



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT HOLDS ITS SECOND ANNUAL
“TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS & SONS TO WORK DAY”**

LAW DEPARTMENT PROGRAM INSPIRES FUTURE CAREERS FOR CHILDREN IN LAW AND PUBLIC SERVICE

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New York, April 21, 2004 – The New York City Law Department will be holding its Second Annual “Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day” tomorrow – Thurs., April 22, 2004 – from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for over 100 daughters, sons and friends of Law Department staff. In correlation with this year’s theme, “Today’s Vision, Tomorrow’s Reality,” the office has organized a day of events geared to offer children exposure to a legal workplace and enable them to envision careers in law as well as public service. Activities will include speakers from the Law Department, a moot court trial, tours of local City facilities – including a fire house and the Department of Education – and various lectures on preparing for a professional career. The Corporation Counsel will also address the children and present them with certificates designating them as honorary lawyers.

For the past two years, the program’s aspects have been designed and organized by two staff members who have brought passion and creativity to their assignment. Ann-Marie Yarde, Executive Assistant to the Corporation Counsel, and Pia Wood, Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Contracts & Real Estate Division, have coordinated the program with support from dozens of Law Department staff who volunteer their time to make the program successful.

“We hope this event will inspire the children and offer them a glimpse into the professional world,” Yarde noted. Like last year, the program has drawn an overwhelmingly positive response. To date, 108 children from ages 8-16 are scheduled to participate. “The event also encourages the legal and non-legal staff from various divisions to work together,” Wood noted. “We also hope this will encourage other City agencies to implement similar fun and educational activities.”

Reporters and photographers wishing to attend the event can contact the Law Department’s Media & Communications Director at (212) 788-0400 for further information. The idea for a program emerged from a national event sponsored for the last 10 years by the Ms. Foundation for Woman. The program is held each year on the fourth Thursday in April. In 2003, the Law Department initiated its inaugural program. The success of last year’s event has led to a highly anticipated turnout for this year.

“This a wonderful occasion for our entire staff to work together and plan a very important program. It gives children a glimpse of the atmosphere and day-to-day ‘goings on’ at their parents’ workplaces. It also educates them about the various opportunities – for lawyers and non-lawyers alike – available in a modern, high-profile law office,” said Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo. The City’s Law Department is the third-largest in New York City behind Skadden Arps and Legal Aid, with over 650 lawyers. The office also has more than 600 support staff.

The children’s day begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration. This is complimented by a breakfast which

serves as an opportunity for the children to get to know each other in an informal setting as they prepare for a full day of activities. Children will tour a local firehouse – Ladder Company 1 – and the Tweed Courthouse, where they will learn about the Department of Education. In addition, their in-house activities will include interactive demonstrations by the Law Department’s computer, graphics design and library staff.

Continuing with last year’s tradition, the Law Department will have guest speakers including members of the New York City Police Department and the Law Department’s Human Resources staff, who will discuss the importance of a resume and what an employer looks for during the hiring process. The Law Department’s Personnel Chief will address the vast array of support staff careers available at the Law Department, including positions for paralegals, clerks, stenographers, messengers and computer specialists. Also, an attorney from the Labor & Employment Division will discuss educational and career paths to becoming a lawyer.

Teenagers, with the assistance of our attorneys, will participate in a moot court argument with a lesson plan designed by Pia Wood. While the older children are involved in the moot court argument, the younger ones will learn about drafting laws and how the U.S. Constitution works.

At day’s end, all children will be treated to a dessert hour and receive a personal certificate making them a “Honorary Assistant Corporation Counsel.” Michael Cardozo will address the children, and all participants will have a photo-op with the Corporation Counsel. During that time, they will receive memorabilia from our office.

The Law Department has sought to design a program that is educational and exciting for the participating children. For the last two years, our staff has tried to expand the program by adding different field trips and internal activities so that children who attend the program experience an interactive, stimulating day. “We hope that when they leave, they have learned something new and are inspired to remain determined to obtain a good education, so that they can become anything they want to be,” Ann-Marie Yarde noted.

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