



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Release

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*For Immediate Release*

**ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY FAMILY VIOLENCE EXPERT JOINS  
NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT AS FAMILY COURT CHIEF;  
OTHER OFFICE PROMOTIONS ALSO ANNOUNCED**

***CONTRACTS AND PENSIONS DIVISIONS TAP INTERNAL VETERANS FOR CHIEF AND DEPUTY ROLES***

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New York, Jan. 7, 2005 – The New York City Law Department today announced several new staffing appointments, including the addition of family violence expert Laurence E. Busching as its Family Court Division Chief. Busching, who arrives from the New York County District Attorney where he had practiced for 14 years, led that office's Family Violence and Child Abuse Bureau since 2000.

Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo also officially announced promotions in three other office divisions: Contracts & Real Estate, Pensions and Special Federal Litigation. The new Contracts Chief and Deputy Chief, Steven Stein Cushman and Howard B. Friedman, are both *cum laude* graduates of Harvard Law School – the first time a Law Department Chief and Deputy are believed both to be from that school while serving at the same time.

In Pensions, Cardozo publicly announced the assumption of the Chief and Deputy Chief roles. Inga Van Eysden and Susan Rockford, both Law Department veterans, have been acting as Pensions Chief and Deputy since last spring. (The office's previous chief, Jerry Dwyer, passed away in 2003 after a long battle with cancer.)

Cardozo also announced the creation of a second Deputy Chief role in the Special Federal Litigation Division, because of the increased demands on that division. This position will be assumed by Heidi Grossman, who also oversees the office's Public Service Program.

"These moves reflect an infusion of new blood as well as the ascension of several Law Department veterans to new posts," Cardozo said. "Their combined experience will offer the office a solid foundation for building new initiatives."

**Laurence E. Busching, Chief,  
Family Court Division**

Laurence E. Busching comes to the Law Department from the New York County District Attorney's Office, which he joined in 1990. Since 2000, Busching served as Chief of the Family Violence and Child Abuse Bureau. In that role, he supervised the investigation and prosecution of thousands of domestic violence and child abuse cases annually, and managed the Child Abuse Bureau and Domestic Violence Unit.

"Larry Busching is a stellar addition to our Family Court Division," noted Cardozo. "He brings a keen expertise in youth criminal violence and abuse matters, a long-standing dedication to the rehabilitation of

juveniles, and an insightful perspective on how youth crime affects society. His unique experiences with children and families will be a benefit for the division and the entire Law Department.”

“I’m thrilled to join the team here,” Busching said. “In the past, I’ve had extensive experience working with kids who have been abused or come from chaotic homes, and I’ve had a lot of experience working with adults who commit crimes. This opportunity now provides me with the chance to work with kids who are themselves abusers or committing crimes – and to turn them on the right path, so they don’t end up in criminal courts as adults.”

In his previous role as Family Violence and Child Abuse Bureau Chief, Busching designed and implemented officewide policies and programs involving the handling of domestic violence and child abuse cases; developed strategic partnerships with governmental agencies, private entities and community-based organizations; and designed and oversaw Federal and State governmental grants related to domestic violence and child abuse, including multi-disciplinary initiatives with local hospitals, legal and social service agencies, police departments and governmental agencies. Busching also conducted training sessions for judges, assistant district attorneys, medical personnel, police officers, teachers and other governmental officials at the state, national and international level; represented his office in interacting with community groups and governmental officials; handled media queries; and investigated and prosecuted major crimes and homicides.

From 1998 to 2000, Busching served as the Deputy Chief of the District Attorney’s Family Violence Bureau, where he was responsible for training all the assistant district attorneys in the unit, supervising all domestic violence investigations and prosecutions conducted by the office; and implementing office policies.

From 1994 to 1998, he served as an assistant district attorney in the Bureau. In that role, Busching investigated and prosecuted cases of child physical and sexual abuse; conducted grand jury presentations; and handled all elements of court prosecution. From 1990 to 1994, he served as a assistant district attorney in the DA’s Office Trial Bureau 50, which handled street crime.

In addition to his professional work, Busching serves as an adjunct professor of law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where he’s taught coursework on domestic violence and child abuse. He is also affiliated with many leading local organizations and groups, including the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault and the New York State DA’s Association Sexual Assault and Family Violence Subcommittee. He is a nationally and internationally recognized speaker and lecturer on the subject of child abuse and domestic violence. Busching received his J.D. from St. John’s University School of Law in 1990 and his B.A. in Political Science from Boston College in 1987. He lives in Stuyvesant Town in Manhattan.

The Law Department’s Family Court Division plays a critical role in promoting the well-being of the City’s children and promoting public safety. In addition to prosecuting juvenile crime, the Division seeks to ensure that those who commit crimes will be held accountable for their misconduct and afforded an opportunity for rehabilitation. As the second-largest division at the Law Department, Family Court is responsible for handling some 15,000 cases annually.

