



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**PLAINTIFF IN “DIRTY 30” POLICE CASE ADMITS  
TO MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS  
IN AN EFFORT TO COLLECT MONEY FROM CITY IN A CIVIL SUIT**

**LAW DEPARTMENT’S INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS LEAD TO EDUARDO RAMOS BEING JAILED FOR PERJURY**

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New York, Oct. 2, 2003 – Judge John Sprizzo of Manhattan Federal Court has sentenced Eduardo Ramos to a term of imprisonment in Federal custody of one year and one day for perjuring himself in a civil suit brought by Ramos against the New York City Police Department (NYPD). Ramos attempted to defraud the City by altering evidence and lying about his whereabouts in a hearing in connection with a civil suit brought by Ramos against the City. Judge Sprizzo sentenced Ramos on Thurs., Sept. 27th.

The original case involved an incident where the plaintiff Ramos was arrested on charges of gun and drug possession. The arresting officers were later among a group of officers assigned to the 30th Precinct who were prosecuted on corruption charges. Ramos (who was not an officer) was released from prison after serving nearly two years for drug charges. In August 2001, he commenced a federal civil rights lawsuit against the City claiming that he was the victim of an unconstitutional policy of corruption in the precinct. Since the statute of limitations to bring such a suit is three years, Ramos would, in order to prevail, have to claim that he did not know that there was a policy of corruption giving rise to a claim for liability against the City for the police officers’ corrupt tactics.

Ramos claimed that he was in the Dominican Republic during the period in which the "Dirty 30" Precinct scandal broke and said he did not learn of it. But this claim was false. When the City brought a motion to dismiss the case, he altered his passport, and in a hearing before federal Judge Jed S. Rakoff, perjured himself by claiming that he was in the Dominican Republic from May through September 1994. Lawyers for the City continued to pursue the investigation. Entry exit data from the United States Customs Service proved that Ramos had indeed returned to New York City during the scandal's height. Further investigation even showed he had testified before a State grand jury about the scandal. City lawyers brought this information to the attention of Judge Rakoff, who referred the matter to the United States Attorney's Office.

"Judge Rakoff's decision to refer Mr. Ramos for criminal prosecution was a significant one, because it affirmed that there are harsh penalties for litigants who chose to lodge sham allegations against the City," noted Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo.

New York City Law Department attorney David Schwartz, the key lawyer involved in exposing Mr. Ramos' fraud, added: "Perjury is the most destructive element to the truth-seeking process. Mr. Ramos concocted a story in an attempt to 'shake down' the City for financial gain. We are grateful that our investigation prevented Mr. Ramos from manipulating the system."

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Muriel Goode-Trufant, the Division Chief of Special Federal Litigation, the unit which oversaw this case, noted: "As lawyers for the City, we have an obligation to the public to make sure that claims against the City are based on truth and that they are meritorious in regard to the facts and the law. The Corporation Counsel's office is often the last line of defense to ensure that the people's money is safeguarded for the benefit of the public. We are proud to serve New Yorkers as their attorneys."

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](http://www.nyc.gov) or via direct link at [www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html).

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