

Michael A. Cardozo

New York City Corporation Counsel

As New York City's 77th Corporation Counsel – and chief legal officer of New York City – Michael A. Cardozo serves as legal counsel to the Mayor, elected officials, the City and its agencies. Mr. Cardozo has served as Corporation Counsel since January 1, 2002, making him New York City's longest-serving Corporation Counsel since the title was formally created in the early 19th Century.

The Law Department, which Mr. Cardozo heads, has 625 attorneys in 17 Divisions, making it one of the largest law firms in New York State. With offices in all five boroughs, as well as Kingston, New York. With, the Department manages an active caseload of more than 80,000 lawsuits and legal matters.

Working with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Mr. Cardozo has spearheaded several key municipal legal initiatives, including working to eliminate illegal guns from City streets; seeking to prevent sales of untaxed cigarettes on Indian reservations; encouraging progressive environmental initiatives; supporting modernization of election machinery; lobbying to reform local and state tort laws (efforts that have resulted in saving more than \$65 million annually to the City); and advocating for judicial selection reform, judicial pay raises and court efficiency. During Mr. Cardozo's tenure, the Law Department has also litigated many significant matters, such as successfully defending the City's subway bag inspection program serving as one of the plaintiffs in a national governmental coalition in major climate change litigation against the Federal government; defending the City from lawsuits in response to the World Trade Center attacks; and successfully obtaining a \$105 million jury verdict, now on appeal, against ExxonMobil for the costs of removing a gasoline additive from drinking water wells in Queens.

As Corporation Counsel, Mr. Cardozo has personally argued several high-level cases on the City's behalf, including a matter involving unpaid property taxes by the U.N. missions of India and Mongolia, which he successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2007. Mr. Cardozo also argued and won a major bond case in the New York Court of Appeals in 2004 that resulted in approximately \$2.5 billion in additional funds being directed to New York City.

Mr. Cardozo received the 2011 Emory Buckner award from the Federal Bar Council for outstanding public service. He was honored at the 2009 Annual Cyrus R. Vance Tribute for his dedicated work towards judicial reform and his excellence in public service. He had previously been honored by Columbia University Law School, which awarded him its prestigious Lawrence A. Wien Prize for Social Responsibility in 2007.

Prior to becoming Corporation Counsel, Mr. Cardozo was a partner at Proskauer Rose LLP, where he was both an active trial lawyer and 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 150-person Litigation Department and was elected by his partners on three different occasions to serve on the firm's six-member Executive Committee. Long active in the public sector, from 1996 to 1998 Mr. Cardozo served as President of the 21,000 member Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Mr. Cardozo is a 1966 graduate of Columbia Law School, where he served as an editor of the Law Review, and received a B.A. in political science from Brown University in 1963. Mr. Cardozo is married to Nancy, his wife of more than 45 years. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.