



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 APPLAUDS FEDERAL COURT RULING
FINDING UNCONSTITUTIONAL THE MANNER IN WHICH JUDICIAL
CONVENTIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN NEW YORK**

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New York, New York, Jan. 30, 2006 – Statement of Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo on the decision of the Brooklyn Federal Court holding that the judicial convention system for selecting judges in New York State is unconstitutional:

“The Court's decision finding that the judicial convention system is unconstitutional confirms what the Mayor have been saying repeatedly, and emphasized last week in his State of the City address. It is time to put an end to the backroom deals that should have died with Tammany Hall. The Court's decision vividly describes the deals the Mayor was referring to and has brought an immediate halt to at least some of the abuses in the judicial convention system of electing judges. The decision makes even more urgent the need for legislation that will ensure that only the most highly qualified people serve in our courts. We will be working with the Legislature and other state officials, along with all others interested in improving our method of selection of judges, to draft legislation that will bring an end to the back room control of judicial selection described in the court ruling.”

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