



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Release

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*For Immediate Release*

**MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG TO HONOR  
LAW DEPARTMENT STAFF  
AT 31ST ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

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New York, Dec. 13, 2012 – This evening Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg will honor Law Department employees at the 31st Annual Awards Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at the Manhattan Surrogate's Court in Lower Manhattan.

"Our City has faced challenging times recently – and the Law Department's service to the people of New York is more critical than ever," said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. "Congratulations to all those receiving awards tonight."

"We are pleased to recognize our staff's extraordinary work. Over the past year, they have really made the effort to go above and beyond, particularly in dealing with Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath," New York City Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo said. "I'm very proud to work with such dedicated and capable colleagues. Each year, this ceremony reminds me of our office's capacity to achieve so much."

Tonight, key individual awards will be given to Georgia Pestana, the Chief of the Agency's Labor & Employment Law Division, and Luevader Calloway-Cole of the Tort Division, in honor of their exemplary performance and outstanding dedication to the Department. Additionally, Conflicts of Interest Board Deputy Executive Director Wayne Hawley will be recognized for his outstanding service as counsel to an agency.

Reporters interested in covering the ceremony or receiving photographs afterwards are encouraged to contact the Law Department's Media Office at (212) 788-0400 or [media@law.nyc.gov](mailto:media@law.nyc.gov). The ceremony will be held at 5:15 p.m. in the Surrogate's Court at 31 Chambers Street in Lower Manhattan.

The 2012 awardees are:

**Corporation Counsel's Award for Distinguished Legal Service**

Presented annually to an attorney who has served the Law Department for at least 10 years and who has consistently demonstrated the superior achievement and dedication that define a distinguished career.

- Georgia Pestana, Labor & Employment Law Division

**Martin J. Devine Memorial Award**

Awarded to a member of the non-legal staff who has shown distinguished performance, achievement, dedication and initiative during a Law Department career of at least 10 years. This award is named in honor of Martin J. Devine who served the Law Department for 77 years – the longest-serving employee in our history.

- Luevader Calloway-Cole, Tort Division

### **The Edith Spivack Special Recognition Awards**

Named in honor of Edith Spivack, who served a 70-year career at the Law Department. This award is given to non-managerial attorneys with more than five years of service, for specific outstanding achievements, as well as overall dedication and superior performance.

- Barbara O. Afriyie, Family Court
- Jennifer Coyne, Tort
- Emily Keyes, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation
- Karen Selvin, Administrative Law
- Susan Shapiro, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation
- Marion Suter, Economic Development
- Rachel Seligman Weiss, Special Federal Litigation
- Mary Ellen Zincke, Tort

### **Law Department Achievement Awards**

Presented to select members of the full-time non-legal staff for specific achievements during the past year, as well as for overall dedication and superior performance.

- Kaesun Alexis-John, Tort
- Damaris Almonte, Labor & Employment Law
- Leon Breeden, Administration
- Erin Dunn, Family Court
- George Herget, Operations
- Joseph Mercas, Information Technology
- Eric Shenk, Workers' Compensation
- Elizabeth (Liz) Thomas, Media & Communications

### **Legal Assistant Achievement Awards**

Awarded to paralegals, claims specialists, student legal specialists or senior student legal specialists with at least one year of service to the Law Department who have demonstrated outstanding performance and achievement during the past year.

- Michele Adams, Family Court
- Ulene Chandler, Tort
- Francis Decoteau, Economic Development
- Ingrid Dennie, Operations
- Tracy Devore, Family Court
- Grace Lozowska, Tort

### **Legal Rookie of the Year Awards**

Awarded to first-year attorneys who demonstrate outstanding performance, promise, dedication, solid work ethics, constructive attitude and willingness to contribute to building a positive work environment.

- Kelly Belnick, Tort
- Charles (Chas) Carey, General Litigation
- Devon Goodrich, Environmental Law
- Nicole Aldridge-Henry, Tort
- Emily Nagrotsky, Family Court
- Evan Schnittman, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation
- Melanie Speight, Special Federal Litigation
- Benjamin Traverse, Labor & Employment Law

- Leocadie (Lee) Welling, Legal Counsel

### **Legal Assistant Rookie of the Year Award**

Awarded to paralegals, claim specialists, student legal specialists or senior legal specialists who began their Law Department careers between July 2010 and June 2011, who show promise for the future and who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their work.

- Bernard Braun, Special Federal Litigation
- Jacquelyn Broadhurst, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation
- Stephanie Diaz, Family Court
- Subeh Ety, Operations
- Emelina Garcia, Tort
- Steven Jagarnauth, Tort

### **Support Rookie of the Year Award**

Presented to support employees who demonstrate outstanding performance, promise, dedication, solid work ethics, constructive attitude and willingness to contribute to building a positive work environment.

