

## **New York City Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo Rejoins Proskauer as a Partner**

December 17, 2013 (New York) — Global law firm Proskauer announced today that New York City Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo will rejoin the firm as a partner in its New York office effective January 1, 2014.

As the longest serving Corporation Counsel in New York City history, Mr. Cardozo has been a top advisor in the Bloomberg Administration since 2002. In this role, he serves as chief counsel to Mayor Bloomberg, other elected New York City officials, the City and its agencies, and heads the City's Law Department of over 700 lawyers.

“For the past twelve years, Michael has distinguished himself as the finest and most innovative Corporation Counsel in New York City's history, adding luster to his extraordinary career. We are enormously proud that Michael will be returning to the firm and resuming his role as one of the nation's finest big case litigators. We also are very pleased that a new generation of Proskauer lawyers will have the opportunity to benefit from Michael's wisdom, friendship and commitment to public service,” said Proskauer Chairman [Joseph M. Leccese](#).

On behalf of New York City, Mr. Cardozo has had an impressive track record of reducing payout of settlements and judgments by 14%, as well as advising on scores, and personally arguing some, of the City's significant litigations. Under his direction, some of the Law Department's noteworthy matters included defending the Fire Department against a major class action discrimination suit; addressing challenges to the Administration's health care and real estate development initiatives; and resolving numerous cases related to the City's public safety and anti-terrorism efforts. Mr. Cardozo also successfully argued a \$2 billion bond case for the City before the New York Court of Appeals and a real estate tax case involving the Government of India before the United States Supreme Court.

In his role as head of the New York City Law Department, Mr. Cardozo has effected numerous changes that resulted in a significantly more efficient Department. He has achieved this enhanced efficiency by greatly expanding the use of technology and statistical data, allowing for effective risk/cost analysis of cases.

“I cannot say enough about Michael Cardozo and his tenure as Corporation Counsel. Michael's legal insight and acumen, his respect for the law, and his commitment to public service have been second to none. He has been instrumental in shaping and defending many of our most innovative and effective public policies, from public health and safety to education reform and economic development to transportation and environmental protection. He argued – successfully – before the U.S. Supreme Court in an international tax case, and he helped the City prevail in a bond case that brought the City two billion dollars. In an era of exploding litigation, he's brought down City payouts by 14 percent and reduced its tort case backlog by 50 percent. He's implemented professional reforms at the Law Department, increased diversity of the City's attorneys, and launched critical *pro bono* programs. He has been at the forefront of our work to build on the rigorous judicial screening process originally instituted by Mayor Koch to ensure judicial selections are made on merit, not political connections. Michael Cardozo is someone who made our City a better place and no Corporation Counsel has served the City longer – or better,” stated Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.



Proskauer Eleven Times Square New York, NY 10036

“Michael Cardozo’s return to Proskauer is a great enhancement to our firm generally and our litigation department, specifically. He’s a renowned trial lawyer with remarkable experience in both the private and public sectors. Having managed a team of over 700 lawyers while reducing settlement and judgment payouts, he brings a valuable perspective on litigation assessments, as well as risk management and mitigation issues,” stated Brendan J. O’Rourke, co-Chair of Proskauer’s Litigation Department and co-head of the False Advertising & Trademark Group.

Mr. Cardozo served as president of the New York City Bar Association from 1996-1998, and was a top litigator at Proskauer from 1967-2002. During his tenure at Proskauer, he provided counsel to numerous sports leagues, including the National Hockey League, the National Basketball Association and Major League Soccer. He also served as co-chair of the firm’s Litigation Department and as a three-term member of its Executive Committee.

### **About Proskauer**

Founded in 1875, Proskauer is a global law firm serving clients’ critical legal needs from offices in Beijing, Boca Raton, Boston, Chicago, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Newark, Paris, São Paulo and Washington, DC. Additional information about the firm can be found at [www.proskauer.com](http://www.proskauer.com).

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Contact:  
Somna Maraj  
Proskauer  
212.969.5267  
[smaraj@proskauer.com](mailto:smaraj@proskauer.com)