**Steve Stein Cushman, Chief, and Howard B. Friedman, Deputy Chief,  
Contracts & Real Estate Division**

Steve Stein Cushman assumes the role of Chief of the Law Department’s Contracts & Real Estate Division. Cushman has served as Deputy Chief of the Division from 1998 to 2004. In that role, he was responsible for reviewing and approving New York City contracts, franchises, concessions, leases and other transactional documents for New York City. For example, he provided legal oversight of the City’s procurement of \$9 billion annually of goods, services, and construction; drafted rules governing City’s procurement process; negotiated and drafted complex transactional agreements; and taught a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course on procurement. Major recent issues on which he has worked included the City’s efforts to transfer operating authority from seven City private bus lines to the Metropolitan Transit Authority; the City’s ongoing efforts to revise the City’s standard construction contract; and ongoing implementation of local laws.

Prior to this, Cushman served from 2000 to 2001 as General Counsel for the City’s Human Resources Administration, a social services agency of approximately 15,000 employees responsible for public

assistance, food stamps, employment training, Medicaid, AIDS services and domestic violence services. Cushman supervised a bureau of 65 attorneys. His responsibilities included counseling staff on a full array of legal issues, including Federal and State social services law, ethics and procurement; negotiating consent decrees with advocacy groups; and supervising litigation conducted by the agency, private outside counsel and by the Corporation Counsel's Office. Prior to that, Cushman worked as a General Counsel for the New York City Charter Revision Commission, which was established to review and propose changes to the charter for the governance of the City of New York. He also worked as an Assistant Chief of the Law Department's Environmental Law Division from 1995 to 1998 and as an Assistant Counsel in the Department of Environmental Protection from 1993 to 1995. Cushman started his public service career as an attorney in the Law Department's Affirmative Litigation Division in 1988. He also clerked for Judge Edith W. Fine in Massachusetts from 1987 to 1988. He graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School with a J.D. in 1987 and *Phi Beta Kappa* with a B.A. in political science from Washington University in 1984. He resides in Little Neck in Queens.

Howard B. Friedman moves into the Deputy Chief role, having served as a Senior Counsel in the division from 2001 to 2004. Previously, he served as a Contracts & Real Estate Assistant Corporation Counsel from 1998 to 2001. In his work with the Contracts Division, Friedman has provided legal advice to City agencies regarding procurement issues, including e-procurement, information technology and intellectual property issues, and has advised the Procurement Policy Board regarding the substance of its rulemaking. He has also negotiated and drafted agreements for special projects on behalf of City agencies and reviewed the legality of transactional documents prepared by City agencies.

From 2003 to 2004, Friedman served as Acting General Counsel for the New York City Marketing Development Corp. In that role, he advised the City's Chief Marketing Officer on all legal issues affecting the office; created general corporate processes for the new entity; and created processes for choosing marketing partners and contractors. In 2003, he served as General Counsel for the New York City Charter Revision Commission, where he advised the Commission on Charter revision procedure and substantive issues under consideration. He has also worked for the New York City Loft Board, a City agency, from 1996 to 1998 and practiced for Legal Aid and private firms from 1985 to 1994. He graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School with a J.D. in 1985 and received a B.S. with honors from Cornell University's New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations in 1982. Friedman resides in Manhattan's Gramercy neighborhood.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time that the Law Department has had a Division Chief and Deputy Chief both be graduates of Harvard Law School at the same time," noted Cardozo. "In fact, they both graduated *cum laude*. Steve and Howard's success in the academic world has clearly translated to their professional lives, and they have both shown a genuine commitment to public service."

Contracts & Real Estate provides counseling services to City agencies and officials on transactional matters. Division attorneys evaluate and approve City agreements, leases, business documents and contracts totaling more than \$9 billion annually. They also structure, negotiate and draft complex agreements entered by City agencies. Division lawyers are highly trained in regulations and statutes applicable to municipal contracts and real property transactions as well as administration, budget and public policy concerns and general commercial law.

### **Inga Van Eysden, Chief, and Susan Rockford, Deputy Chief, Pensions Division**

The Law Department is "officially" announcing Inga Van Eysden as Chief of the Pensions Division and Susan Rockford as the Deputy Chief. (Both have been acting in these capacities since last spring and were selected after the Law Department lost its longtime Pensions Chief, Jerry Dwyer, to cancer in 2003.)

