



New York City Law Department

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Introduction from the CORPORATION COUNSEL



It is a pleasure to present the Law Department’s 2025 Annual Report, which reflects the diligence, skill and hard work of our attorneys and support professionals serving New York City.

Representing one of the world’s largest, most vibrant cities, the Law Department is entrusted with an extraordinary range of complex legal issues. These cases and matters span virtually every area of the law. Our teams play a critical role in supporting the City’s operations by offering legal guidance on diverse issues and managing an extensive litigation docket. From advancing and defending legal actions to reviewing contracts and shaping legislation, our work is driven by collaboration. Every Division and Unit within the Law Department contributes to a shared purpose: providing exceptional legal counsel to our City.

Public service demands commitment and integrity. Our office has proudly embraced this dedication and tradition since 1683. I am appreciative to the attorneys and support professionals who have chosen this path and demonstrate that commitment every day on behalf of New York City.

I invite you to explore this report and learn more about what we accomplished together in 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Muriel Goode-Trufant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Muriel" being the most prominent.

Muriel Goode-Trufant
82nd CORPORATION COUNSEL

ABOUT THE LAW DEPARTMENT



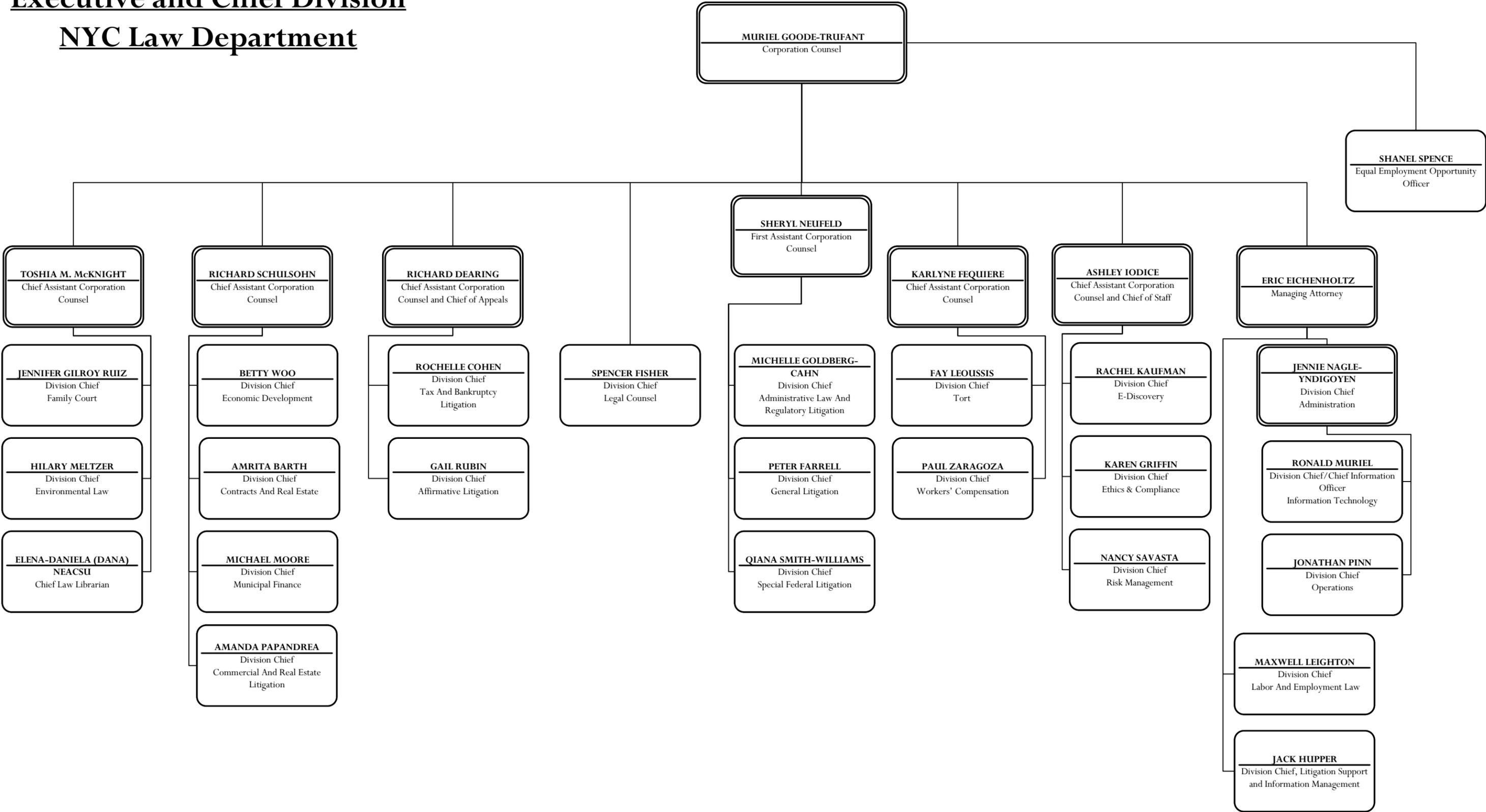
OUR EXECUTIVE STAFF:

Standing, L to R: Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel and Chief of Staff **Ashley Iodice**, Chief Diversity & Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer **Shanel Spence**, First Assistant Corporation Counsel **Sheryl Neufeld**, Managing Attorney **Eric Eichenholtz**, Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel and Division Chief for Appeals **Richard Dearing**, Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel **Toshia McKnight**.

Seated, L to R: Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel **Richard Schulsohn**, Corporation Counsel **Muriel Goode-Trufant**, Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel **Karlyne Fequiere**

With offices in all five boroughs and Kingston, N.Y., the New York City Law Department handles over 70,000 active or ongoing legal matters each year. In addition to litigating cases, attorneys draft and review local and state legislation; provide legal counsel to City officials on a wide range of issues (such as criminal justice, social services, education, election reform and environmental policy); oversee juvenile prosecution and the handling of interstate child support matters; handle a vast array of Tort cases and issues, including over 7,000 new suits a year; address risk management matters; defend the City and its officials in civil rights cases brought in Federal court in which police, district attorney or correction officer misconduct is alleged; negotiate and structure business transactions; approve leases, contracts and financial instruments for the sale of municipal bonds; and many other critical functions. The office's support professionals also play a key role in our operations and work closely in tandem with our attorneys. Listed below are some major issues and matters handled by the various Law Department Divisions in 2025.

Executive and Chief Division NYC Law Department



IN THE NEWS

The media frequently highlights our work. These press releases received media coverage in 2025:

<p>New York City Law Department 2025 Notable Cases and Initiatives <i>December 16</i></p>
<p>City of New York Takes Action To Support Student Detained After Routine Check-In <i>November 11</i></p>
<p>City of New York Takes Action To Block Federal Rule Threatening Immigrants' Economic Livelihood and Undermining Street Safety in U.S. Cities <i>October 30</i></p>
<p>City of New York Files Lawsuit to Protect Over \$100 Million In Federal Emergency and Disaster Grants To Local Governments Nationwide <i>October 21</i></p>
<p>City of New York Files Lawsuit Against U.S. Department of Education Seeking to Protect \$47 Million in Federal Education Grants for New York City Public Schools <i>October 16</i></p>
<p>City of New York Takes Action To Protect Federal Funding For Planned Parenthood <i>October 15</i></p>
<p>Mayor Adams Announces Legal Action Against Trump Administration to Protect \$12 Million in Federal Counterterrorism Funding for New York City Subway System <i>October 8</i></p>
<p>City of New York Takes New Action Opposing Federal Government's Military Deployment in American Cities <i>October 7</i></p>
<p>City of New York Takes Steps Toward Recovering \$48 Million From Opioid Manufacturer in Ongoing Litigation To Bring Closure to Communities Affected by Opioid Crises <i>September 30</i></p>
<p>City of New York Takes Multiple Actions Supporting Challenges To Federal Government's Efforts To Roll Back Climate Science, Harm Public Health, Threaten Local Economies <i>September 22</i></p>
<p>City of New York Takes Action Opposing Federal Government's Military Deployment in American Cities <i>September 10</i></p>
<p>City of New York Takes Action to Stop Federal Government's Campaign of Unlawful Courthouse Arrests <i>August 19</i></p>
<p>City of New York Leads Coalition of Local Governments To Protect Affordable Care Act Coverage for Millions of Americans <i>August 7</i></p>
<p>City of New York Takes Action To Safeguard Temporary Protected Status for Honduran, Nepali, and Nicaraguan Immigrants <i>July 28</i></p>

City of New York Takes Legal Action To Protect Federal Funding for Youth Mental Health Programs

July 21

City of New York Signs Declaration Challenging Federal Government's Termination of More Than \$351 Million in Grants For Emergency Preparedness Against Natural Disasters

July 16

City of New York Takes Action to Support Public School Student Arrested After Attending Routine Immigration Hearing

July 8

City of New York Takes Action To Support Former Public-School Student Arrested After Attending Routine Immigration Hearing

July 2

City of New York Takes Action to Protect Billions in Federal Funding for Hospitals, Universities, and Research Institutions

June 17

City of New York Takes Action To Protect Over \$820 Million in Federal Funding for Public Safety Organizations Nationwide

June 6

City of New York Takes Action to Support Public School Student Who Was Arrested After Attending Routine Immigration Hearing

June 2

Mayor Adams, Corporation Counsel Goode-Trufant Successfully Stop Long Island-Based Company From Selling Illegal E-cigarette, Vape Products

May 23

New York City Law Department Names New Division Chiefs

May 5

Law Department, Coalition of Cities and Counties Announce Lawsuit Challenging Federal Administration's Conditions on Federal Funds Used to House Thousands of At-Risk and Formerly Homeless New Yorkers

May 2

Corporation Counsel Muriel Goode-Trufant Appoints Shanel Spence As Law Department's New Equal Opportunity Officer

April 16

Mayor Adams, Corporation Counsel Goode-Trufant Announce Lawsuit Against Nine Major National Distributors For Illegally Selling Disposable Flavored E-Cigarettes, Celebrate New Phase of Highly Successful "Operation Padlock To Protect" Initiative

April 7

New York City Law Department Announces Two Key Executive Staff Appointments

March 10

Law Department Announces Lawsuit Against Trump Administration For Unlawful \$80 Million "Money-Grab" Involving Migrant Funding

February 21

LEGAL DIVISIONS

Administrative Law & Regulatory Litigation

Affirmative Litigation

Appeals

Commercial & Real Estate Litigation

Contracts & Real Estate

Economic Development

Environmental Law

Ethics & Compliance

Executive Litigation & Policy Group

Family Court

General Litigation

Labor & Employment Law

Legal Counsel

Municipal Finance

Risk Management

Special Federal Litigation

Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation

Tort

Workers' Compensation





ADMINISTRATIVE LAW & REGULATORY LITIGATION

Division Chief: Michelle Goldberg-Cahn | **Deputy Chief:** Karen Selvin

Attorneys in the Administrative Law Regulatory Litigation Division defend the City in lawsuits that challenge the validity of its regulatory laws and the policies and decisions of the administrative agencies charged with carrying them out. Division attorneys also bring civil actions and criminal proceedings against individuals and corporations that violate the City's regulatory requirement. In addition, the Division represents the City's five pension funds in litigation challenging individual benefit determinations.

