



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 SUSAN AMRON
AS THE NEW CHIEF OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW DIVISION**

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New York, November, 19, 2010 – Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo announced today the selection of Susan Amron as the new Chief for the Law Department's Environmental Law Division. Ms. Amron previously served as the Division's Deputy Chief, and oversaw the legal team that successfully sued ExxonMobil for \$105 million for contaminating drinking water wells in Queens.

"Environmental issues have gained increasing importance in our daily lives. Susan is an outstanding attorney and a true leader, and I am confident that she will continue the tradition of excellence in protecting the City's environmental interests," said Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo.

"Susan has been integral to DEP's most important achievements over the past 15 years, including the landmark 1997 Watershed Memorandum of Agreement that protects the City's nationally renowned, unfiltered drinking water supply, and most recently, the \$105 million verdict she won against Exxon for polluting the City's groundwater in Queens. We look forward to her leadership of one of the pre-eminent environmental law departments in the country, and sharing future successes in our effort to improve water quality for New Yorkers," said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Cas Holloway.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Susan since she first came to the Law Department. She has been one of the pillars of the City's team of environmental attorneys, and I am sure she will raise the bar even higher as the Division's new chief," said First Assistant Jeffrey Friedlander, the executive who oversees the Environmental Law Division.

"I am honored to have this opportunity to lead the City's team of dedicated environmental attorneys, and look forward to building upon our accomplishments," said Ms. Amron.

Ms. Amron has served at the Law Department for 20 years with the Environmental Law Division. In addition to serving on multiple interagency task forces, her work has included negotiating the landmark 1997 agreement to protect the City's drinking water supply system, advising on and litigating wastewater and drinking water issues, advising City agencies on environmental review requirements, and assisting in the creation of and protecting parkland. She led the legal teams that fought challenges to the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park, the reconstruction of athletic fields on Randall's Island, and the rezoning of Manhattanville to allow for the expansion of Columbia University. She also leads the legal team on the City's response to the designation of Newtown Creek and Gowanus Canal as Superfund sites. Most recently, Ms. Amron oversaw the lawsuit against ExxonMobil for contaminating the City's groundwater. The \$105-million jury verdict was recognized by major legal organizations as one of 2009's largest jury verdicts and most important public justice decisions.

The Environmental Law Division represents and advises the City in environmental and land-use matters involving the drinking water supply, climate change, wastewater treatment, solid waste management, energy sources, hazardous waste remediation, natural resources, and environmental review of City

initiatives and private development projects. The Division plays a key role in advising the Mayor's Office on legal issues related to its sustainability initiatives – including PlaNYC and climate change planning.

Other recent initiatives of note include:

- Protecting the City's water supply by fighting to prevent natural gas drilling and exploration in the shale beneath the upstate watersheds that supply New York City with drinking water.
- Defending the City's hybrid taxi program which encourages taxicab owners to purchase hybrid and clean fuel cars. The City has recently petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear this matter.
- Supporting initiatives to implement the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Massachusetts et al. v. EPA* (in which the City was a co-plaintiff) regarding the regulation of greenhouse gases.

Ms. Amron began her legal career at Willkie Farr & Gallagher where she gained extensive experience in the Litigation Department. Ms. Amron, a Manhattan resident, is a graduate of Yale University and Columbia University School of Law.

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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