been selected to handle a number of sensitive disciplinary cases, and he has proven himself to be an effective advocate. He has also shown a high level of dedication to the office, offering to participate in both the Summer Honors Program and the 2003 Class Orientation. Eichenholtz is a fine example of everything the Legal Rookie of the Year Award represents.
- **Seth Eichenholtz** – Seth Eichenholtz is an attorney in the Special Federal Litigation Division. In November 2003, he received a directed verdict in his first federal jury trial. In addition, he has settled 27 of his own cases and assisted in settling 10 others. In representing the City, Eichenholtz has earned the respect of many judges in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and has been commended for his "preparedness, patience and diligence." His contributions

to the Special Fed Division have been invaluable. He has shown the intelligence and maturity that warrants the distinction of Legal Rookie of the Year Award.

- **Jason Kalish,, Recipient** – Jason Kalish began as an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the Commercial & Real Estate Litigation Division in September 2002. Mr. Kalish later volunteered to be a member of the Division's Affirmative Real Estate Unit, becoming an integral part of the team. He represents the City in all aspects of real estate matters where the City is the plaintiff: His responsibilities include drafting complaints and other pleadings; engaging in motion practice and discovery; negotiating settlements; and handling hearings and trials. He has been involved with a number of cases concerning fraudulent deeds. His accomplishments make him an ideal choice for recognition of the Legal Rookie of the Year Award.

Support Rookies Of The Year Award

The Support Rookie of the Year Award recognizes outstanding performance, dedication, and promise for support employees who began work at the Law Department between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003.

- **Philip Clark, Recipient** – Philip Clark joined the Operations Division as Chief Analyst in May 2003. His responsibilities include assigning, monitoring and guiding projects handled by Operations analysts; meeting with agency staff and management to define improvement and efficiency related projects; auditing internal agency procedures to determine if adequate controls are in place; and training and evaluating staff. Although his tenure with the Law Department has been brief, Clark has established collaborative relationships with executives, managers, peers and subordinates. He has exceeded all expectations and consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, positive attitude and keen ability to foster a positive work environment. Clark is a worthy recipient of the Support Rookie of the Year Award.
- **Laryssa Kryvolap, Recipient** – Since joining the General Litigation Division as a paralegal in August 2002, Laryssa Kryvolap has distinguished herself by her intelligence, ability, desire to solve problems and willingness to go “above and beyond” what the job requires. Kryvolap has prepared voluminous exhibits for trials and hearings. She is never daunted by a large task or a tight deadline, and her work is exceptionally accurate. She has also developed considerable expertise in identifying privileged and confidential information in case records and redacting it where necessary. She has trained other support staff in dealing with these sensitive issues and is an extraordinary asset to the Law Department's staff, making her very deserving of this award.
- **Carmen Maddox, Recipient** – Carmen Maddox is currently assigned to the Latino Officers Association (LOA) Litigation Team. She provides paralegal services to all attorneys assigned to the team and supervises its paralegals. Her projects have included tackling a voluminous reorganization of LOA case files and being a liaison with the Information Technology (IT) office. Maddox helped IT develop a working database in which all discovery materials could be imaged. She also took the initiative and worked with IT on viable options for other tech dilemmas. Consistently, Maddox did more than her job required. She is a true example of what “support” means and is a wonderful embodiment of this year's award.
- **Winston Tse, Recipient** – As the assigned paralegal for the Trial Team of the Labor & Employment Division, Winston Tse has made his services to the trial attorneys irreplaceable in a very short time. His duties entail assisting trial attorneys who are preparing for trial or who are actually on trial. These attorneys are under enormous pressure and need immediate results, but Tse has consistently risen to the occasion. He has also demonstrated creativity by mastering the art of filing cost applications against plaintiffs who have lost at trial. In this respect, he is helping the City to recover money as a prevailing party at trial. He is a fine example of a Support Rookie of the Year.

Special Recognition Award

The Special Recognition Award is given to non-managerial attorneys, with more than five years of service, for specific outstanding achievement as well as overall dedication and superior performance.