- **Cannabis Enforcement:** Continued to successfully defend scores of cases challenging the sealings of illegal cannabis stores in the City; closed pursuant to Operation Padlock to Protect. Also handled (and continue to handle) over 100 challenges in state court, along with several constitutional challenges in federal court. Continued to provide guidance on procedures related to the closures of illegal cannabis stores.
- **Preserved Removal of Broker Fees:** Successfully fought against a preliminary injunction to a local law that prohibits real estate brokers and landlords' agents hired by landlord to impose or collect brokers fees from tenants for apartment and housing rentals.
- **Protect Public Health:** Prevailed after trial in a federal court challenge to the Health Department's enforcement efforts against an establishment that sells kavasutra, a plant-based product that, when mixed with water, constitutes an adulterated food product and is not deemed safe for consumption.
- **Delivery App Regulations:** Successfully resolved multiple state court challenges to food delivery worker minimum pay rate, ensuring that minimum pay rate is now in effect for all third-party food delivery service workers; also defended in federal court the expansion of that minimum pay rate to grocery delivery workers.
- **Sanctuary City Policies:** With the Executive Litigation and Policy Group, defending a lawsuit filed by the federal government seeking to overturn multiple City laws as well as a New York City Police Department policy that limits the cooperation that the City and its personnel will provide to the federal government for civil immigration enforcement. Joined with divisions officewide to address sanctuary city issues.
- **Street Redesign:** Handling challenges to numerous street redesign projects such as the creation of new bicycle lanes and dedicated bus lanes in high-traffic areas, along with challenges to the City's Open Streets program.



AFFIRMATIVE LITIGATION

Division Chief: Gail Rubin | **Deputy Chiefs:** Eric Proshansky & Melanie Ash

The Affirmative Litigation Division represents the City as a plaintiff on a wide range of issues, including civil racketeering, fraud, nuisance, restitution, antitrust, breach of contract, insurance, intellectual property, and state and federal funding matters. The Division protects the City's interests and advances its agenda by commencing claims and recovering monies owed to the City.

- **Tenant Protection:** Implemented enforcement activities covering nearly 300 buildings and over 10,700 residential units, compelling landlord remediation of thousands of code violations (including for rat infestations, lead-based paint and long-standing sidewalk sheds) to improve tenants' living conditions.
- **Combating Vape Sales:** Secured consent order against Long Island-based online vape seller permanently closing the business. Also sued nine major national distributors of youth-attracting disposable flavored e-cigarettes selling to sub-distributors that supply retail stores or sell online to New York City consumers in violation of federal, state and City law.
- **Sued for Asylum-Seeker Reimbursement:** Challenged the unlawful seizure of \$80 million out of the City's bank account by the Trump Administration based on its hostility to congressionally authorized Shelter and Services Program reimbursement for services provided by City to migrants allowed into the U.S. by the Department of Homeland Security. Collaborated with colleagues officewise on related issues.
- **Challenging Trump Administration Actions Affecting Funding:** Secured preliminary relief in three lawsuits over funding-related actions intended to coerce local governments into adopting new federal policies including:
 - o Restricting \$100 million in U.S. Department of Homeland Security counterterrorism, disaster preparedness and other public safety grants unless recipients certify that they do not promote "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility" (DEIA) and will comply with President Trump's Executive Orders;
 - o Conditioning over \$50 million in Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care funding for permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless households (and other federal grants) on grant recipients certifying that they will not promote "gender ideology," "DEI" and elective abortions, and will cooperate in immigration enforcement; and
 - o Discontinuing \$48 million in U.S. Department of Education funds previously awarded to 19 magnet schools because the New York City public schools refused to violate state and local law by revoking longstanding guidelines supporting transgender students.
- **Supporting Coalition Litigation:** Submitted evidence in challenges by State Attorneys General coalition and others. These matters included: 1) the Center for Disease Control's termination of \$100 million in COVID-era Congressional funding for future pandemic planning; 2) new rules upending decades-old understanding that certain federally-funded services protecting life, health and safety can be provided regardless of immigration status; 3) a new interpretation of Continuum of Care program; and 4) the U.S. Department of Agriculture's early termination of waiver of additional work requirements for certain Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients.
- **Insurance Project Savings:** Continued to add to the more than \$3 billion in defense and liability costs saved by compelling insurance companies to comply with policy obligations to defend and indemnify the City as an additional insured.



APPEALS

Division Chief: Richard Dearing | **Deputy Chiefs:** Claude Platton & Devin Slack

The Appeals Division handles appeals originating from virtually all of the Law Department’s litigating divisions and crafts amicus curiae briefs in cases implicating the City’s interests. The Division’s attorneys appear before federal and state appellate courts and file hundreds of appellate briefs each year in an array of cases – from routine litigation arising out of the governance of a municipality with 8.5 million residents to complex appeals involving cutting-edge legal questions and critical public policy issues. The unparalleled breadth and depth of the division’s docket affords its attorneys a unique perspective on how the City works and an unrivaled opportunity to engage in high-caliber appellate practice and contribute to legal developments impacting the City’s government and its residents.

- **Firearms:** Secured a favorable ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in a challenge to laws concerning the licensing and carrying of concealed firearms, including carrying in sensitive locations like Times Square.
- **Climate Change:** Prevailed in the New York Court of Appeals in a challenge to a local law addressing large buildings’ greenhouse gas emissions, and prevailed in the Appellate Division, First Department in a challenge to pension funds’ fossil fuel divestment.
- **Healthcare:** Persuaded the New York Court of Appeals that the City could move forward with an effort to transition municipal retirees to a new healthcare plan.
- **Education:** Obtained a favorable decision from the New York Court of Appeals in a lawsuit claiming that the Department of Education failed to effectively address racial segregation in the public school system.
- **Amicus practice:** Filed amicus briefs on an array of issues, including firearms regulation, healthcare coverage, arrests of non-citizens and gender-motivated violence.



COMMERCIAL & REAL ESTATE LITIGATION

Division Chief: Amanda Papandrea | **Deputy Chiefs:** Robert Funkhouser & Blake Ahlberg

The Division represents the City and its related entities in disputes and litigation and provides counseling to ameliorate risk, arising from their contract and real-estate relationships and transactions. The Division's cases and advisory matters include novel and complex contractual, statutory and constitutional issues. Some cases seek tens of millions of dollars in damages or challenge critical government decisions. Division attorneys often engage in extensive discovery and sometimes retain expert consultants to address complex questions of accounting, construction or other issues requiring specialized knowledge.

- **Defeated a Challenge to the City's Procurement of a New Health Plan Option for Active Employees:** In two separate Article 78 proceedings, successfully defended the Office of Labor Relations' determination to end negotiations with a proposer that did not offer any price savings to the City for a new health plan option for active employees, pre-Medicare retirees and their dependents.
- **Advised on Complex Technology Contracts:** Provided counsel to the District Attorneys' (DAs') Offices concerning a vendor's performance under a contract for the development of file management and discovery software, including advising on notices to cure and facilitating an amicable resolution for one of the offices at no cost to the City or the DA.
- **Successful Motion Practice:** Successfully moved to dismiss \$18.5 million of \$25.5 million damages claimed by landlord suing the Department of Education and School Construction Authority for construction costs, future rent and other damages pursuant to a lease agreement.
- **Recovered \$3.6 Million from Surety:** After a Department of Homeless Services contractor defaulted, pursued completion costs on the project against the surety, resulting in a \$3.6 million recovery to allow completion of the project, and a waiver of a delay claim asserted in the amount of \$3 million.
- **TRO Vacated:** Succeeded in vacating a temporary restraining order (TRO) in the Second Department, allowing the merger of Maimonides Hospital into Health + Hospitals to proceed.
- **Advised on Construction Procurement:** Provided counsel to City agencies on the use of design-build contracting and construction-manager build contracting, including advising on potential contract provisions and changes to the Procurement Policy Board Rules.
- **Successful Summary Judgment Motion and Favorable Settlement:** Obtained partial summary judgment enforcing City's limitations on delay damage liability for third-party conduct that enabled favorable resolution of \$58 million delay damage claim.
- **Resolved Build-It-Back Claims:** Favorably settled an action on the eve of trial seeking in excess of \$30 million related to the Build-It-Back Program, obtained decisions dismissing more than \$6.8 million in related claims, succeeded in having an additional \$4 million in claims withdrawn after briefing and secured the withdrawal of all remaining Build-It-Back actions against homeowners.



CONTRACTS & REAL ESTATE

Division Chief: Amrita Prabhakar Barth | **Deputy Chief:** Isabel Galis-Menendez

The Contracts & Real Estate Division provides counseling services to City agencies and officials on transactional matters. Division attorneys evaluate and approve City agreements, leases, business documents and contracts totaling approximately \$10 billion annually. They also structure, negotiate and draft complex agreements entered into by City agencies. Business and land-use restrictions and considerations that do not apply to the private sector can make their work even more complex – for example, the need to award, within certain limits, contracts to the lowest bidder to protect the public interest. Division lawyers are highly trained in regulations and statutes applicable to municipal contracts and real property transactions as well as administration, budget and public policy concerns and general commercial law.

