



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG HONORS
LAW DEPARTMENT STAFF
AT 27TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

Contact: Kate O'Brien Ahlers, Communications Director, (212) 788-0400, media@law.nyc.gov

New York, Dec. 3, 2008 – Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg will be honoring the employees of the Law Department at the 27th Annual Awards Ceremony tonight in the main Council Chamber at City Hall at 5 p.m. Photographers and members of the press are welcome to attend.

“The Law Department does much of the work that keeps our city moving forward,” said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. “The Law Department is part of the team leading the fight against illegal guns, cracking down on illegal cigarette vendors, and playing a crucial part in our City’s future, including drafting the legislation necessary for implementing PlaNYC.

“These are uncertain and difficult times in our City – and your service to the people of New York is more critical than ever,” he added. “Congratulations to all of today’s honorees.”

Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo, head of the Law Department, added: “It is always tough to choose the winners from such a large group of people who consistently manifest the superior ability and individual dedication that continue to make the New York City Law Department the best municipal law office in the country.

He continued, “I am proud to recognize and express our admiration for all of this year’s winners on behalf of the City. Moreover, I’m pleased to honor many staff who’ve been with the City for decades, including one – the Tort Division’s Tyrone Williams – who’s served here for 40 years.”

The 2008 awardees are:

Corporation Counsel’s Award for Distinguished Legal Service

Presented this year to two attorneys who have served the Law Department for at least 10 years and who have consistently demonstrated the superior achievement and dedication that define a distinguished career.

- Leonard M. Wasserman, Economic Development
- Ellen Doskow, Economic Development

Martin J. Devine Memorial Award

Awarded 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 Sidhom, Workers’ Compensation

The Edith Spivack Special Recognition Awards

Named in honor of Edith Spivack, who served a 70-year career at the Law Department. This award is given to non-managerial attorneys with more than five years of service, for specific outstanding achievements as well as overall dedication and superior performance.

- Martin Bowe, General Litigation
- Kim Bryan, Economic Development
- Sharon Cantor, Contracts and Real Estate
- Jay Cooke, Pensions
- Robin Green, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation
- John Low-Beer, Affirmative Litigation
- Gail Saunders, Environmental Law

Law Department Achievement Awards

Presented to select members of the full-time non-legal staff for specific achievements during the past year, as well as for overall dedication and superior performance.

- Delores Carr, Special Federal Litigation
- Maxine Davis, Tort
- Donald Nurse, Administration
- Tiffany Parker, Administration
- Juliett Pilgrim, Operations
- Yuchun Ru, Tax & Bankruptcy

Legal Assistant Achievement Awards

Awarded to Paralegals, Claims Specialists, Student Legal Specialists or Senior Student Legal Specialists with at least one year of service to the Law Department who have demonstrated outstanding performance and achievement during the past year.

- Kathy Chan, Tort
- Rickie Harris, Tort
- Colene Morton-Scott, Special Federal Litigation
- Carmen Nunez, Family Court
- Linesha Rowe, Tort
- James Sanford, Affirmative Litigation
- Linda Swanston, Commercial Litigation

Legal Rookie of the Year Awards

Awarded to first-year attorneys who demonstrate outstanding performance, promise, dedication, solid work ethics, constructive attitude and willingness to contribute to building a positive work environment.

- Jasmine Georges, Administrative Law
- Amy Jacobson, Family Court
- Peter Lucas, Tort
- Larry Martinez, Labor & Employment
- Don Nguyen, Tort
- Bradford Patrick, Special Federal Litigation
- Devie Perry, Labor & Employment
- Liza Schepanski, Family Court

Legal Assistant Rookie of the Year Awards

Awarded to Paralegals, Claims Specialists, Student Legal Specialists or Senior Student Legal Specialists who began their Law Department career between July 2007 and June 2008 and who show promise for the future and have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their work.

- Erika Cummins, Pensions
- Scott Siegel, WTC Unit

Support Rookie of the Year Awards

Presented to support employees who demonstrate outstanding performance, promise, dedication, solid work ethics, constructive attitude and willingness to contribute to building a positive work environment.

- Frances Albergo, Family Court
- Ariel Ciner, Operations
- Jillian Gbidi, Tort
- Oksana Lipkina, Workers' Compensation
- Sherlynn Mangum, Litigation Support

Pro Bono Award

Given to an attorney who has demonstrated distinction by providing extraordinary legal pro bono services during the past year.

- Andrea Berger, Legal Counsel

Dorothy Marie Miner Award for Outstanding Service as Counsel to an Agency

Presented to an attorney with at least three years of legal service to an agency other than the Law Department.

- Phyllis Arnold, Deputy Commissioner of Legal Affairs and Chief Code Counsel, Department of Buildings

** This award was renamed this year in honor of our esteemed colleague, Dorothy M. Miner, former General Counsel at the Landmarks Preservation Commission, who tragically passed away in late October.*

New York City Affairs Committee Awards

Presented by the New York City Affairs Committee of the Bar Association of the City of New York to Assistant Corporation Counsels who have demonstrated outstanding promise, ability and achievement in public service law.

- Sheila Gomez, Tort, Special Litigation Unit
- Susan Paulson, Appeals
- Natalie Prokop, Affirmative Litigation
- Michael Shender, Tort
- Aimee Sklar, Family Court
- Cecilia Williams, Family Court

DOITT Excellence in IT Support and Service Award

This Award is presented by the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications in recognition of operations services of such high quality that problems never arise, or are quickly and effectively handled.

- Nalin Mishra, Information Technology

New York County Lawyers Assoc's Public Service Award

This prestigious award is in recognition of distinguished service as a public sector attorney.

- Susan Kath, Environmental Law

Longevity Awards

We applaud the following staff who have been with the Law Department 40 years:

- Tyrone Williams, Tort

We applaud the following staff who have been with the Law Department 35 years:

- Robert Frazier, Family Court
- Paul Rephen, Executive
- Francis Caputo, Appeals
- Dina Beschoner, Administrative Law
- Norman Kapp, Tort

We applaud the following staff who have been with the Law Department 30 years:

- Marilyn Campbell, Tort
- Aban Cooper, Tort
- Maxine Davis, Tort
- Malachy Higgins, Administration
- Richard Iannotta, Tort
- Randal Leason, Information Technology
- Minerva Lopez, Appeals
- Ruth Pallaske, Workers' Compensation
- Marilyn Richter, General Litigation
- Susan Tucker, Family Court
- Gwendolyn Tyrell, Operations

We applaud the following staff who have been with the Law Department for 25 years:

- Sarah Denis Abraham, Tort
- Ruby Bradley, Labor and Employment
- Jay Cooke, Pensions,
- Vincent D'Orazio, Tax & Bankruptcy
- Ellen Doskow, Economic Development
- Connie Etheridge, Tort
- Dorothy Jackson, Family Court
- Nina Jody, Tort
- Margaret King, Tort
- Amy London, Tort
- Paul Marks, Labor and Employment
- Bruce Regal, Economic Development
- Marion Suter, Economic Development
- Celestine White, Tax & Bankruptcy

Editor's Notes:

- *Winners of our Division Chief Awards can be obtained by calling the Media Office at (212) 788-0400 or e-mailing media@law.nyc.gov.*
- *The City also offers its congratulations to Alan Beckoff, a 20-year-plus member of the Law Department's staff, who was appointed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to a Brooklyn Family Court judgeship this past September.*

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 has an active caseload of

90,000 matters and transactions in 17 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 690 attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles. For more information, please visit nyc.gov/law.

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