



MARTIN J. DEVINE

Starting at The Law Department in 1906, he served for 77 years – a record for New York City employees! Marty began as a 19-year-old clerk. This represented quite a different time, with *The Brooklyn Citizen* noting on March 19, 1906, his auspicious Civil Service Commission title of “Office Boy.” He served in Tort and worked for over 30 Corporation Counsels. Always a proud dandy, he reveled in wearing formal yet stylish attire. One office photo shows him sporting a bowler. A March 7, 1983, *New York Times* article celebrating his longtime service described him as “the picture

Martin J. Devine (1887- 1983) With service of 77 years at the Law Department, Martin broke a record for New York City employees! He served in Tort and worked for over 30 Corporation Counsels. Elegance. Humility. Commitment. Martin J. Devine’s special qualities thrive in the inspiration he provides even today to all municipal workers.

of gentility.” Wearing a gray, three-piece pinstriped suit, Marty even smoked a cigar during the interview (a big “no-no” today). He stayed until 1974, then returned part-time as a \$100-a-day consultant. Amusingly, he told *The Times* that skyrocketing lawsuits represented the biggest change he’d seen, with 16,000 new yearly filings. “There are so many lawyers these days,” he noted, amusingly and presciently. When his son retired to Queens in 1983, so did Marty, as he couldn’t get to work anymore. He passed shortly thereafter. The Martin J. Devine Memorial Award represents our highest award for support professionals, honoring Marty’s impeccable legacy.