- **Small Business Mentorship Program:** Drafted and reviewed Requests for Proposal (RFPs) and contracts for the City's small business Mentorship Program. This pairs small businesses with a mentor to help them obtain certain City construction contracts and empower the small business to bid on more and larger future City contracts.
- **New Project Labor Agreements (PLAs):** Negotiated and drafted new PLAs for design-build projects and upstate watershed projects; also worked on a new combined construction, renovation and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) renovation PLA.
- **Advice on Federal Funding Matters:** Advised on federal funding matters, particularly on changes in policy by the new presidential administration and regarding minority- and women-owned (M/WBE) businesses. Liaised with office colleagues on related M/WBE matters.
- **Guidance to Agencies:** Provided guidance to agencies on new requirements regarding community hiring, safety equipment for motor vehicles, and a public work contract and subcontractor registry.
- **DEP Construction Contracts:** Reviewed DEP construction contract templates to provide standard class approval to streamline the contracting process.
- **Music Licenses:** Negotiating music licenses for City users.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Division Chief: Betty Woo | **Deputy Chief:** Kim Bryan

The Economic Development Division acts as the City's business and transactional counsel for a wide range of challenging and complex development projects. These are intended to enhance the City's economic base either by generating direct revenue for the City treasury or by strengthening the City's tax base and general economic health. Division attorneys work on all aspects of the transaction, helping to structure the deal from its inception; negotiating and drafting the documentation; following through to closing; and administering the agreements after closing. In addition, the Division advises on corporate issues in connection with the formation of new not-for-profit entities and on corporation governance issues with existing entities such as Trust for Governors island. The Division also offers counsel on all aspects of telecommunication matters.

- **Casinos in Queens and Bronx:** Closed on a ground lease to Queens Future to develop Hard Rock Metropolitan Park, an integrated resort facility on a site formerly used for Citi Field parking that will include a casino, hotel, multiple restaurants, retail areas and a convention center. Entered into a Conveyance Agreement with Bally's New York to develop Bally's Bronx, a dynamic facility adjacent to Bally's Golf Links at Ferry Point Park that will include gaming, hotel, dining and entertainment venues; closing on Bally's is scheduled for January/February 2026.
- **Science Park and Research Campus (SPARC) at Kips Bay:** Executed a lease to the City University of New York (CUNY) at the SPRC that will enable commencement of development of a two-plus million square foot hub for life sciences, healthcare and public health at the former Hunter College Brookdale Campus. The new CUNY building, one of three planned, will include space for a public high school with programs related to health and life sciences.
- **Hunts Point Produce Market:** Amended and restated lease to Hunts Point Terminal Produce Cooperative Association to allow for completion of design of a new state-of-the-art intermodal food distribution facility with expanded refrigerated warehouse space and increased efficiency of rail operations.
- **High Line Plaza at 18th Street:** Worked on the execution and administration of various agreements, including a funding agreement, construction agreement and easement, a pedestrian plaza connecting to the High Line was completed and opened to the public.



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Division Chief: Hilary Meltzer | **Deputy Chief:** Chris Reo

The Environmental Law Division represents the City and its agencies in an extensive range of environmental matters, including land use and environmental review of City projects and private development; wastewater and stormwater treatment and compliance; Clean Air Act compliance and enforcement; solid and hazardous waste management; parks and natural resources preservation (including public trust issues and wetlands protection and remediation); sustainability and resilience issues; energy development; and harbor navigation and dredging. The Division also works on numerous matters concerning the City's water supply system, relating to both system operations and protecting water quality. Division attorneys litigate in state and federal courts; represent the City in administrative and legislative hearings; and counsel agencies on their environmental programs, policies, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations

- **Advancing Affordable Housing:** Prevailed in two key lawsuits:
 - A challenge to the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity, a far-reaching update to the City's zoning code designed to address the City's severe housing shortage and the high cost of housing by facilitating the development of a small amount of housing in all neighborhoods citywide; and
 - A challenge to three of the proposed revisions to the City Charter, designed to facilitate affordable housing and infrastructure development.
- **Municipal Infrastructure:** Continued our core practice of advising on and, where necessary, litigating about the infrastructure that is critical to the health and wellbeing of New Yorkers, including operation and protection of the drinking water supply, collection and treatment of wastewater, management of stormwater for flood protection and water quality, containerization of solid waste, and efforts to increase transmission of renewable energy to New York City.
- **Defense of Park Renovation:** Successfully defended a challenge to renovations of Fort Greene Park to make the Park more accessible to people with disabilities, resulting in a decision that establishes a favorable standard for compliance with the "Green Amendment" to the State Constitution.
- **Opposing Environmental Rollbacks:** Worked with coalitions of states and cities on advocacy against rollbacks of federal environmental regulations and programs that protect the City and its residents.
- **Cleanup of Hazardous Substances:** Continued to coordinate the City's compliance with federal clean-up procedures at numerous sites including the Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek, as well as sites owned by the National Park Service that were formerly used as City landfills.



ETHICS & COMPLIANCE

Division Chief: Karen Griffin | **Deputy Chief:** John Owens, Jr.

Ethics & Compliance counsels and trains office staff, New York City officials, and employees of all City agencies on legal ethics, privilege, representation and sanctions matters. It also counsels on a wide array of federal, state and local compliance matters. Moreover, it serves as the Conflict of Interest Board liaison, ensuring Law Department employees' compliance with Chapter 68 restrictions and filing requirements. Finally, it represents City attorneys in disciplinary proceedings before the Attorney Grievance Committees and represents the five District Attorneys' Offices and the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office before the newly formed New York State Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct.

- **Client Advice & Counsel:** Advised, counseled and trained Law Department employees, elected officials and City agency employees on legal ethics, representation, privilege and sanctions matters. Provided counseling and training to employees on Chapter 68 issues; oversaw outside employment matters; made conflict counsel determinations and assignments; and conducted bill review. Represented City attorneys and Assistant District Attorneys before the attorney grievance committees and prosecutors before the Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct, assisted with federal grant matters, and worked on False Claims Act matters and other compliance-related issues. Served as liaison to the Conflict of Interest Board (COIB) for annual disclosure, which included assisting required employees with filing their financial disclosure statements, creating and submitting the substantial policy discretion employee list, and disclosing the pro bono hours donated by law firms. In 2025, the Division handled 475 inquiries that came through the Ethics & Compliance general inbox.
- **Investigations:** Handled whistleblower investigations for complaints received involving the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation, and advised on and conducted investigations for complaints alleging misconduct by Law Department employees.
- **Continuing Legal Education:** In addition to providing training for Law Department and City agency employees, Division attorneys also presented on legal ethics both individually and as members of panels for outside organizations, including national continuing legal education programs.
- **Educational Updates:** Provided periodic updates on changes to rules or laws that affect our agency's areas of practice.
- **Medicare Compliance:** Through the Division's Medicare Compliance & Recovery Unit (MCRU), coordinated Section 111 reporting of 2,768 Medicare claims, working with the Litigation Support Division, bringing the total number of claims reported to Medicare since 2011 to 11,300. As a result of the October 11, 2025, date for the enforcement of civil money penalties (CMPs), the MCRU reviewed current procedures and implemented changes to ensure agency and citywide compliance with timely reporting under Section 111. The MCRU will be responsible for responding to any informal and formal notices of CMPs against the City. The MCRU has also facilitated the collection of more than \$37.7 million in conditional payment reimbursement to Medicare.



Executive Litigation & Policy Group

Unit Chief: Ashley Iodice, Chief of Staff | **Deputy Chief:** Stefan Mooklal, Deputy Chief of Staff

The Executive Litigation & Policy Group manages high-salience litigation in state and federal court to protect New York City's interests, conducts research to provide actionable guidance for the Law Department's leadership team, and counsels on federal issues with significant revenue or programmatic implications for the City of New York. In so doing, the Unit partners with other Law Department divisions and City agencies as well as external stakeholders. Its litigation matters span areas such as administrative, constitutional and municipal law. The Unit's counseling work focuses on federal grants and emerging regulatory and enforcement areas of law, particularly matters that require coordination across multiple City entities and tracking multijurisdictional issues.

- **Sanctuary City Policies:** Currently defending, in coordination with Administrative Law & Regulatory Litigation, a lawsuit filed by the federal government seeking to overturn multiple City laws and a New York City Police Department policy that limit the cooperation that the City and its personnel provide the federal government for civil immigration enforcement.
- **Grant Counseling:** In partnership with Legal Counsel and Affirmative Litigation, reviewed City agencies' applications for federal grant monies, including Notices of Funding Opportunities, correspondences and certifications. The Unit also tracks grant issues and monitors injunctive relief. These billions of dollars of grants touch on all aspects of municipal life, including infrastructure, policing, housing, social services and mission-critical objectives, such as disaster mitigation and counterterrorism efforts.
- **Data Collection & Coordination:** Maintain a database of, among other things, federal grants litigation nationwide; major federal actions, such as Executive Orders or proposed rulemaking, that may affect the City; and multijurisdictional litigation involving municipal interests. We also liaise with the New York State Attorney General on matters with overlapping state and local concerns and participate in coalitions with other cities and entities across the country in anticipation of litigation.
- **Amicus Advocacy:** Evaluated opportunities for and acted as liaison for the City's amicus support and advocacy across the nation. Provided support to Appeals as they filed and joined 25 amicus briefs on topics such as immigration enforcement, federal funding, deployment of the National Guard, and New Yorkers' rights and benefits. Tracked detentions of immigrants in City locations of civil interest and coordinated amicus support of habeas petitions.
- **Emerging Areas of Law:** Researched and prepared memoranda on the novel use of federal statutes and regulations, such as the False Claims Act, the Insurrection Act, suspension and debarment of federal grant recipients, National Guard deployments, and the Posse Comitatus Act.
- **CORE Lawsuit:** Currently defending a lawsuit brought by the New York City Commission on Racial Equity against the Mayor and Corporation Counsel.
- **Comment on Agency Rulemaking:** In coordination with Legal Counsel and external partners, drafted a City comment and a multicity comment on the recently promulgated public charge rule.



