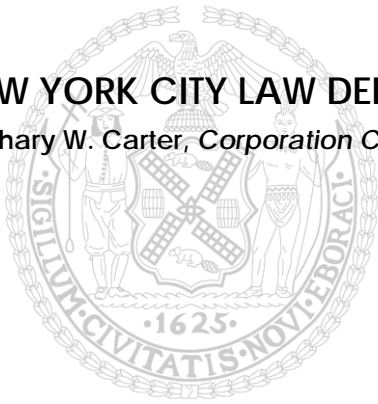


NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT

Zachary W. Carter, Corporation Counsel



www.nyc.gov/law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 19, 2016

Contact: Nicholas Paolucci
pressoffice@law.nyc.gov
212-356-4000

LAW DEPARTMENT RECOVERS \$136 MILLION IN DAMAGES FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

*Final Payment from U.S. Mineral Trust Concludes Successful Effort by the City to Recover Costs
for Abating Asbestos Hazards in City-Owned Buildings*

Recovery is the Largest by an Asbestos Property Damage Claimant in the Nation

The New York City Law Department announced today that it has received the last payment in connection with the City's longstanding effort to recover money it spent abating asbestos hazards in schools and other buildings. The payment from U.S. Mineral Trust brings the City's total asbestos recovery to over \$136 million, the largest recovery by an asbestos property damage claimant in the nation.

"This victory is the culmination of three decades of work by the City's lawyers who were very aggressive in pursuing claims against companies who marketed asbestos products long after knowing of the dangers. This recovery will help reduce the enormous bill the City incurred over the years identifying, abating and removing asbestos hazards from its facilities," said **Alan H. Kleinman, Law Department Senior Counsel**.

The City was among the first building owners to take action against manufacturers. In 1984, the City initiated litigation and became involved in bankruptcy proceedings as these companies filed for protection.

The City pressed the position that building owners, especially cities and other public entities, were entitled to recover damages out of the bankruptcy estates. The Law Department, on behalf of the City, filed thousands of claims against bankrupt firms and asserted claims in various forums, including in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. The overall effort helped the City achieve its substantial recovery and advance the claims of numerous other governments to recover their fair share of damages.

Tracing its roots back to the 1600s, the New York City Law Department is one of the oldest and most dynamic legal offices in the world, ranking among New York City's largest law offices and the country's largest public law offices. Led by the Corporation Counsel, the Department's 730-plus attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues, and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles, encompassing a caseload of 70,000 active or ongoing legal matters each year in 16 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. For more information, visit the Law Department's website at www.nyc.gov/law