



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**CORPORATION COUNSEL NAMES JAMES MCSPIRITT
AS THE NEW CHIEF OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

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New York, May 12, 2010 – Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo officially announced today the selection of James McSpirtt as the new Chief for the Law Department's Economic Development Division. This division plays a central role in advising and negotiating major development projects that impact the everyday lives of residents in all five boroughs as well as visitors to New York City. Such projects include the redevelopment of Atlantic Yards, the opening of the new Yankee Stadium, the re-design of Father Duffy Square in Times Square, and the revitalization of Coney Island.

McSpirtt joins the Law Department from the Phipps Houses Group – the nation's largest non-profit developer, owner and manager of affordable housing – where he served as the Corporate Vice President and General Counsel. He has also held previous roles at the Law Department in the Economic Development and Municipal Finance Divisions.

"It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome Jim McSpirtt back to the Law Department in this new capacity," said New York City Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo. "Jim brings years of leadership experience and institutional knowledge to the role, and he will be a key player in the crucial development projects that benefit so many New Yorkers and the City."

"I am pleased to rejoin the Law Department and to again advise the City on its important economic development initiatives," McSpirtt added. "I look forward to working with Division attorneys, the Administration and New York City Economic Development Corporation in assisting in the continued renewal of New York City."

As Chief, McSpirtt will oversee a team of attorneys who serve as business transactional counsel for the City on commercial, negotiated real estate development projects, as well as projects between State and City entities. The Division's work promotes the City's economy and landscape while reimagining it for the 21st century. Division attorneys work closely with City Hall, the NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and various City agencies on all aspects of transactions, from inception to closing, as well as advise on the administration of agreements after closing.

"Jim's expertise and understanding of the economic development landscape will provide NYCEDC with a true asset in the Law Department," said NYCEDC President Seth W. Pinsky. "My past experience working with him on complex projects like Hudson Yards reinforce my assurance that his appointment will benefit the residents and businesses that support New York City's economic growth."

McSpirtt began his legal career at the law firm Sullivan and Cromwell and joined the New York City Law Department's Economic Development Division in 1995. He was later promoted to Deputy Chief of the Municipal Finance Division, where he was involved with the Hudson Yards development project in addition to advising on the issuance of City municipal bonds. He is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of California—Los Angeles Law School.

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 one of the 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 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.

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