FAMILY COURT

Division Chief: Jennifer Gilroy Ruiz | **Deputy Chiefs:** Cecillia Shepard, Jessica Latour, Rosemarie Peyton & Aimee Sklar-Calogero

The Family Court Division is divided into two subunits – Interstate Child Support and Juvenile Delinquency Prosecution. In prosecuting juvenile delinquency, the Family Court seeks to ensure that those youth who commit delinquent acts are held accountable for their misconduct and receive appropriate services. The Law Department seeks to balance the need for community protection with the youth's needs and the best interests. The Division's work also includes providing information to victims of youth crime on available community-based services, including counseling, crisis intervention and safety planning. Interstate Child Support appears on behalf of out-of-state custodial parent petitioners seeking to establish paternity and obtain child support from City residents. The Unit also assists City-based custodial parents who wish to file for child support from parents outside the State or country. The Division has offices in all five boroughs.

- **Juvenile Delinquency & Interstate Child Support Cases:** Provided legal representation to New York City by delivering critical legal services to the City's children, families and communities within two practice areas: Juvenile Justice & Interstate Child Support. Handled approximately 9,600 new cases representing an increase of 11 percent since last year.
- **Law Enforcement Collaboration:** Actively participated in major public safety and youth-serving initiatives, including daily meetings of the New York City Police Department Gun Violence Strategic Partnership; weekly NYPD CompStat meetings; and the City's Interagency Workgroup to Prevent Subway Surfing.
- **Firearm Case Processing:** Handled approximately 348 firearm cases. The Division's Firearm Task Force continued an intensive review of cases to ensure consistency in practice across the boroughs, reduce recidivism, promote community safety, provide an open forum to address social justice issues, and reduce decision intervals from referral to filing decision.
- **Rapid Robbery Response:** Worked with the NYPD on the Rapid Response to Robbery program to address a rise of robberies involving juveniles. Dedicated attorneys in both the day and night shift teams respond and connect with victims of crime at the time of arrest.
- **Community Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement:** Presented information about the juvenile justice and interstate child support practices. Family Court Division borough staff attended approximately 210 events, including school presentations on bullying and social media, precinct council meetings, community board meetings, career day panels, Law Day presentations and external agency trainings.
- **Services for Youth & Families:** Screened approximately 440 cases for consent referrals to Atlas, a community-based program partner offering youth and families voluntary evidence-based therapeutic services.
- **Family Conflict Cases:** Addressed an increase in Family Conflict referrals by redirecting a family in crisis, making referrals to appropriate counseling and other services. Victim advocates and diversion coordinators met regularly to discuss each family conflict case and how the family may be assisted; and also ensure at least case support team member is working on the matter. Our Bronx Office is working with Community Connections for Youth, a not-for profit organization, to connect youth and families to their program which is designed to address families in crisis.
- **Internet Safety & Cyber Sexual Abuse Prevention:** The Special Victims Unit partnered with Day One, a not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to team with youth to end dating abuse. Family Court Division staff conduct presentations, to parent groups on preventing cyber sexual abuse and promoting internet safety.

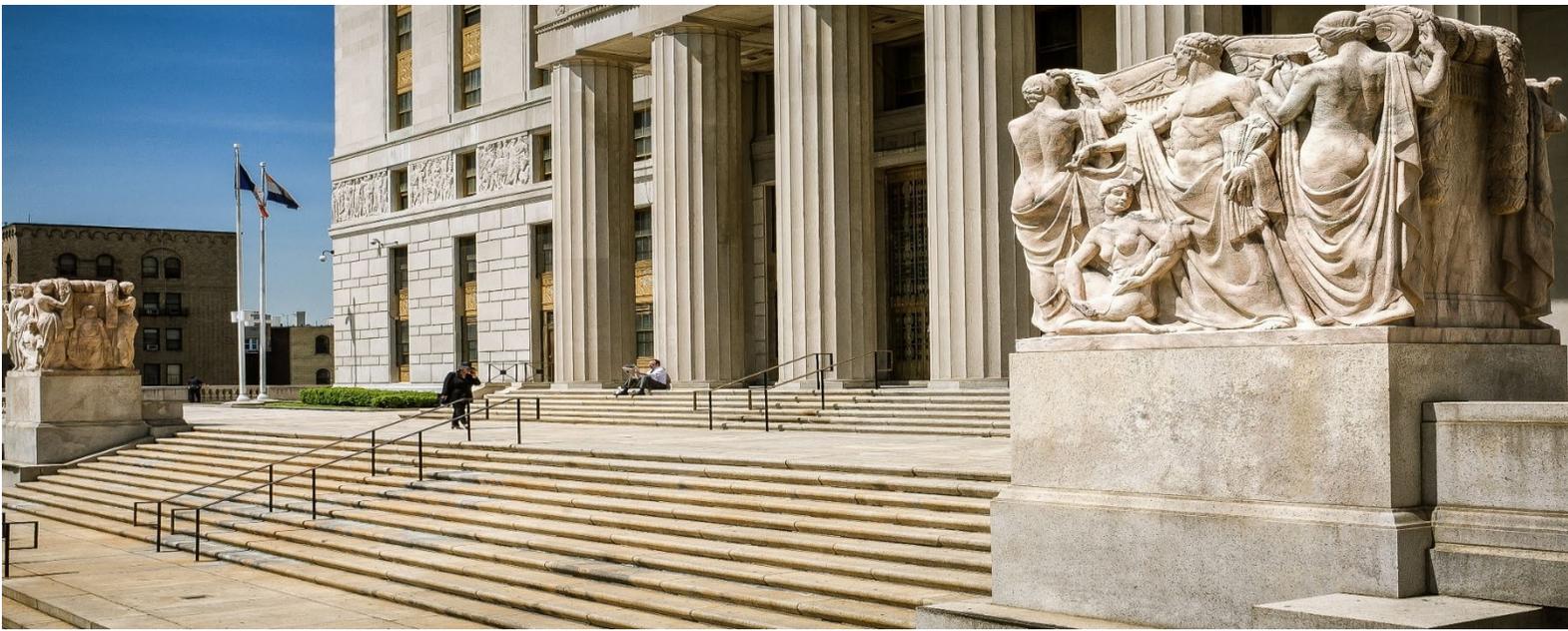


GENERAL LITIGATION

Division Chief: Peter Farrell | **Deputy Chiefs:** Jeffery Dantowitz & Marilyn Richter

The General Litigation Division defends the City and its agencies in lawsuits challenging policies and practices concerning important programs in such varied fields as education, health care, public assistance benefits, prison conditions, foster care and election law. This caseload offers Division lawyers unparalleled opportunities to develop and hone their skills while litigating vital, and often controversial, public policy issues that affect the lives of all New Yorkers. Division attorneys practice in both federal and state courts, arguing motions, participating in court conferences, taking and defending depositions, and trying cases. Cases handled by Division attorneys not only affect determinations made in the City's everyday governance and the manner in which legal mandates are met, but they also can determine whether key City initiatives survive legal challenge. Many of these cases present issues at the forefront of developing legal theory.

- **Discrimination:** Reached agreement to resolve an action alleging gender discrimination in the New York City Police Department's handling of complaints of sexual assault.
- **Due Process:** Successfully moved to dismiss a putative class action that challenged the restraint policies of criminal defendants handcuffed during arraignment.
- **Benefit Rights:** Reached agreement in class action regarding processing and providing public assistance benefits.
- **Access Rights:** Continuing to handle ongoing challenges regarding accessibility of public buildings including courthouses, police stationhouses and libraries for those with limited mobility. This past year finalized an agreement regarding access changes to the Hunters Point Library.
- **Education Services:** Successfully dismissed a purported class action alleging failure to provide appropriate education services for children who refused to attend school due to their disabilities.
- **Prison Conditions Litigation:** Defending various cases asserting allegations of unconstitutional prison conditions at Rikers Island.
- **Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Litigation:** Defended numerous proceedings challenging City agencies' responses to requests for records under FOIL.



LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW

Division Chief: Maxwell Leighton | **Deputy Chiefs:** Lawrence Profeta & Lora Minicucci

The Labor & Employment Law Division represents the City as employer of over 300,000 workers. The Division handles a variety of matters, including the First Amendment free speech rights of municipal employees; claims of discrimination and retaliation under Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the State and City Human Rights Laws; allegations of violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act; claims under the Equal Pay Act; and claims brought by both individual City employees and unions based on collective bargaining agreements and the Civil Service Law.

- **Litigation Defense:** Handled the Division's high-volume caseload of labor and employment law matters, brought under a host of the aforementioned federal, state and local laws.
- **Class Actions:** Continued defending several complex class actions on significant matters of Citywide labor and employment policy and practices, with the dedication of extensive Division staffing and resources.
- **Client Counseling:** Provided City agencies with regular guidance and advice on a broad array of labor and employment law issues, including reasonable accommodations; collective bargaining and civil service law; employee performance and discipline; and internal and administrative complaints.
- **Wage and Hour Issues:** Partnered with the Risk Management Division to evaluate, advise and counsel to guide Citywide protocols and agency practices towards ameliorating wage and hour liability and protecting the public fisc.
- **Trial Practice:** Continuing its outstanding record from prior years, provided exceptional performance, not only prevailing at trial but also resolving matters on favorable terms through reasonable resolutions reached both immediately before and during trial.



LEGAL COUNSEL

Division Chief: Spencer Fisher | **Deputy Chiefs:** Martha Mann Alfaro & Brenda Cooke

The Legal Counsel Division provides advice to the Office of the Mayor, other elected officials and City agencies concerning virtually every area of municipal law. The Division provides legal guidance and crafts the legislative changes necessary to shape and implement policy initiatives. The Division is also responsible for drafting state and local legislation proposed by the Mayor and City agencies and for assisting in the drafting of administrative rules. Division attorneys often represent the Law Department on intergovernmental committees and task forces.

