

NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Statement

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For Immediate Release

**STATEMENT OF NEW YORK CITY CORPORATION COUNSEL
MICHAEL A. CARDOZO
WITH RESPECT TO HIS CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY TODAY URGING A
REOPENING OF THE VICTIM'S COMPENSATION FUND**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

**(SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES,
& SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP,
REFUGEES, BORDER SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW)**

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

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"I appreciated the opportunity to share with Congress the views of New York City. As I testified earlier today, the City believes that the ongoing lawsuits between the City and its contractors on the one hand, and the rescue and recovery workers on the other, serve nobody's interest. They pit one set of heroes against another. We firmly believe that the only fair solution to this problem is for Congress to enact H.R. 847, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2009. That bill would re-open the Victim Compensation Fund to allow those who were hurt while responding to an attack on our nation to be justly and promptly compensated for their losses. And in recognition of the patriotic service rendered by the private companies who rushed to Ground Zero without an adequate amount of insurance, the bill limits any liability that might arise to people who do not choose to take part in the re-opened Fund to the amount of insurance available to the companies plus a contribution of up to \$350 million more by the City."

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.

Please note: This release and a copy of today's testimony are available at nyc.gov/law.

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