- **Alan H. Kleinman, Recipient** – Alan H. Kleinman is Senior Counsel in the Affirmative Litigation Division, where he has been tenaciously pursuing claims on behalf of the City for 16 years. His major cases have included recovering monies from asbestos manufacturers whose products have required the City to undertake expensive abatement activities. (This litigation alone has brought in over \$77 million dollars for the City.) Kleinman has passionately pursued the City's social services agenda and has assumed principal responsibility for an extended litigation effort against state agencies that have failed to meet their commitments to provide appropriate mental health care for children within the City's foster care. His dedication, persistence and creativity make him the ideal recipient of the Law Department's Special Recognition Award.
- **Michael McLoughlin, Recipient** – Michael McLoughlin's legal career began in 1964 when he joined the Affirmative Litigation Division. In recognition of his considerable legal abilities, he was assigned some of the division's most challenging matters. As Assistant Chief, McLoughlin was in the vanguard of the City's efforts to enforce Medicaid code provisions in order to prevent fraud. When he transferred to the Commercial Litigation Division, he quickly became an expert in cost-overrun cases. Although it is a privilege to honor him for his outstanding performance and dedication, it is a greater honor to work with an attorney of his caliber, making him a most deserving recipient of this year's Special Recognition Award.
- **Heidi Rubinstein, Recipient** – Heidi Rubinstein joined the Environmental Law Division in 1995 after working as an attorney for the United States Department of Justice and the New York City Department of Sanitation. Rubinstein has developed a level of expertise as an environmental lawyer that is vitally important to the work the division does for New York City, tackling issues with an attention to detail and strategy that is impressive. She has made significant contributions in two key areas: environmental review counseling and litigation, and the City's solid waste management program. She is a fine representative of the Law Department, always professional and dedicated to her work. For these reasons, she is a worthy recipient of the Special Recognition Award.
- **Richard Schulsohn, Recipient** – Richard Schulsohn started his legal career as a staff attorney in the Commercial Litigation Division in 1987. He quickly showed great skill in analyzing and defending the most difficult construction law matters, including cases involving surety and bonding issues as well as complex construction projects. In 1991, he became the division's attorney-support staff liaison, assigning paralegals to attorneys, coordinating paralegal tasks requiring multiple assignments, and dealing with countless other responsibilities that expanded after the merger of the Real Estate Litigation Division with Commercial Litigation in 1995. He has achieved much in his 16 years in the Law Department and is a deserving recipient of this award.

Agency Counsel Recognition Award

This Award is presented to an attorney with at least three years of legal service in an agency other than the Law Department who demonstrates distinguished performance, dedication and initiative which furthers the mission of his or her agency.

- **Bryan Grimaldi, Recipient** – For more than four years, Bryan Grimaldi has served as General Counsel to the New York City Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol, which serves as the City's official liaison with the United Nations and all foreign consulates in the City. His negotiations with the U.S. State Department helped establish a program to regulate diplomatic and consular vehicular traffic in the City. He was integral in federal legislative initiatives seeking to compel payment of real estate taxes and parking tickets owed to the City by foreign governments and their employees. In addition, he was involved in various issues concerning foreign nationals affected by the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. His work ethic, knowledge, commitment and faithful service make him a very deserving recipient of this year's Agency Counsel Recognition Award.

Additional Awards

- The Law Department presented “Division Chief” awards to several staff who have demonstrated superior accomplishments during the year as recognized by their Division Chiefs.
- The Bar Association of the City of New York presented its Municipal Affairs Committee “Outstanding Corporation Counsel Awards” to young attorneys who have “demonstrated outstanding promise, ability and achievement in public service law.
- The Law Department honored its military personnel who have served or who are serving overseas.
- The Law Department cited staff who have been agency members for 25, 30 and 35 years with its “Longevity Awards.”

For a full list of these awards and accolades, please contact the Law Department’s Communications Director.

The New York City Law Department is one of the oldest, largest and most dynamic law offices in the world, ranking among the top three largest law offices in New York City and the top three largest public law offices in the country. Tracing its roots back to the 1600's, the Department's 650-plus lawyers handle more than 90,000 cases and transactions each year in 17 separate legal divisions. The Corporation Counsel heads the Law Department and acts as legal counsel for the Mayor, elected officials, the City and all its agencies. The Department's attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles. Its web site can be accessed through the City government home page at www.nyc.gov or via direct link at www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html.

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