- **Charter Revision Commissions:** Advised a mayoral commission that advanced several ballot proposals focusing on affordable housing, development and election timing – most of which voters approved in November 2025. Division attorneys have also assisted staff of a separate commission created by City Council legislation.
- **Sanitation Initiatives:** Worked on numerous initiatives in furtherance of the Department of Sanitation’s trash containerization goals, including initiatives targeting homeowners, larger residential dwellings and institutional uses.
- **Community Boards:** Responded to several requests for advice that arose from or related to the City’s 59 community boards. Such requests concerned expansive topics such as First Amendment protections, Open Meetings Law compliance, and budget and personnel procedures. Also reviewed changes to board by-laws and legislation affecting the boards.
- **Federal Initiatives:** Worked closely with other Law Department divisions to respond in a coordinated and timely way to numerous significant changes in federal policies, whether by executive order or agency actions, concerning grant eligibility and other matters.
- **Correction Issues:** Advised on a range of matters reflecting legislative focus on the Department of Correction. For example, the Division worked on issues generated by the enactment of local legislation imposing new restrictions concerning solitary confinement in City jails and advised on other local legislation also affecting City jails.
- **Real Property Tax Legislation:** Worked with Law Department colleagues on a complex state legislative proposal to reform assessment of real property taxes in New York City in response to ongoing litigation; also advised on significant local legislative initiatives to revamp real property tax collection and enforcement.
- **Basement Apartments and Ancillary Dwelling Units:** Worked closely with multiple agencies to further affordable housing goals by developing coordinated rules for the creation and legalization of basement apartments, as well as regulation of attached, semi-attached and separate dwellings on the same tax lot.
- **Business Corporation Tax Regulations:** Reviewed hundreds of pages of Department of Finance regulations implementing state laws to reform administration of business corporate taxes.
- **Delivery Worker Protections:** Assisted in developing and drafting a series of local laws to expand protections for delivery workers who act on behalf of third-party delivery services.



MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Division Chief: Michael Moore | **Deputy Chief:** Rita Pasarell

The Municipal Finance Division serves as counsel to the City on all bond transactions. New York City is one of the largest issuers of municipal bonds in the country. The proceeds of its debt issuances finance capital projects that impact virtually every aspect of City life. The City issues debt through its general obligation bonds and through authorities and local development corporations. Additionally, State agencies issue debt on behalf of the City. Each year, the Division oversees billions of dollars in financial transactions. The Division also performs corporate governance work for the City's debt issuing authorities and local development corporations.

- **Bond Transactions:** Provided legal services on approximately \$30 billion City bond issues which financed City capital projects or refinanced previously issued bonds.
- **Bond Refinancings:** Refinancing transactions resulted in debt service savings of \$1.3 billion for City bond issuers.
- **PACE Program:** Managed contractual and legal issues for the City's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. This year the Division closed on new construction loans pursuant to the amended PACE law, which allowed new construction projects totaling approximately \$160 million.
- **City's Tax Lien Program:** The Division Chief was appointed to the Tax Lien Program Task Force, along with officials from the Department of Finance, Office of Management & Budget and the City Council, which reviewed and evaluated the amendments to the program that were published on September 15, 2025. Additionally, the Division was the lead attorney in the creation of the New York City Tax Lien 2025-A Trust and successfully led the issuance of the tax lien bonds totaling \$170 million in September of 2025.
- **United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC):** Successfully closed the \$365 million UNDC bond transaction on April 30, 2025. The bond proceeds were used to renovate the United Nations Plaza buildings One and Two, which the City leased to the UNDC, and the UNDC then subleased to the United Nations and other UN affiliates. The Division was the lead attorney in the drafting of the backup lease which allowed the City to provide support for the UNDC bonds.



RISK MANAGEMENT

Division Chief: Nancy Savasta | **Deputy Chief:** Fei Cheuk

Risk Management assists agency partners in identifying and mitigating risks to decrease the potential for harm to New York City's residents and visitors while protecting the City financially. The Division works with agency partners to evaluate existing procedures and operations based on risks identified in litigation. It counsels agencies on mitigating their legal risk through recommended program changes or, when applicable, waivers or indemnifications. The Division leverages available data to identify potential future risks with a goal of prevention. Risk works with other Law Department divisions to understand the risks associated with their matters and collaborates with them to mitigate those risks, while also analyzing how court-appointed monitorships may affect related pending litigation across the Department. The Division also helps agencies create and maintain a proactive data management process.

- **Agency Outreach:** Engaged proactively with City agencies, both large and small, and provided risk management guidance regarding the identification, assessment and mitigation of risks associated with their respective operations, programs and litigation.
- **Risk Trends Analysis:** The Risk Management Division is leveraging data to identify emerging trends in operational and litigation-related risks across the City and is collaborating with agencies and Law Department divisions to mitigate those risks.
- **Federal Monitorships:** Maintain continuous engagement with agencies subject to Federal Monitorship alongside the litigating divisions; enhance overall compliance efforts and assist with meeting court-ordered deadlines and mandated operational changes.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Refine risk management within the City, including collaborating with Risk Management offices in other jurisdictions to exchange "best practices." This effort aims to improve the Division's knowledge and capabilities by adopting successful tools and strategies used elsewhere, ultimately strengthening the City's overall risk management framework.



SPECIAL FEDERAL LITIGATION

Division Chief: Qiana Smith-Williams | **Deputy Chiefs:** Genevieve Nelson, Mary O'Flynn & Rachel Seligman

The Special Federal Litigation Division defends the City and its officials in civil rights cases brought in federal court in which police, District Attorney, or correction officer misconduct is claimed. The cases on which Division attorneys work grow out of contact between citizens and law enforcement officers in three distinct contexts: police operations; criminal prosecutions; and detention of arrestees in the City's detention facilities. The facts on which the claims rest are frequently intricate, calling into play the fundamental problems faced by law enforcement officers in the field and society's perception of how those problems ought to be addressed. The law governing the resolution of these cases is the Constitution of the United States and the vastly complex area of federal law specific to 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, the post-Civil War statute which authorizes suit for violation of constitutional rights. The Division defends against individual damages actions and class actions seeking institutional reform.

- **DOC Monitorship:** The underlying class action alleged that Department of Correction (DOC) officers routinely used excessive force against detainees and that DOC did not sufficiently address and/or investigate alleged instances of excessive force. In 2015, the court entered a Consent Judgment requiring the City to undertake measures to reduce violence in its jails and ensure the safety of persons in custody. In 2024, the Court found the City in contempt of several provisions of the Consent Judgment and associated remedial orders, and indicated that it was inclined to appoint an outside individual to act in a receiver-like capacity (to be called a "remediation manager"), thus assisting the City in achieving substantial compliance with the applicable orders. This year, the Division engaged in litigation regarding the appointment of a Remediation Manager.
- **NYPD Monitorships:** Continued to handle a longstanding New York City Police Department (NYPD) monitorship known as Stop, Question & Frisk (SQF), which consists of three consolidated class actions alleging similar constitutional violations by police officers conducting street and New York City Housing Authority investigative encounters. In 2013, the court ordered a series of necessary reforms to police policies, practices and training, and the appointment of a federal Monitor. The Division, in partnership with the Risk Management Division, continues to engage with the client agency, plaintiffs, the community liaison and the Monitor's team on reform tasks necessary for substantial compliance with the court's order. In 2025, the City moved to vacate one of the class action's participation in the monitorship; the motion is pending.
- **Protest Cases:** Following the tragic death of George Floyd in 2020, more than 100 lawsuits were litigated in federal court alleging unlawful conduct by NYPD members of service (the "Summer 2020 Protest Cases"). The Division continues to confer with NYPD, plaintiffs' various counsel, and the New York State Attorney General's Office on the finalization and implementation of changes to the NYPD's policies/practices concerning policing demonstrations. Additionally, while the Division resolved almost all of the remaining stand-alone, non-consolidated Summer 2020 Protest Cases this year, it continues to litigate unrelated lawsuits alleging misconduct by NYPD officers during other large-scale demonstrations throughout the City.
- **Reverse Conviction Cases:** Since 2022, the various District Attorney's Offices have sought, or joined motions, to vacate more than 1,200 convictions. The Division continues to defend and/or favorably resolve federal litigation stemming from the vacatur of these, oftentimes decades-old, criminal convictions. These include two putative class actions stemming from the vacatur of convictions involving police officers who were subsequently convicted of perjury and other offenses.



TAX & BANKRUPTCY

Division Chief: Rochelle Cohen | **Deputy Chiefs:** Andrea Chan & Emily Keyes

The Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation Division represents the City on a wide array of subjects and issues. Daily the Division's attorneys work on matters such as acquiring property by eminent domain or negotiated acquisition to keep pace with the City's infrastructure and economic development needs, litigating issues regarding tax matters in court and before administrative tribunals, and protecting the City's interests in bankruptcy courts in New York City and across the nation. Division attorneys also handle real estate closings, including the review and clearance of title. Real property tax assessments on New York City property are at the heart of the work that Division attorneys do in certiorari cases. This past year, attorneys worked on thousands of cases where challenges to the assessed value of property were made. Defending tax assessments is of critical importance to the City's fiscal health, as the real property tax provides a substantial source of revenue for vital City services. Division attorneys also provide counsel to City agencies and officials.

- **Eminent Domain:** Acquired title via eminent domain to several portions of property to replace a severely deteriorated retaining wall along Pratt Avenue in The Bronx. The City's acquisition follows emergency repair work done by the City's Department of Transportation, and is necessary to permanently fix the roadway, remedying a public safety condition; improve the sewer infrastructure, replace curbs and sidewalks. The acquisition also provides the City with a permanent easement for the DOT to inspect, repair and maintain the retaining wall in the future.
- **Bankruptcy:** Successfully opposed a Chapter 7 Trustee's attempts to sell over 100 units of not-for-profit affordable housing properties to a for-profit developer. Trustee agreed to sell the properties to a not-for-profit approved by the City's Department of Housing and Preservation Development. We worked with the New York State Attorney General's office, the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, pro bono tenants' counsel, and the City's HPD to propose an alternative housing preservation purchaser.
- **Income & Excise Tax Ruling:** Achieved a significant win before the NYC Tax Appeals Tribunal. Taxpayer protested the Department of Finance's assessment of additional unincorporated business taxes. Taxpayer wanted to aggregate all unincorporated business income, gains, losses and deductions from all sources, including shares in subsidiaries that operate only outside of the City. The City countered that inclusion of such subsidiaries violated City tax law. Following extensive motion practice, the Administrative Law Judge agreed with the City and affirmed DOF's assessment of additional taxes due plus interest and penalties which, through the end of 2025, total more than \$13 million.
- **Real Property Tax Law:** The City prevailed in a matter before the First Department, Appellate Division where the Court held that a property owner who had previously obtained reductions in property tax assessments through a settlement with the New York City Tax Commission could not seek further review of the tax assessments. Due to the fact that the settlement agreement had set forth clear terms foreclosing any further review and because the taxpayer had expressly waived such rights in executing the agreement. The Court's decision reaffirmed the longstanding principle that settlement agreements are generally favored by the courts as final and binding.



