



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 32ND ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

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New York, Dec. 12, 2013 – This evening Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg will honor Law Department employees at the 32nd Annual Awards Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at the Manhattan Surrogate's Court in Lower Manhattan.

"Our City has faced challenging times 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." New York City Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo said. "Each year, this ceremony reminds me of our office's capacity to achieve so much."

Tonight, key individual awards will be given to Howard Friedman, Deputy Chief of the Agency's Contracts & Real Estate Division, and Lucia Magalhaes of the Administration Division, in honor of their exemplary performance and outstanding dedication to the Department. Additionally, Department of Sanitation's General Counsel Robert Orlin will be recognized for his outstanding service as counsel to an agency. Francis Caputo, Robert Frazier, and Paul Rephen were honored for 40 years of Law Department service.

Reporters interested in covering the ceremony or receiving photographs afterwards are encouraged to contact the Law Department's Media Office at (212) 356-4000 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 2013 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.

- Howard Friedman, Contracts & Real Estate 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.

- Lucia Magalhaes, Administration 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.

- Jane Andersen, Labor & Employment Law Division
- Doris Bernhardt, Affirmative Litigation Division
- Linda Donahue, Special Federal Litigation Division
- Andrew Gelfand, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation Division
- Terrence Kossegi, Tort Division
- Maxwell Leighton, Labor & Employment Law Division
- Andrew Lipkin, Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation Division
- Sheryl Neufeld, Administrative Law Division
- William Plache, Environmental Law Division
- Charles Rott, Family Court Division
- Connie Wu, Economic Development Division

### **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.

- Zhangming (Simon) He, Information and Technology Division
- Joann Held, Family Court Division
- Valarie Kilpatrick, Family Court Division
- Mee Yee Leung, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation Division
- Francia Reynoso, Operations Division
- Kim Torres, Workers' Compensation Division
- Juliett Wilson, Operations Division
- Lisa Woods-Taylor, Operations Division

### **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.

- Faylecia Bailey, Tort Division
- David Dehay, Special Federal Litigation Division
- Carol King, Tort Division
- Larysa Kurylo, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation Division
- Jennifer Mazzio, Tort Division
- Misael Montas, Labor & Employment Law Division
- Lashunn Spriggs, Family Court Division

### **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.

- Shawn M. Clark, Labor & Employment Law Division
- Rebecca Kagan Sternhell, Legal Counsel Division
- Christine Limbach, Tort Division
- Daniel Makofsky, Family Court Division
- Timothy McKernan, Contracts & Real Estate Division
- Alison Moe, Special Federal Litigation Division
- Benjamin Miller, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation Division

- Shira Mizrahi, Tort Division
- Natalie Smith, Family Court Division
- Benjamin Tracy, Labor & Employment Law Division

### **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 2012 and June 2013, who show promise for the future and who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their work.

- Rabiha Al-Shafei, Operations Division
- Carl Edghill, Tort Division
- Monifa Lambert, Special Federal Litigation Division
- Wilda Rodriguez, Tort Division
- Henry Sheehan, Tort Division

### **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.

- Jaslee Carayol, Executive Division
- Hassan Malik, Workers' Compensation Division
- Robert Szymanski, Litigation Support Division
- Jian Hua Tan, Workers' Compensation Division

### **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.

- Martha Mann Alfaro, Legal Counsel Division

### **Jane Bolin Diversity Leadership Award**

Named in honor of Jane Bolin, the first African-American woman to serve as an Assistant Corporation Counsel and the first female African-American jurist in the U.S., this award recognizes her contributions in advocating for, and advancing, diversity. The Jane M. Bolin Diversity Leadership Award recognizes and celebrates the outstanding contributions and significant impact by an exceptional member of the Law Department in promoting and advocating the office's diversity goals.

- Patricia Miller, Special Federal Litigation Division

### **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.

- Robert Orlin, Department of Sanitation

### **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.

- Evan Brustein, Family Court Division
- Susan Greenberg, Legal Counsel Division

- Andrea Hecht, Family Court Division
- Sabita Krishnan, Affirmative Litigation Division
- Rachel Moston, Administrative Law Division

### **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.

- Michael DeStefano— “Manager” Awards Category
- Nick Chan – “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 Division
- Robin Wakefield, Administration Division

### **Community Service Recognition**

This is the inaugural year of the Law Department’s Community Service Recognition Program, which recognizes Law Department employees who participate in several agency-wide community service events. Through the Community Service Recognition Program, all Law Department employees who participate in 3 or more qualifying community service activities in a year will be recognized at the annual Law Department Awards ceremony.

- Susan Amron, Environmental Law Division
- Doris Bernhardt, Affirmative Litigation Division
- Erika Cummins, Pensions Division
- Hazel Dörner, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation Division
- Joshua Jackson, Commercial & Real Estate Litigation Division
- Amy Okereke, Affirmative Litigation Division
- Susan Paulson, Appeals Division

### **Longevity Awards**

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

- Francis Caputo
- Robert Frazier
- Paul Rephen

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

- Marilyn Campbell
- Maxine Davis
- Malachy Higgins
- Randal Leason
- Minerva Lopez
- Ruth Pallaske
- Marilyn Richter
- Susan Tucker
- Gwendolyn Tyrell

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

- Sarah Abraham
- Ruby Bradley

- Vincent D'Orazio
- Connie Etheridge
- Dorothy Jackson
- Nina Jody
- Margaret King
- Amy London
- Paul Marks
- Bruce Regal
- Marion Suter
- Celestine White

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

- Lena Allen-Moore
- Michelle Bassett
- Ave Maria Brennan
- Sharon Cantor
- Rita Dumain
- Josephine Farrell
- Camille Foster
- Mary Francis
- Aida Garcia
- Graciela Garcia
- Errol Gordon
- Robin Green
- Ricky Hobbs
- Lydia Hunter
- John Johnson
- Lucia Magalhaes
- Carmen Nunez
- Blanca Ponce
- Terryl Sellers
- Warren Shaw
- Ronald Sternberg
- Pia Wood

### **Outside Awards & Honors**

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

- Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo, *New York Law Journal's* Impact Award
- Celeste Koeleveld, New York County Lawyers' Association Public Service Award
- Foster Mills, International Municipal Lawyers Association Award
- Michael Pastor, *New York Law Journal's* Rising Star
- Lavanya Pisupati, *New York Law Journal's* Rising Star

### **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 a treasured colleague. His friendship and contributions to this office are deeply missed.

- Anthony Johnson, Administration Division

*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) 356-4000.*

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 over 700 attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues and in the criminal prosecution of juvenile delinquency matters. For more information, please visit [nyc.gov/law](http://nyc.gov/law).

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