Van Eysden joined the Law Department after graduating from American University Law School *cum laude* with a J.D. in 1989. Van Eysden joined the Law Department's General Litigation Division right out of law school, handling a wide array of labor, employment and civil rights cases as an Assistant Corporation Counsel. She then transferred to the Law Department's Environmental Law Division in 1995, serving as a Senior Counsel and supervisor in Environmental Law, where she worked on an extensive range of litigation and counseling issues. In this capacity, she counseled and represented the City in civil matters on environmental law issues before Federal and State courts, administrative agencies, and local political bodies. She also participated in environmental reviews of City projects; consulted with regulatory agencies; and worked on major environmental matters, including cases brought pursuant to the Clean

Water Act, Clean Air Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act; and other Federal, State and local environmental review statutes. Van Eysden serves as a member of the New York County Lawyers' Association's Environmental Law Committee.

In her role as Pensions Chief, Van Eysden supervises, trains and manages attorneys and support staff in a division responsible for counseling and representing the City of New York's five retirement systems: the New York City Employees' Retirement System, the Police Pension Fund, the Fire Department Pension Fund, the Teachers' Retirement System and the Board of Education Retirement System. Combined, these systems consist of more than \$80 billion in assets and cover more than half a million active and retired City employees. In the past year, the Division has handled numerous claims involving decisions on and calculations of retirement benefits, including claims affecting entire classes of retirees. The Division also actively seeks to protect the assets of the funds by actively participating securities fraud claims on behalf of the five pension systems.

Susan Rockford joined the Law Department in 1984, after five years as a litigation associate with Kelley Drye & Warren. She worked in Pensions until 1990, when she left to pursue her Master's in Public Administration at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Rockford rejoined the Law Department in 1991, working in the Family Court, Legal Counsel and Appeals Divisions. During that time, she worked, among other projects, with the City's Office of Management and Budget, and the Mayor's legislative representatives to form the Transitional Finance Authority, which gave the City additional revenue raising capacity. She also crafted a theory used successfully by the Administrative Law Division to have struck down as unconstitutional a state law that, by reclassifying certain minor crimes, would have made it more difficult to pursue the City's "quality of life" agenda.

She then served in the City's Office of Management and Budget in 2000 as head of the Mayor's Pension Unit and served as a Mayoral representative on the City's pension boards. While there, she developed an expertise in pension investments, both through her experience on the pension boards and instruction at the Wharton School of Finance. She returned to the Law Department again in 2002 as a Senior Counsel in Pensions.

In her capacity as Pensions Deputy, Rockford continues to provide counsel to the boards on investments and other fiduciary matters as well as matters affecting the pension plans as "qualified plans" under the Internal Revenue Code. She is also the representative of the Law Department to the Deferred Compensation Board.

"It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Inga and Susan on their appointments. Their hard work and dedication to the Law Department and the City has been unwavering," Cardozo noted. "I know they will bring a level of success to the Pension Division that will be of great benefit to all City employees for many years to come."

The Law Department's Pension Division encompasses both counseling and litigation duties in the area of City retirement. The rights, benefits and obligations of the members of the City's five actuarial retirement systems are governed by a complex and ever-changing set of pension statutes and regulations. The Pension Division's attorneys advise the retirement systems as to interpretation and application of the pension laws and other laws such as those relating to taxation and domestic relations. In the area of litigation, the Division's attorneys represent the retirement system in State and Federal courts.

**Heidi Grossman, Deputy Chief,  
Special Federal Litigation Division**

Heidi Grossman, who has been with the Law Department for over a decade, has been named a Deputy Chief of the Special Federal Litigation Division. She is responsible for overseeing and supervising class-action suits and complex litigation, including suits seeking institutional reform. She specializes in civil rights defense of law enforcement officials.

Grossman's career with the Law Department began in 1989 as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Administrative Law Division, focusing on defending the City's agencies, officials and employees in Article 78 proceedings. Shortly after joining the Law Department, she was promoted to Deputy Assistant Chief of the General Litigation Division, where she litigated Federal and State class-action and monetary damage suits with an emphasis in constitutional, civil rights, employment discrimination and social services law. In

1998, Grossman became Assistant Chief of the newly created Special Federal Litigation Division, and in this capacity, she supervised a team of attorneys, handling litigation, training and legal matters. In 2003, she also became the coordinator for the Law Department's Public Service Program, which seeks volunteer legal services from large law firms in order to lessen the burden of the City's voluminous caseload. Grossman received her J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1989 and her B.A. in political science from Syracuse University in 1986. Grossman resides on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Cardozo said, "Heidi's expertise in this field of law is impressive, and her dedication to her practice is evident."

Created in 1998, the Special Federal Litigation Division is a specialized unit that defends the City and its officials in Federal cases in which plaintiffs allege civil rights violations have occurred in a law enforcement context. The cases which the ACCs handle stem from contact between citizens and law enforcement officers in three distinct areas: police operations, criminal prosecution proceedings and detention facilities custody situations.

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's 650-plus lawyers handle more than 90,000 cases and transactions each year in 17 separate 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 attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles. Its web site can be accessed through the City government home page at [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov) or via direct link at [www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html).

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