TORT

Division Chief: Fay Leoussis | **Deputy Chiefs:** Jenny Montana-O'Connor, Lavanya Pisupati, Andrew Potak & David Santoro | **Director of Personnel Management:** LaVonne Pridgen

Tort, the office's largest division, defends the City against over 7,000 new personal injury and property damage cases annually. The Division maintains offices in all five boroughs and has special units to address issues such as early settlement, catastrophic injuries and toxic torts. The Division's cases span a wide range of issues, including complex questions of governmental and qualified immunity; matters involving the boundaries of duty and foreseeability; interpretation and application of the federal and state constitutions and civil statutes; the extent of property interests and potential recovery for violating those interests; and straightforward negligence cases, such as trip-and-falls, accidents in City-owned buildings, and injuries sustained from car accidents and the like.

- **Settlements:** The Division continued its successful innovative settlement initiatives. The Division also participated in new Court-sponsored mediation/settlement programs that have proven very successful. As a result, in Fiscal Year 2025, the Division was able to achieve the most cumulative settlements and discontinuances since Fiscal Year 2016. Additionally, the Division continued its monthly training program for all attorneys, which will enhance the Division's and Office's ability to identify cases appropriate for affirmative dispositive motion or settlement, and lead to successful resolutions of same. Finally, the Division managers continue to review caseloads and work with the courts to address and ultimately resolve long-standing cases.
- **Productivity and Insurance Takeovers:** Produced over 10,400 answers to lawsuits via the Division's Pleadings Unit and processed approximately 3,500 settlements for payment through the Central Disposition Unit. The Insurance Group successfully achieved 360 full insurance takeovers, saving over \$90 million dollars in fiscal year 2025. The cumulative savings of the Tort and Affirmative Litigation Division's Insurance project is more than \$2.5 billion.
- **Affirmative Motions:** The Division continued to prioritize making substantive dispositive affirmative motions in Fiscal Year 2025. As a result, the Division acted in nearly 2,100 cases (including making affirmative motions or obtaining insurance takeovers, discontinuances, or settlements in consideration of forgoing such a motion). This represents more than the number of cases the Division was able to act on in this manner in any fiscal year since Fiscal Year 2018.



WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Division Chief: Paul Zaragoza | **Deputy Chief:** Ashley Kim

The Workers' Compensation Division represents the City and related entities at all hearings, trials and appeals before the New York State Workers' Compensation Board. The Division also administers all aspects of claims by covered employees who are injured on the job or who incur an occupational disease. Workers' Compensation strives to provide employees the medical and wage replacement benefits to which they are entitled while objecting to and litigating unwarranted claims. The Division's cases involve a wide range of medical issues, including work-related psychiatric diagnoses, respiratory ailments, heart conditions, orthopedic conditions and much more.

- **Claims Administration:** Processed over 14,000 new workers' compensation claims in FY 2025, including assessing compensability and overseeing the administration of benefits, resulting in over \$650 million in wage replacement and medical care for injured municipal employees. Represented the City at over 16,500 administrative hearings before the Workers' Compensation Board.
- **Revenue Recovery:** Recovered over \$9.2 million through New York State's Second Injury Fund and other recovery efforts, including through intercompany reimbursement arbitration and third-party liens in FY 2025.
- **Improved Claims Management:** Continued development and implementation of enhanced claims management system functionality and effectiveness in handling complex workflows.
- **Client Outreach:** Continued advising client agencies on updated Workers' Compensation regulations and best practices, including timely injury reporting and compliance with Workers' Comp Board deadlines.

SUPPORT DIVISIONS

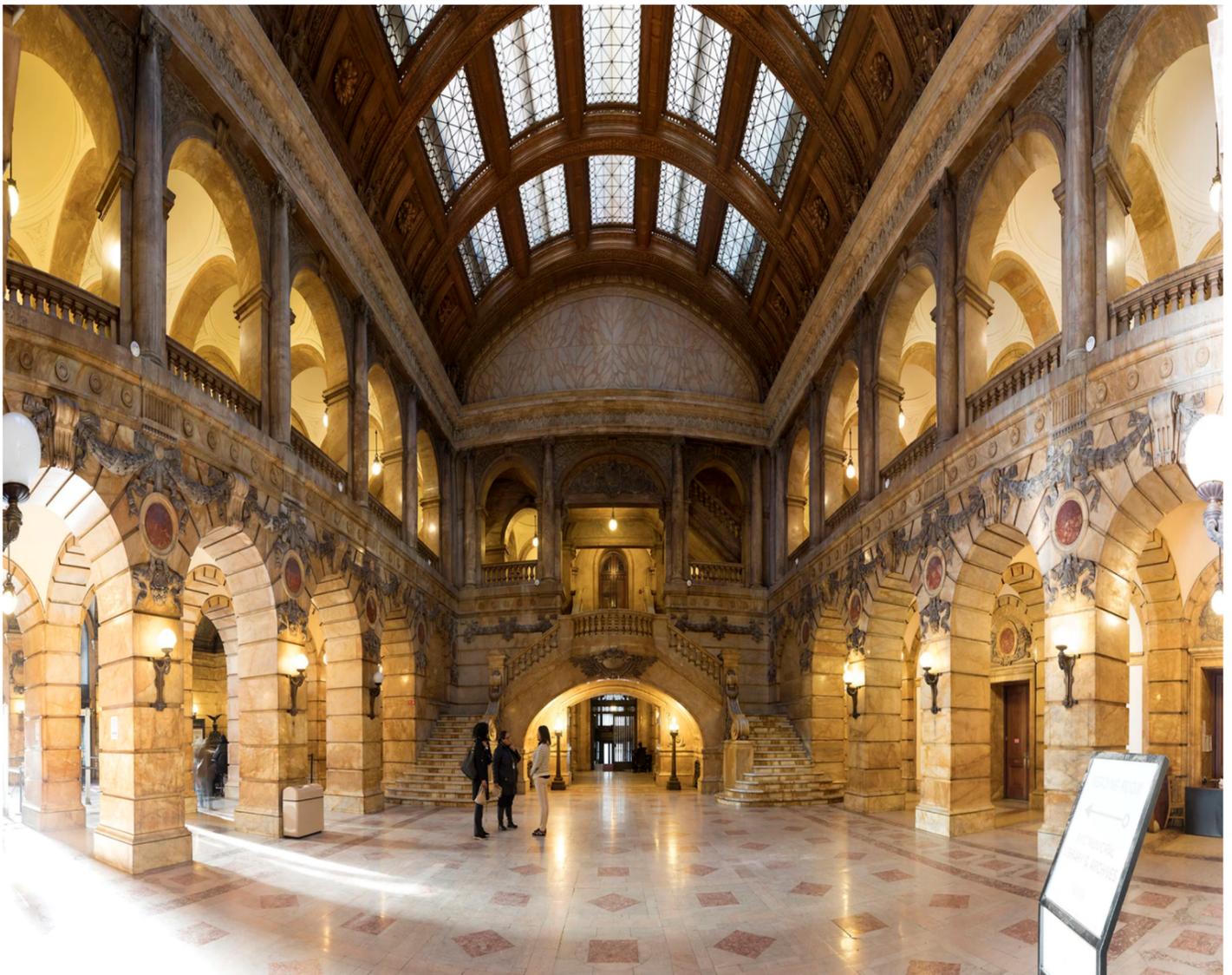
Administration

E-Discovery

Information Technology

Litigation Support & Information
Management

Operations





ADMINISTRATION

Division Chief: Jennie Nagle-Yndigoyen | **Deputy Chief:** Leon Breeden

The Administration Division provides a level of professional support comparable to that of any large company. The Division's components – Personnel, Systems Support, Career Counseling, Benefits, Payroll and Timekeeping, Facilities and Maintenance, Supplies, Fiscal Management, Internal Control, Cashier's Office, the Encumbrance Control Unit, the Procurement Services Unit and the Budget Section – are responsible for all expenditures of funds, collection of revenue and fees; procurement rules compliance; and personnel processing. They provide general administrative oversight and development of internal policies, rules and regulations. Each year, Administration handles over 36,000 paychecks, personnel actions, payments for expert witnesses, deposits of money recovered in lawsuits on behalf of the City, hundreds of individual procurements, and the enrollment of employees in the health benefits/managerial benefits program. Administration is also responsible for ensuring the physical maintenance of 17 Citywide offices in addition to the Kingston, New York, office and a large outer borough File Storage Facility in Brooklyn. The Division's objectives are to save time and money for the Law Department and the City while ensuring first-rate service. Administration's efforts continue to focus on maintenance and renovation of the agency's facilities, speedy responses to staff changes, and automation of systems and processes. The Division also provides oversight and advice to other agency enterprises such as litigation support, information technology initiatives, equipment upgrades and management evaluations, and continuously evaluates how it can use technology to increase the agency's efficiency.

- **Space Consolidation Initiative:** As required by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services and the Office of Management & Budget relinquished the 20th Floor at 100 Church Street, relocating staff to the 3rd Floor and to the 14th Floor of 233 Broadway; consolidated Family Court staff at 52 Duane Street from the 6th Floor to the 4th Floor; relinquished most of the 8th Floor at 350 Jay Street; in total, over 54,000 square feet of space has been returned to DCAS. Also hosted the Department of City Planning at 60 Bay Street and various Mayoral Offices at 233 Broadway.
- **Encumbrance Control Unit:** Recorded over 19,400 case-related payment records for budget purposes, which were later uploaded to the LawManager case management system representing approximately \$65 million in spending. Additionally, the Encumbrance Control Unit also tracks expenses processed by the Law Department for other City agencies; during this period, the Unit recorded approximately 1,500 such records, totaling approximately \$5 million in spending.
- **Personnel:** Created over 260 blanket postings for 2025, as well as submitted over 130 promotions to OMB; also working with Information Technology to create a Personnel Action Request workflow system to better streamline PAR processing.
- **Payroll/Timekeeping:** Processed and audited over 36,000 direct deposits and distributed or mailed approximately 1,000 checks in 2025.



