



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 TO HONOR  
LAW DEPARTMENT STAFF  
AT 30TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

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New York, Dec. 14, 2011 – This evening Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg will honor Law Department employees at the 30th Annual Awards Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at the Manhattan Surrogate's Court in Lower Manhattan.

"These are challenging times for our City – and your service to the people of New York is more critical than ever," said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. "I congratulate all those receiving awards tonight."

"We look forward to recognizing our staff's extraordinary efforts during the past year," New York City Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo said. "I'm very proud to work with such capable colleagues. Each year, this ceremony reminds me of our office's capacity to achieve so much."

Tonight, key individual awards will be given to Muriel Goode-Trufant, the Chief of the Agency's Special Federal Litigation Division and Hazel Dorner of the Commercial & Real Estate Division, in honor of their exemplary performance and outstanding dedication to the Department. Additionally, Department of Homeless Services General Counsel Michele Ovesey will be recognized for her outstanding service as counsel to an agency.

Reporters interested in covering the ceremony or receiving photographs afterwards are encouraged to contact the Law Department's Media Office at (212) 788-0400 or [media@law.nyc.gov](mailto:media@law.nyc.gov). The ceremony will be held at 5:15 p.m. in the Surrogate's Court at 31 Chambers Street in Lower Manhattan.

The 2011 awardees are:

**Corporation Counsel's Award for Distinguished Legal Service**

Presented 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 define a distinguished career.

- Muriel Goode-Trufant, Special Federal Litigation

**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. This award is named in honor of Martin J. Devine who served the Law Department for 77 years – the longest-serving employee in our history.

- Hazel Dorner, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation

### **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.

- Theodora Andreopoulos, Family Court
- Teresa Barillas, Litigation Support
- Andrea Fastenberg, Legal Counsel
- Michelle Goldberg-Cahn, Administrative Law
- Monica Kelly, Tort
- Joshua Rubin, Affirmative Litigation
- Keith Snow, Pensions
- Lawrence Spielberg, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation

### **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.

- Howard Chin, Tort
- Thomas Gallahue, Family Court
- Luiggy Gomez, Operations
- Ana Leyton, Operations
- Saundra Shields, Family Court
- Kelvin Smith, Administration

### **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.

- Roslyn Anthony, Tort
- Dmitriy Aronov, Operations
- Bouchra Elsayed, Tort
- Tameka Harrison, Tort
- Glendo Jeffers, Labor & Employment Law
- Rashann Melton, Family Court
- Lilia William, Special Federal 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.

- Adam Collyer, Labor & Employment Law
- Matthew Connahan, Family Court
- Serena Longley, General Litigation
- Peter Mancuso, Tort
- Joseph Marutollo, Special Federal Litigation
- Amanda Morgano, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation
- Gloria Yi, General Litigation Division

### **Legal Assistant Rookie of the Year Award**

Awarded to paralegals, claim specialists, student legal specialists or senior legal specialists who began their Law Department careers between July 2010 and June 2011, who show promise for the future and who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their work.

- Lynnette Hyde, Family Court

### **Support Rookie of the Year Award**

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.

- Andy Mui, Workers' Compensation

### **Pro Bono & Community Service Award**

This year, the Pro Bono Award and the Community Service Award have been combined. Given to an attorney who performs either extraordinary pro bono work or to an individual who makes an extraordinary effort to provide community service.

- Neil Schaier, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation

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

Named in honor of Dorothy Marie Miner, who was the esteemed longtime counsel to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. It is presented to an attorney with at least three years of legal service to an agency other than the Law Department who exemplifies distinguished performance, dedication and initiative throughout the candidate's career, and outstanding accomplishments which further the mission of his or her agency.

- Michele Ovesey, Department of Homeless Services

### **Municipal Affairs 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.

- Eduardo Crosa, formerly of Legal Counsel (now in private sector)
- Elizabeth Daitz, Special Federal Litigation
- Vanessa Facio-Lince, Family Court
- Carrie Noteboom, Environmental Law
- Joshua Wolf, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation

### **DOITT Excellence in IT Support and Services Award**

This Award is presented by the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications in recognition of high-quality technical support services.

- Grace Yuen-Su – "Manager" Awards Category
- Anthony Cioffi – "Staff" Awards Category

### **Military Service Recognition**

This award recognizes the personal sacrifice involved in serving our country. The recipients have temporarily uprooted their professional and personal lives to honor the commitment they made to protect and serve.

- Jason Friedman, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation
- Alan Sputz, Family Court

- Robin Wakefield, Administration

### **Longevity Awards**

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

- Jason Cutler
- Joseph Greenberg

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

- Mary Jean Hom
- Patricia Mann
- Marguerite Maignan
- Paul Zabe

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

- Arlene Aikens
- Thomas Crane
- Janice Darrisaw
- Anshel David
- Lila Faulk-Smith
- Louise Henderson
- Evelyn Hilowitz
- Fred Kolikoff
- Martha Mann Alfaro
- Betty Mazyck
- Barbara Peabody
- Robin Stanley
- Barbara Sullins-Wilcox
- Frances Tucker-Wade
- Orndra Williams

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

- Mercedes Arias
- Eleanor Caggiano
- Rochelle Cohen
- Martha Delgado
- John Hupper
- Laura Krsinic
- Steven Levi
- Albert Moncure
- Kenneth Reid
- Gail Rubin
- Malacah Singletary
- Lisa Woods-Taylor

### **Outside Awards & Honors**

Several attorneys were recognized for winning outside awards or honors this year:

- Michael A. Cardozo, Emory Buckner Medal from the Federal Bar Council.
- Gabriel Taussig, Mary C. Lawton Outstanding Government Service Award from the American Bar Association (Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory

Practice). Gabe also received the Sloan Public Service Award, administered by the Fund of the City of New York.

- Isabel Galis-Menendez, Louis J. Lefkowitz Award from Fordham Law School.
- Alan Sputz, Public Service Award from the New York County Lawyers' Association.
- Jane Gordon, Amicus Service Award from the International Municipal Lawyers Association.
- Paul Goetz was elected to Manhattan Civil Court, Third District, and will begin his 10-year term as a judge in January 2012.
- Andrew Myerberg was honored by the Detective Investigators' Association for his work on an important federal lawsuit.

### **In Memoriam**

As we celebrate the achievements and successes of our office over the past year, we also pause to reflect on the loss of two treasured colleagues. Their friendship and contributions to this office are deeply missed.

- Bernhard Jonas, Economic Development
- Joseph Mohbat, Tort

#### *Editor's Note:*

- *Winners of our Division Chief Awards can be obtained from the Media Office, [media@law.nyc.gov](mailto:media@law.nyc.gov) or (212) 788-0400.*

The New York City Law Department is one of the oldest, largest and most dynamic law offices in the world. 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 650 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](http://nyc.gov/law).

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