



**OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIALS AND HEARINGS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD**

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**JUDGE ERNEST J. CAVALLO CONFIRMED AS A PUBLIC MEMBER
OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD**

Cavallo Brings More Than 12 Years of Experience on the Bench to this Administrative Tribunal, as Well as Decades of Public Service

Hon. Ernest J. Cavallo has joined the New York City Environmental Control Board, a 13-member body that enforces the health and safety laws that protect the City's environment. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg appointed Judge Cavallo as a public member on ECB's governing board on April 25, 2009, following the City Council's approved of the nomination on August 20, 2009.

Judge Cavallo served as an interim Civil Court judge in New York County from August 2006 until his retirement at the end of 2008. Prior to that, he served as a Housing Court judge for nine years, beginning in 1997, and was the supervising judge of the Housing Court in New York County from 2000 to 2006, implementing programs to assure access to justice for litigants who represent themselves.

"Judge Cavallo's experiences on the bench make him an outstanding choice for the Environmental Control Board at this time, as the agency continues its mission to improve the ECB hearings process under legislation signed by Mayor Bloomberg last August," said Carol A. Robles-Román, Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs and Counsel to the Mayor. "The perspective of a trial judge will be invaluable as ECB works on its mandate to make its tribunal as transparent, fair and efficient as possible."

A former New York City teacher, Cavallo began his legal career at the Office of Corporation Counsel of New York City, where he was a staff attorney for 11 years. During that time, he also worked as a small claims arbitrator in New York's Civil Court.

"I am excited to be part of the effort to make the ECB process accessible and easy to understand by all who come before it," said Cavallo. "As a teacher, attorney and judge, I understand the importance of clear precise language in law. I also appreciate the fact that the tribunal must assure access to justice for the many citizens who appear before it without representation."

The 13-member Board at ECB includes the commissioners of six agencies that issue violations related to health and safety that are heard at ECB. Violations from Department of Buildings, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Sanitation, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Fire and Police Departments all come before the ECB. ECB is the second largest administrative tribunal in New York City, handling about 700,000 violations and conducting more than 160,000 hearings annually. The ECB board is responsible for enforcing those laws and deciding appeals from decisions issued by ECB hearing officers. Six public members serve on the Board. Five of them have expertise in the areas of air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, real estate and business. Cavallo is the general representative.

On August, 12, 2008, the Mayor signed legislation that consolidated ECB into the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH). OATH is the City's central administrative tribunal and is headed by Chief Administrative Law Judge Roberto Velez. Chief Judge Velez also serves as chair of the ECB board.

Media contact: NYC Environmental Control Board: Amy Slifka: (212) 361-1740