E-DISCOVERY

Division Chief: Rachel Kaufman | **Deputy Chief:** Anthony DiSenso

The E-Discovery Division consists of attorneys, technical specialists and support professionals who work together to meet the Law Department’s e-discovery needs. The Division provides legal and technical guidance and services to assist in all aspects of e-discovery – helping with preservation, responding to discovery demands, defining the scope of discovery, collecting and processing electronic data, developing search strategies, setting up document reviews, applying advanced analytical tools, and running document productions. They also assist during negotiations with opposing counsel, at court conferences, drafting papers, and wherever their expertise in e-discovery and the governing law and rules may be helpful.

- **E-Discovery Services:** Provided comprehensive legal guidance and technical support to Law Department staff in all aspects of the e-discovery process in connection with litigation, governmental investigations, subpoenas and Freedom of Information Law requests.
- **Empowering Attorneys:** Ensured that our lawyers had the support and resources necessary to successfully comply with the City’s e-discovery obligations in hundreds of active matters.
- **Defensible Workflows:** Developed and implemented standardized workflows to streamline complex processes and address new and challenging data types.
- **Leveraging Technology:** Used advanced tools and technologies such as e-mail threading and technology-assisted review to reduce the burden on Law Department attorneys, and increase both efficiency and defensibility.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Chief Information Officer: Ronald Muriel | Deputy Chiefs: Ray Scandale & Pervez Ahmed

The Information Technology Division is responsible for all aspects of computing and technology use, including network infrastructure, network security, connectivity, data management, information security, application support, database administration, software administration, and technical support. The Division's mission is to provide quality IT services and solutions – effectively aligning the agency's business and technology objectives to provide cost-effective, innovative and quality solutions that facilitate and improve the conduct of business. The Division is comprised of four sub-units: Application Services, Network Services, Technical Support and Information Security.

- **Law Manager Domain Migration:** IT Successfully completed the complex migration of LawManager from the legacy LAW.LOCAL domain to the new domain, updating service accounts, authentication, job schedules and integrations. Coordination occurred between multiple divisions, as well as the City's Office of Technology & Innovation and IT, to ensure full workflow validation and seamless cutover.
- **Centrify Privileged Access Management – Phase 2:** Advanced the Law Department's cybersecurity posture by onboarding additional privileged accounts into Centrify, enabling multi-factor authentication secured vaulted access and session monitoring. Implemented least-access privilege controls aligned with the National Institute of Standards & Technology and Center for Internet Security guidelines, significantly reducing access-related risk..
- **Licensed Account Clean-Up (Human and Non Human):** Conducted a full review and remediation of staff accounts, shared mailboxes and service accounts. Removed unused licenses, corrected entitlements and improved identity lifecycle governance.
- **HighGear Deposition Workflow Modernization:** Redesigned the deposition scheduling process; introduced automated routing and structured inputs to streamline coordination between attorneys, clerical staff and medical providers which reduced manual communication and improved turnaround times.
- **NYPD-ECMS:** A new interface was built to download cases and arrests from a key New York City Police Department system that assists the Law Department and all other District Attorney Offices. This customer management solution contained the new Case Folders and Arrest Folders, and Security permissions were also updated for Family Court users.
- **Legal Counsel Assignment Tracker:** This new system helped Legal Counsel in assisting with day-to-day data entry of legal requests, search capability, look-up case assignments and statutes tracking which replaced a manual process.
- **New Law Portal:** IT successfully created a new, modern-looking Law Portal (home page) that contains user-centric navigation page with all information and announcements easily accessible.
- **Windows 11 Upgrade:** IT upgraded around 300 eligible Windows 10 machines in IT, Operations, E-Discovery, Worker's Compensation and Administration to Windows 11. Work is in progress to replace 900-plus remaining devices.
- **Disabled External Storage Devices:** In response to OTP's mandated security measure, all external device USB ports were disabled, except for users who received authorization from their division chief to access these ports.
- **EEO Case Management System:** IT completed the Reasonable Accommodation module of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) system; launched work on the next module.



LITIGATION SUPPORT & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Division Chief: John Hupper | **Deputy Chief:** Beth Nedow | **Director:** Patricia DeLisa

The Litigation Support Division oversees various technologies focused on the practice of law at the Law Department, advises on a diversity of techno-legal topics, and assists high-volume clients in responding to discovery. As such, a wide variety of people work in Litigation Support – lawyers; application and database administrators and other experts; project and contract managers; paralegals; claim specialists; and public records aides. They are basically broken out into two teams. The agency-based discovery team primarily works on-site at the client agencies to streamline the discovery response process by creating repeatable, defensible and efficient workflows. The practice management team oversees the agency’s matter management system.

- **Practice Management:** Upgraded document management system server software and continued behind-the-scenes work for migration to the office’s new matter management system. Continued to generate 1,000 production reports on regular schedules and over 3,800 civil lawsuit checks for various City, state and federal prosecutor and/or investigative offices from the matter management system. Continued to publish case-related data about our civil litigation dating back to 1960, pursuant to the City’s Open Data Law, and about alleged misconduct actions commenced and disposed against the New York City Police Department and the Department of Correction, pursuant to the City’s Administrative Code.
- **On-Site, Agency-Based Discovery Staff:** Continued providing discovery support to the Department of Transportation and the Parks Department. Implemented use of DOT’s Universal Legal Search tool, which automates most components of standard roadway and sidewalk record searches. Continued to provide support to the Department of Environmental Protection to facilitate discovery requests and to the Department of Education to conduct searches in response to discovery requests.
- **Information Governance:** Continued to give wide-ranging techno-legal advice including on electronic retention policies and appropriate bulk deletion of e-mail.



OPERATIONS

Division Chief: Jonathan Pinn | **Deputy Chief:** Omer Soykan

Operations' mission is twofold. We provide centralized document production support for Law Department employees, including legal processing, case docketing, electronic editing, courier services, composition and duplication of hundreds of documents daily; this also includes the serving and filing of legal papers. In addition, the Division seeks out methods to streamline operational protocols and produces specialized reports, including the Mayor's Management Report and governmental audits.

- **Division Office:** Continued to finetune processes to facilitate improved governance of data including well over 2,000 contacts across multiple lists and reports; impacting such deliverables as the Annual Report of Workers' Compensation Claims, School Construction audit and UISFA reporting. Operations workflow management system continues to be improved to serve our colleagues and creates processes to enhance the overall effectiveness of the support Operations provides. Noted spending trends include an approximately 25% increase in funds needed to facilitate service of process and papers as well as for hire vehicle services in calendar year 2025. Analysts invoice reconciliation efforts netted nearly \$100,000 in incorrect billings identified.
- **Communications & Docketing:** Successfully processed and timely distributed well over 2,000 buckets of mail (7.4% more than the prior year) and nearly 10,000 critical documents. Accepted, logged and routed well over 21,500 personal services in calendar year 2025. Deadlines were achieved by leveraging an increase of nearly 38% in overtime hours compared to the prior year.
- **Electronic Information Group:** Reviewed and acted on nearly 360,000 e-mails, many containing multiple legal documents. Processed over 3,700 requests for legal representation for members in service at various agencies. Over 11,000 answers were processed on behalf members of the Tort Division, a 20% increase from the year prior. Nearly 5,200 (6.3% increase over prior year) hours of overtime were used to keep current with increased demand and, Operations and the Agency have benefitted from the many Operations "ex-patriots" throughout the Law Department who continue to assist the Division in meeting client deadlines.
- **Process & Couriers:** Managed nearly 6,300 requests to serve, file, deliver and pick up items. PCS also handled over 3,250 requests for process service.
- **Bronx and Brooklyn:** Processed nearly 5,192 (46% more than prior year) requests across various services including but not limited to requests for various mail services, process service and reprographics.
- **Duplication & Finishing:** Completed nearly 3,000 requests, which resulted in over 2.2 million pages printed and includes nearly 6,000 original pages scanned for clients in 2025.
- **Document & Data Processing:** Adeptly managed and successfully completed over 3,000 jobs with 575 hours dedicated to video editing and 802 hours devoted to data entry services. DDP also facilitated well over 4,000 requests for various language services including transcription and translation.
- **Training Unit:** Continued offering remote learning opportunities to large groups of learners on subjects including: using Microsoft 365, LawManager, FileSite, Adobe, and other applications. Unit members leveraged remote meeting applications to facilitate nearly 80 group training sessions; within those, a total of 455 seats were filled for learning purposes.. Unit members work closely with the IT Departments' Helpdesk and Technical Support units to provide users additional help troubleshooting application issues when editing documents and also collaborate with the Career Counseling group, the Professional Development team and others to create training materials.

SUPPORT UNITS

Communications

Diversity & Equal Employment
Opportunity (EEO)

Law Library

Legal Recruitment

Professional & Organizational
Development





COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Director: Lucian Chalfen | Press Secretary & Public Affairs Director: Nick Paolucci | Internal Comms & Strategic Initiatives Director: Kate O'Brien Ahlers

The Communications Unit informs and enlightens the public, as well as the Law Department's support personnel and attorneys, about programs, events, initiatives and interesting cases, while also explaining or defending legal actions undertaken.

The Unit's Press Secretary handles external communications dealing with both the press and City Hall, while the Internal Communications Director oversees internal communications including the biweekly lobby monitor updates and monthly newsletters, along with our Annual Report, Annual Awards Booklet and other informational brochures and publications.

- **Streamlining Efforts:** Brought all communications functions under one concise, focused umbrella.
- **City Hall & Agency Support:** Offered daily, nuanced legal discussions with the Administration and our client agencies. Advised City Hall on end-of-year legal accomplishments.
- **Media Coordination:** Spearheaded reporter calls and releases; tag-teamed on City Hall press conferences.
- **Information Sharing:** Create and maintain officewide sharing of daily news clips.
- **Office Newsletter:** Continued monthly production of "Sidebar," our internal newsletter, looking at in-depth agency topics.
- **Television Updates:** Biweekly production of trending office and related updates via "Spotlight," our television lobby screens.
- **Intranet:** Created and maintained a Communications Unit SharePoint site with archives of all office outreach materials.
- **Strategic Projects:** Worked on office initiatives, including coordinating with Law Department Committees.
- **Agency Branding:** Continued and enhanced agency-branded promotional materials for sale to the staff.

