

***For Immediate Release***

**Contact:** Lee Feldman, Peters & Feldman for ALM  
Phone: (203) 341-8922 E-mail: [lfeldman@alm.com](mailto:lfeldman@alm.com)

**Kate O'Brien Ahlers**, Media & Communications Director, NYC Law Department  
Phone: (212) 788-0400 E-mail: [media@law.nyc.gov](mailto:media@law.nyc.gov)

**NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL AND NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT  
ANNOUNCE PUBLICATION OF “*FIGHTING FOR THE CITY*”**

***New History Book Traces Challenges and Achievements of NYC’s Lawyers  
From 1686 to 2001***

**NEW YORK** (January 28, 2008) – The *New York Law Journal*, in association with the New York City Law Department, announced the publication today of *Fighting for the City: A History of the New York City Corporation Counsel* by William E. Nelson. “*Fighting for the City*” traces the history of New York City’s Law Department and its predecessor office, the Recorder, from 1686 to 2001. Featuring a foreword by former Mayor Ed Koch, the book is available for purchase online at [www.nyc.gov/CityStore](http://www.nyc.gov/CityStore) or [www.lawcatalog.com](http://www.lawcatalog.com).

“The City Law Department is among the most prolific and most accomplished law departments in the nation, and its history is a fascinating story that in many ways tracks the history of the City itself,” said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

From its establishment as a chartered municipality, New York City almost invariably received its legal services from its government officials rather than outside, retained counsel. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a single official, known as the Recorder, provided the Corporation of the City of New York with legal representation and advice. Today, the New York City Law Department, headed by the City’s Corporation Counsel, is one of the largest public law offices in the nation and performs that function.

*Fighting for the City* is dedicated to the late Allen Schwartz, who as Corporation Counsel from 1977 to 1981, transformed an ailing city bureaucracy into today’s professional law office.

“We are very proud to be part of the Law Department’s long and remarkable 325-year history – and even prouder to dedicate the book to Allen Schwartz’s memory,” said Michael A. Cardozo, the City’s present Corporation Counsel. “It is important to preserve the past and remember the great endeavors of our predecessors.”

**(MORE)**

“We’re delighted to be partnering with the Law Department on this exciting project,” said George Dillehay, publisher of the *NYLJ*.

Author William E. Nelson is the Edward Weinfeld Professor of Law at New York University. He is the author of ten books, including studies of the history of bureaucracy, *The Roots of American Bureaucracy: 1830-1900*, and of New York legal history, *The Legalist Reformation: Law, Politics, and Ideology in New York, 1920-1980*.

*Fighting for the City* is priced at \$39.95. For more information, or to order *Fighting for the City*, call 311 or 212-NEW-YORK, e-mail [citystore@dcas.nyc.gov](mailto:citystore@dcas.nyc.gov) or visit [www.nyc.gov/CityStore](http://www.nyc.gov/CityStore) or [www.lawcatalog.com](http://www.lawcatalog.com). Retail purchasers can visit the CityStore, Manhattan Municipal Building, One Centre Street, North Plaza, New York City.

A reception marking the book’s publication will be held at the New York City Bar Association, 42 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City on Tuesday, February 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. Professor Nelson; Mayor Koch; many Law Department alumni, including former corporation counsels and other present and former city officials; and family and friends of Allen Schwartz are expected to attend. There is no charge, and the event is open to the press and public. Please register at: <http://www.nycbar.org/EventsCalendar>

Founded in 1888, the *New York Law Journal* is the largest daily circulation legal newspaper in the nation. Each business day, thousands of New York lawyers turn to the *New York Law Journal* and its Web site, [www.nylj.com](http://www.nylj.com), for the latest legal news, court decisions and coverage of new statues and regulation, as well as the profession. The *New York Law Journal* is published in print and online by ALM.

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 650-plus attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues and in the criminal

**(MORE)**

prosecution of juveniles. For more information, please visit [www.nyc.gov/law](http://www.nyc.gov/law).

The book was made possible with the support of private donations made to the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City, the non-profit umbrella organization for the City established in 1994. Donors included ALM, Law Department alumni and friends and family of the late Allen G. Schwartz, as well as numerous foundations, including the New York Community Trust and the Horace Goldsmith Foundation.

“I am glad the Mayor’s Fund helped the Law Department and the *New York Law Journal* make this book possible,” Mayor Bloomberg added.

### **About ALM**

ALM is a leading integrated media company, focused on the legal and business communities. ALM currently owns and publishes 33 national and regional magazines and newspapers, including *The American Lawyer*, *Corporate Counsel*, *The National Law Journal* and *Real Estate Forum*. The company is one of North America's largest producers of conferences and trade shows for business leaders and the legal profession. ALM's [Law.com](http://www.law.com) is the Web's leading legal news and information network, while ALM's [GlobeSt.com](http://www.globe.com) is the Web's leading information source for commercial real estate professionals. Other ALM businesses include book and newsletter publishing, court verdict and settlement reporting, production of professional educational seminars, market research and content distribution. For more information, visit [www.alm.com](http://www.alm.com). ALM is an Incisive Media company.

### **About Incisive Media**

Incisive Media is a rapidly growing provider of specialist business information, in print, in person and online. Incisive Media operates in four principal markets: financial services, risk management, professional services and marketing services. Incisive Media's market leading brands include *Investment Week*, *Post Magazine*, *Risk*, *Search Engine Strategies*, *Accountancy Age*, *Professional Pensions*, *Computing* and *Legal Week*. For more information, visit [www.incisivemedia.com](http://www.incisivemedia.com)

**###**

ALM, *New York Law Journal*, *The American Lawyer*, *Corporate Counsel*, *The National Law Journal*, *Real Estate Forum*, *Law.com* and all other ALM publication and product names are either registered trademarks or trademarks of ALM Properties, Inc.