



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**LAW DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE WINS GRAMMY AWARD
FOR BEST SALSA ALBUM**

***PETER NATER OF THE OFFICE'S TORT DIVISION MOONLIGHTS AS A TRUMPETER
IN THE SPANISH HARLEM ORCHESTRA,
FLIES BACK OVERNIGHT FROM A GIG IN PUERTO RICO TO BE BACK AT WORK FOLLOWING HIS AWARD***

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New York, February 14, 2005 – Peter Nater, who works in the Law Department's Tort Division, won a Grammy last night as the trumpet player in the 13-member Spanish Harlem Orchestra. The group received its accolades for the year's Best Salsa Album titled *Across 110th Street*.

The 47th Grammy Awards were held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. "I was ecstatic; it was wonderful," he said this morning following his win. Nater, who learned about the award while performing a weekend gig in Puerto Rico with the group, was back at his desk this morning receiving congratulations from office colleagues after flying back on the red eye.

Peter has been a member of the Spanish Harlem Orchestra since its inception in 2002. The band is often referred to as a NuYorican salsa band, blending New York, Puerto Rican and Cuban music styles. The Grammy-winning album was released in June 2004 on the independent label Libertad. The band's leader Oscar Hernandez accepted the award at last night's ceremony.

"Our office is very proud of Peter and his accomplishments," noted Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo. "This achievement affirms the diverse blend of talents possessed by many of our Law Department staff – in addition to their public service dedication to New York City."

Peter said when he heard his orchestra was nominated for the Grammy, he was "hopeful, but didn't think we would win" against other nominee Latino artists such as Marc Anthony. Peter said the Spanish Harlem Orchestra's unique sound is achieved, because all members are veteran musicians and have played with other great big bands. On occasion, Peter has had the chance to tour with the orchestra, which has performed in Hong Kong, Japan, Turkey, Puerto Rico as well as across Europe. Nater also has also jammed with Law Department jazz musicians who each December perform at the office's annual awards party.

Born in the Bronx with parents who emigrated from Puerto Rico, Nater, 46, first picked up the trumpet when he was 12 years old and started his professional music career in 1972. He also plays the flute. He is a graduate of Music & Art High School, Bronx Community College and City College's "Leonard Davis Center for the Performing Arts." He has two daughters, Ashley, 11, and Lindsey, 13, who have both also dabbled on the flute.

Nater also plays with the Giants of Latin Jazz, a mambo group that performs music of the New York Palladium era from the 1950s and 1960s. He has also performed for a host of celebrities, including

playing at singer Marc Anthony's 2004 birthday party and at a 2004 dinner honoring former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. He has also played with singer Cyndi Lauper, and he appears on her new DVD called *Live At Last*. "I am truly blessed," Nater said. "I get to travel all over the world and share my music with people."

Nater has never given up his day job as a principal administrative associate in the Tort Division's Special Litigation Unit. In this position, he investigates facts in large, complex legal matters handled by the Law Department's Tort Division. Nater has worked in the Tort Division for 15 years while moonlighting as a trumpeter. "I really enjoy my job here," he noted. "We handled many police cases and the work is fascinating."

The Spanish Harlem Orchestra's next New York-area performance is April 15th at Town Hall in Manhattan.

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 or via direct link at www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html.

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