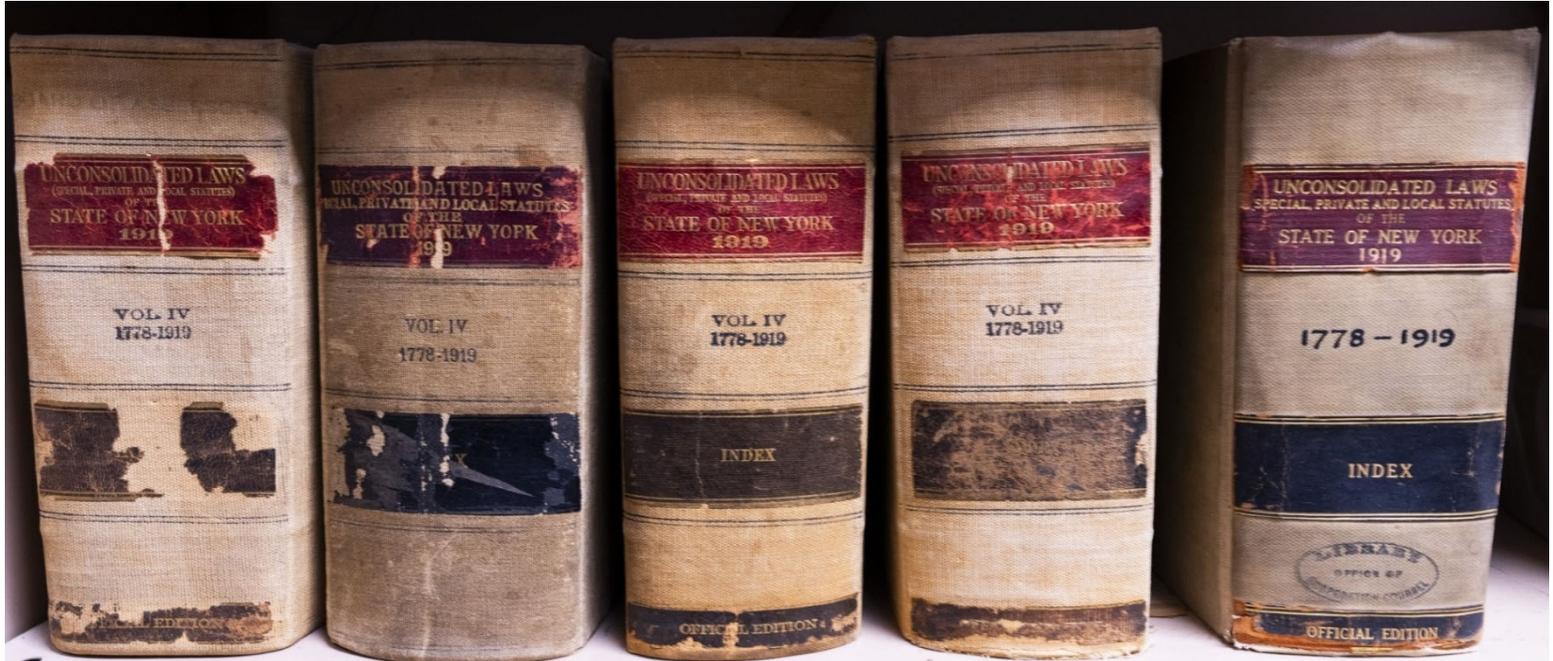


EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO)

Director: Shanel Spence | **Deputies:** Leon Breeden & Celina Fletcher-Serrant

The Equal Employment Opportunity + Engagement, Effectiveness and Access (EEO+) Office is tasked with maintaining a work environment that is consistent with federal, state and local employment laws and New York City's EEO policy. This ensures that our workplace is an inclusive environment where diversity is met with respect. The office works closely and cooperatively with Citywide and Law Department leadership to foster an environment of diversity, engagement and effectiveness officewide and ensure that EEO processes are universally accessible. The EEO+ Office provides guidance and assistance to agency managers and supervisors in addressing issues related to EEO matters; it also works to achieve all EEO-related training objectives.

- **Fair Workplace:** Worked to ensure that our office fully complies with employment laws across the federal, state and local spectrum.
- **Complaints & Reasonable Accommodations:** Ensured that fair EEO processes are available throughout the Law Department. Investigated EEO complaints and processed requests for reasonable accommodations (RAs)..
- **Annual Plan:** Prepared and implemented a comprehensive annual "EEO + Engagement, Effectiveness and Access" Plan to help advance ongoing agency goals in recruitment, retention and promotional opportunities.
- **Engagement, Effectiveness & Access (EEA):** Fostered an environment of respect throughout the agency by promoting best EEA practices.
- **Other Accomplishments:** Delivered Continuing Legal Education-accredited EEO courses; advanced agency structured interviewing practices; supported wellness and employee engagement initiatives; conducted hiring and promotional reviews, updated language access plans; and streamlined administrative procedures. Also provided high school internship opportunities to help train and inspire our next generation of legal and related professionals.



LAW LIBRARY

Chief Law Librarian: Elena-Daniela Neacsu

The Law Library is responsible for all Law Department research support, and its services are also available to other City agencies and the Mayor's Office. Our Library staff provides expert assistance with online, print and other resources, and handles all issues relating to reference materials. It houses over 900 print titles, including current subscriptions and historical resources. Lending agreements enable access to other key legal materials. The Library also maintains a hardcopy collection of Department appellate records and briefs, and librarians coordinate access to legal volumes and historical material. It also works on online investigations and helps with a myriad of library and research duties.

- **Knowledge Center:** In the final quarter of 2025, solidified its role as a dynamic knowledge center. Moving beyond its traditional function as a print-based annex, the Library now operates under a philosophy of equitable access, fiscal transparency, and proactive user support.
- **Modernization Efforts:** Since October 2025, achieved significant modernization and fiscal reform. Through strategic vendor renegotiations and the elimination of redundant resources, the Library repurposed approximately \$500,000 in annual savings. A cornerstone of this effort was the department-wide expansion of Westlaw, providing all Assistant Corporation Counsels (ACCs) and paralegals with standardized, equitable access to essential New York legal sources.
- **Library Initiatives:** Optimized CourtLink access and introduced weekly trainings to reduce PACER dependency, significantly curtailing unnecessary download costs. Beyond digital reform, the physical space was modernized with new seating and reorganized collections. The launch of the first online Library Portal and the "Research in a Flash" series has cemented the Library's reputation as a training hub. This culminated on December 8, when the entire librarian staff served as instructors for Departmental Training Day – a historic first.
- **Collaborative Culture:** Drove success by a collaborative culture where staff development is prioritized, providing advanced legislative research and complex legal analysis vital to litigation and policy development. Technical operations are coordinated with the Fiscal Department, ensuring contract transparency and audit readiness.
- **Investigative Efforts:** Specialized investigative support remains a priority. In collaboration with the Tort, Ethics and Family Court Divisions, refined methodologies for social media and background research to ensure legally defensible practices.
- **Modern Evolution:** Evolved into a modern, service-driven operation that balances legal expertise with fiscal discipline. By fostering a culture where every team member is valued, the Library has become a trusted partner in departmental efficiency, accountability, and professional excellence.



LEGAL RECRUITMENT

Director: John Campbell | **Assistant Directors:** Nicolette Pellegrino & Laurae Caruth

The Legal Recruitment Office seeks to hire law students and attorneys who are committed to pursuing justice and promoting the public good by providing New York City with the highest quality representation. Legal Recruitment offers numerous internship opportunities for students to learn more about the Law Department's practice. In its work, the office seeks to be guided by its core values: Dedication, Diversity, Excellence, Integrity, Justice, Professional Development, Respect, a Supportive Work Environment and Teamwork.

- **Experienced Attorney Hiring** Hired 62 experienced attorneys to work in 16 different divisions.
- **Entry-Level Hiring:** Hired 64 recent law school graduates from 27 law schools to work in multiple divisions.
- **Summer Program:** Hosted 49 law student interns for a paid nine-week Summer Honors Internship Program.



PROFESSIONAL & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Director: June Witterschein | **Assistant Directors:** Londyn Graham & Katrina Vetrano Perez

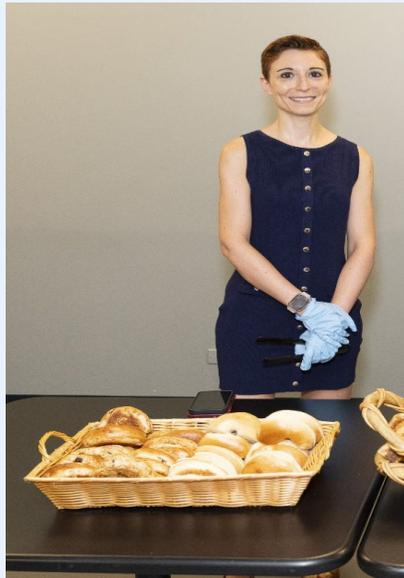
Professional & Organizational Development, a unit within our Executive Division, provides guidance on, and implementation of, programs designed to enhance employee effectiveness, engagement and commitment to Law Department culture and clients. Guided by the office's values, the Unit creates cost-effective legal and other trainings that empower the Law Department and its staff to provide excellent legal representation to the City. The team works collaboratively with all divisions and consults frequently with client agencies to address all professional development and related organizational needs.

- **New Staff Initiatives:** Enhanced the welcoming and onboarding process for new law school graduates and experienced lateral lawyer hires. Promoted their engagement and retention through one-on-one interactions and hands-on training opportunities.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Redesigned and began delivery of Leadership Modules to address requests for customized training to different cohorts. Updated and expanded the curriculum to include fresh content and interactive exercises modeled on the day-to-day issues confronted by frontline leaders and shared with the Unit.
- **Workplace Programs:** In collaboration with agency thought leaders, created and delivered programs intended to foster more productive behaviors in working with colleagues of different abilities and creating unbiased, equitable experiences for all.
- **Helping Our Experienced Lawyers:** Continued ongoing development and delivery of substantive legal content for our more-experienced lawyers, empowering them to continue their professional growth while also representing our clients more effectively and efficiently.
- **Innovative CLE Events and Programs:** Created, in conjunction with our Continuing Legal Education (CLE) partners, even more innovative programs in 2025. This included a unique "Law and Leadership in Times of Crisis: The NYC Experience" event, held at New York Law School in September. The program, attended by many Law Department alumni, including former Corporation Counsels, and looked at crises that confronted the City and the Law Department through the first quarter of the 21st Century, including September 11th, the COVID pandemic and Superstorm Sandy.

THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT













CLASS OF 2025



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