



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 HOSTS ITS THIRD ANNUAL
“TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY”**

PROGRAM OFFERS YOUTHS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN LAW AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Contact: Kate O'Brien Ahlers, Communications Director, (212) 788-0400, kahlers@law.nyc.gov

New York, April 27, 2005 – The New York City Law Department will be hosting its Third Annual “Take Our Kids to Work Day” tomorrow from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 150 daughters, sons and friends of Law Department staff are expected. This year’s theme – “The American Jury: We the People in Action” – will focus on the important role of jurors in the legal system.

The program will expose the children, ranging in ages from 8 to 16 years old, to the legal workplace and present the educational opportunities in the legal profession as well as in public service. Activities will include speakers from the Law Department, a mock court trial, tours of local courthouses and various lectures on preparing for a professional career. Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo will also address the children and present them with certificates designating them as honorary lawyers.

“This is perfect opportunity for our staff to share work experiences with their children and open the door to the various career possibilities for lawyers and non-lawyers alike,” said Mr. Cardozo. The City’s Law Department is the third-largest in New York City, with 650 lawyers and 600 support staff.

For the past three years, the program has been arranged by staff members Ann-Marie Yarde, Executive Assistant to the Corporation Counsel, and Pia Wood, Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Contracts & Real Estate Division. With support from dozens of volunteer Law Department staff, the program has been a huge success.

“We are excited about continuing this tradition and hope to spark an interest in these children to further a career in a legal or public service field,” Yarde said. “The event also demonstrates a collaborative effort between the Law Department’s various divisions. We hope this program will encourage other City agencies to sponsor educational programs for children.”

Reporters, photographers or new crews who would like to attend the event can contact the Law Department’s Media & Communications Director, Kate O’Brien Ahlers, at (212) 788-0400 or kahlers@law.nyc.gov for further information. The idea for a program emerged from a national event sponsored for the past decade 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 first expanded program. (Editor’s Note: the Law Department had informal programs prior to 2003. From 2003 onward, though, the office offered formal, in-depth programs.)

The day’s program offers an array of experiences for children. The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration and is followed by a breakfast at which the children will have a chance to meet each other in an informal setting. The group will then visit several local courthouse where they will sit in on a

sentencing and a hearing, then meet firsthand with the judges.

Finally, activities at the Law Department's headquarters at 100 Church St. will include a representative from the office's Personnel Department speaking about job opportunities, including positions for paralegals, clerks, stenographers, messengers and computer specialists. Sosimo Fabian, an attorney in Law Department's World Trade Center Unit, will also discuss educational and career paths to becoming a lawyer. Law Department attorneys will then lead a mock court argument with a lesson plan designed by Pia Wood.

At day's end, all children will be treated to a dessert hour and receive a personal certificate making them an "Honorary Assistant Corporation Counsel." Cardozo will speak to 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 both educational and stimulating for the children. For the last three years, our staff has made an effort to expand the program to include a variety of field trips and activities onsite, so that children who attend the program experience an interactive, exciting day.

"We strive to teach the children something new each year and show them that a sound education can lead to a variety career possibilities in the legal profession, both for lawyers and for support staff," Wood said.

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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