- Alexander Ly, Operations
- Amit Sharma, Information Technology
- Keith Williams, Information Technology

### **Pro Bono & Community Service Award**

Given to an attorney who performs either extraordinary pro bono work or to an individual who makes an extraordinary effort to provide community service.

- Charessa L. Glover-Thomas, Family Court
- Margaret Nelson, Family Court
- Gerald Singleton, Affirmative Litigation

### **Exceptional Service Award**

The Exceptional Service Award is given from time to time by the Corporation Counsel to recognize exceptional contributions by a Law Department employee, reflecting a high degree of professionalism and extraordinary commitment to the Department and the City of New York over a sustained period.

- Kate O'Brien Ahlers, Media & Communications

### **Dorothy Marie Miner Award for Outstanding Service as Counsel to an Agency**

Named in honor of Dorothy Marie Miner, who was the esteemed longtime counsel to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. It is presented to an attorney with at least three years of legal service to an agency other than the Law Department who exemplifies distinguished performance, dedication and initiative throughout the candidate's career, and outstanding accomplishments which further the mission of his or her agency.

- Wayne Hawley, Conflicts of Interest Board

### **Municipal Affairs Awards**

Presented by the New York City Affairs Committee of the Bar Association of the City of New York to Assistant Corporation Counsels who have demonstrated outstanding promise, ability and achievement in public service law.

- Brian Francolla, Special Federal Litigation
- Toni Gantz, Legal Counsel (formerly of General Litigation)

- Jasmine Georges, Administrative Law
- Andrew Lipkin, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation
- Andrea O'Connor, Legal Recruitment (formerly of Labor & Employment Law)
- Meredith Salvaggio, Family Court

### **DOITT Excellence in IT Support and Services Award**

This Award is presented by the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications in recognition of high-quality technical support services.

- Igor Gorelik – “Manager” Awards Category
- Kathy Huang – “Staff” Awards Category

### **Military Service Recognition**

This award recognizes the personal sacrifice involved in serving our country. The recipients have temporarily uprooted their professional and personal lives to honor the commitment they made to protect and serve.

- Ramon Barreiro, Labor & Employment Law
- Jason Friedman, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation
- Robin Wakefield, Administration

### **Longevity Awards**

**We applaud the following staff who have been with the Law Department 40 years:**

- Elba Colon

**We applaud the following staff who have been with the Law Department 35 years:**

- Pamela Dolgow
- Rickie Harris
- Anthony Himmel
- Gail Petraglia

**We applaud the following staff who have been with the Law Department 30 years:**

- Samuel Alston
- Jonathan Becker
- Robin Binder
- Luevader Calloway-Cole
- Alfred Fortunato
- Nola Francis
- Yolanda Johnson
- Michael Maney
- Sharon Mcrae
- Fay Ng
- Thomas O'Sullivan
- Jane Paganini
- Jimmy Santiago

**We applaud the following staff who have been with the Law Department for 25 years:**

- Dorcas Alleyne
- Andrea Berger
- Kathy Blyn
- Norman Corenthal

- Leslie Doddato
- Pamela Fletcher
- Jane Gordon
- Leon Grant
- Elizabeth Gross
- Anthony Johnson
- Valarie Kilpatrick
- Alan Kleinman
- Esther Leys-Traore
- Ellen Lombardi
- Karen Miller
- Diana Murray
- Chlarens Orsland
- Tasahia Robinson
- Eric Rundbaken
- Frances Sands
- Dasrat Santanoo
- Richard Schulsohn
- Eric Shenk
- Ida Van Der Schaaf
- Sheria Williamston

### **Outside Awards & Honors**

Several attorneys were recognized for winning outside awards or honors this year:

- Gail Rubin, New York County Lawyers' Association Public Service Award
- Jennifer Gilroy-Ruiz was appointed Secretary of the Queens County Bar Association.

### **In Memoriam**

As we celebrate the achievements and successes of our office over the past year, we also pause to reflect on the loss of four treasured colleagues. Their friendship and contributions to this office are deeply missed.

- Malcolm Engoron, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation
- Benjamin Jackson, Operations
- Norman Kapp, Tort
- Dion Pryce, Administration

#### *Editor's Note:*

- *Winners of our Division Chief Awards can be obtained from the Media Office, [media@law.nyc.gov](mailto:media@law.nyc.gov) or (212) 788-0400.*

The New York City Law Department is one of the oldest, largest and most dynamic law offices in the world. Tracing its roots back to the 1600's, the Department has an active caseload of 80,000 matters and transactions in 17 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 650 attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles. For more information, please visit [nyc.gov/law](http://nyc.gov/law).