



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

DEPUTY MAYOR DENNIS M. WALCOTT HONORS LAW DEPARTMENT STAFF AT 26TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

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New York, Dec. 13, 2007 – Deputy Mayor Dennis M. Walcott will honor Law Department employees for their outstanding achievements at the Law Department's 26th Annual Awards Ceremony. The awards will be presented at City Hall at 5 p.m. in the main Council Chamber. Press and photographers are welcome to attend. A reception following the ceremony will feature entertainment by the trumpeter of the Grammy Award winning Spanish Harlem Orchestra.

"These awards honor those whose hard work and dedication have made New York City a better place to live and made the Law Department a great place to work," said Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo. "Each of you have made significant contributions, and I thank you personally and on behalf of the City."

The 2007 awardees are:

Corporation Counsel's Award for Distinguished Legal Service — Steven Stein Cushman Contracts & Real Estate

Presented 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 define a distinguished career.

Martin J. Devine Memorial Award — Kenneth Majerus, Operations

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.

The Edith Spivack Special Recognition Award

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 achievement as well as overall dedication and superior performance.

- Rochelle Cohen, Tax & Bankruptcy
- Susan Halatyn, Special Federal Litigation
- Frances Henn, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation
- Patrick Mantione, Tort
- Hilary Meltzer, Environmental Law
- Genevieve Nelson, Special Federal Litigation
- Fay Ng, Appeals
- Betty Woo, Economic Development

The Pro Bono Award — Bob Bailey , Commercial & Real Estate Litigation

Awarded to an attorney who has demonstrated distinction by providing extraordinary legal *pro bono* services during the past year. This award recognizes the efforts and contributions of significant volunteer legal work.

Agency Counsel Recognition Award — Philip Damashek, Department of Transportation

Presented to an attorney with at least three years of legal service in a city agency other than the Law Department who has shown distinguished performance, dedication and initiative throughout his or her career, and outstanding specific accomplishments which further the mission of his or her agency.

Law Department Achievement Award

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.

- Jamel Browne, Administration
- Jennifer Downer-Duprey, Administration
- Jason Dyer, Operations
- Sonette Hankins, Information Technology
- Glen Walker, Operations
- Zina Young-Hope, Tort

Legal Assistant Achievement Award

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

- Anthony Himmel, Tort
- Natalia Malina, Special Federal Litigation
- David Perez, Tort
- Larissa Pliss, General Litigation
- Frances Quiñones, Tort
- Liliya Rashkevich, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation
- Johnny Velez, Labor & Employment

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.

- Kathleen Chen, Tort
- Charessa Glover-Thomas, Family Court
- Faith Lovell, Family Court
- Teresita Magsino, Administrative Law
- Kuuku Minnah-Donkoh, Tort
- Andrea O'Connor, Labor & Employment Law
- Andrew Rauchberg, General Litigation
- Diana Raynes, Tort
- Tracie Reilly, Family Court
- Dana Shechter, Tort
- Ilyse Sisolak, Pensions

- Leslie Spitlanick, Commercial & Real Estate
- Sumit Sud, Special Federal Litigation

Legal Assistant Rookie Of The Year Awards

Awarded to Paralegals, Claims Specialists, Student Legal Specialists or Senior Student Legal Specialists who demonstrate outstanding performance, promise, dedication, solid work ethics, constructive attitude and willingness to contribute to building a positive work environment.

- Demetra Charidemou, Special Federal Litigation
- Leslyn George, Tort
- Matthew Gulinello, Special Federal Litigation
- Viola Pennamon, Tort

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.

- Costa Fikhman, Workers' Compensation
- Connie Pankratz, Executive
- Kenneth Paulsen, Operations
- David Schloss, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation
- Kristin Willis-Toro, Family Court

Jane M. Bolin Diversity Leadership Award – Betty Lawrence Lewis, Tort

Recognizes and celebrates the outstanding contributions and significant impact by an exceptional member of the Law Department in promoting and advocating our diversity goals.

Military Service Recognition

The Office of the Corporation Counsel is proud to recognize the members of our staff who made the personal sacrifice of serving our country this year. **Ramon Barreiro** of the Labor & Employment and **Robin Wakefield** of Administration temporarily uprooted their professional and personal lives to honor the commitments each of them made to protect and serve. We honor these individuals for the selfless dedication they have demonstrated and extend to them our most heartfelt appreciation.

NYC Bar Association, Municipal Affairs Committee's Outstanding Corporation Counsel Awards

Presented to Assistant Corporation Counsels who have demonstrated outstanding promise, ability and achievement in public service law. The nominees must be attorneys recently admitted to the Bar with two to five years employment in the Corporation Counsel's Office. Nominations are made by Division Chiefs to a subcommittee of the Municipal Affairs Committee which makes the final selections. (The winners listed below were previously presented with their awards at the New York City Bar Association by Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo). They are:

- Ali Ayazi, Labor Employment
- Kim Conway, General Litigation
- Tal Galomb, Legal Counsel
- Nicole Ludwig, Tort
- Michael Ruseskas, Family Court

New York County Lawyers Assoc's Public Service Award — Martha Mann Alfaro, Legal Counsel

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

M/WBE Advocate of the Year Award — **Martha Mann Alfaro, Legal Counsel** and **Howard Friedman**, Contract and Real Estate Litigation, each received the Advocate of the Year Award from the M/WBE (Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise).

DOITT Excellence in IT Support and Service Award — **Migdalia Roman, Information Technology**

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.

Longevity Awards

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

- Fay Ng, Appeals
- Nola Francis, Appeals
- Jane Paganini, Operations
- Yolanda Johnson, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation
- Robin Binder, Administrative Law
- Sharon Mcrae, Administrative Law
- Luevader Calloway-Cole, Tort
- Barbara Podkalicki, Administrative Law
- Samuel Alston, Administration
- Carrie Lewis, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation
- Barry Schwartz, Appeals
- Michael Maney, Tort
- Thomas O'Sullivan, Tort
- Jonathan Becker, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation
- Alfred Fortunato, Litigation Support
- Jimmy Santiago, Information Technology

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

- Pamela Dolgow, Appeals
- Gail Petraglia, Operations
- Rickie Harris, Tort
- Anthony Himmel, Tort
- Stephen McGrath, Appeals

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

- Elba Colon, Tax And Bankruptcy Litigation

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

- Leonard Koerner, Appeals

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/law.

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