



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel

Press Release

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*For Immediate Release*

**TWO TOP LAW DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVES ARE NAMED  
NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNERS  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE**

***FIRST ASSISTANT JEFFERY D. FRIEDLANDER AND APPEALS CHIEF LEONARD KOERNER  
– BOTH LONGTIME LAW DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AND GRADUATES OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY  
LAW SCHOOL – ARE HONORED WITH NEW YORK STATE’S HIGHEST LEGAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD***

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New York, Jan. 26, 2004 – The New York State Bar Association has announced that First Assistant Corporation Counsel Jeffrey D. Friedlander, and Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel and Appeals Division Chief Leonard Koerner have been selected recipients of the 2004 New York State Bar Association’s “Award of Excellence in Public Service,” which is New York State’s highest legal public legal award. They are being honored tomorrow night – Tues. Jan. 27, 2004 – at an awards reception at the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) Annual Meeting, held at the New York Marriot Marquis in Times Square.

Both men are longtime Law Department employees, having spent their whole careers here. Combined, they have more than 70 years of public service experience between them, and they have been involved with some of New York City’s most important legal cases and matters. For example, Mr. Friedlander was one of the City’s key legal advisors after Sept. 11th and Mr. Koerner successfully argued to have Grand Central Station preserved as a landmark. Both men are also graduates of New York University’s School of Law.

James F. Horan, an administrative law judge for the State Department of Health in Albany, chairs the NYSBA’s Committee on Attorneys in Public Service, which will be presenting the award. According to the Bar Association’s press release announcing the awards, Horan said the Public Service Committee “came to an easy consensus in choosing Friedlander and Koerner as the recipients of this year’s award.”

“These gentlemen have spent their entire careers in government, rising through the ranks in the Law Department of the City of New York,” Horan said. “Len Koerner has established himself as one the leading appellate attorneys in the state and Jeff Friedlander has shown a deep commitment to public service, not only through his job, but through his bar activities, his regular column in the *New York Law Journal* and his extensive service to charities. They represent the many government attorneys in New York, who provide outstanding, long term public service, often with little public notice.” Previous winners of the award have included St. John’s Law School Dean and former Court of Appeals Judge Joseph Bellacosa and Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau.

“It is an honor to work with Jeff and Len, who embody the strongest ideals of public service,” Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo, the head of the New York City Law Department, said. “Both Len and Jeff have worked for the Law Department throughout their careers. These extraordinary public servants are

representative of the thousands of outstanding lawyers who have served in the New York City Law Department and who have made an enormous impact on the law governing New York City, and municipalities throughout the State and even the nation. We are very proud of them.

Cardozo spoke about the strong impact that both lawyers have had on the Corporation Counsel's office. "Jeff is a gifted, talented attorney who defines the highest quality of lawyering. He has been the bedrock of the Law Department for decades. The City could not have a finer First Assistant," Cardozo said. "Len, who has argued – and won – four cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, is a brilliant advocate who has been involved with some of the Law Department's highest-profile cases, including the Supreme Court's ground breaking decision upholding New York City's landmark legislation. He has an insightful legal mind and is one of the top attorneys in our office."

Friedlander joined the Law Department as a member of the office's "Honors Program" for young lawyers in 1970. Before graduating from New York University Law School in 1970, he served as an intern to U.S. Senator Jacob K. Javits. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a deep, abiding commitment to public service and the role it plays in City policy. He has served as the City's First Assistant Corporation Counsel since 1995. From November 1997 to March 1998, he served as Acting Corporation Counsel of the City of New York under Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani. Friedlander is the author of a bi-monthly column in the *New York Law Journal*, "Municipal Law," that explores issues affecting public service law. During his tenure with the Law Department, he has played a significant role in many important cases and new laws, including supervision of the drafting of the executive orders and legislation necessary to respond to the emergency following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and is now deeply involved in the complex and extensive economic development issues, environmental matters and financing initiatives aimed at the City's redevelopment.

Koerner joined the Law Department in 1967 as an Assistant in the Appeals Division. He was made Deputy of the Appeals Division in 1976. Two years later, he was made Chief of Commercial Litigation. He held that position until 1980, when he took over the role of Chief of Appeals. In 1985, he was appointed Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel, and he has assumed that position – in addition to Appeals Chief – since. Koerner has been involved in several landmark cases in New York City's history, including *Penn Central Station Co. v. New York City* in 1978, where he successfully represented the City of New York in defending the designation of Grand Central Terminal as a landmark. He also received his law degree from New York University, graduating in 1967.

Press interested in attending the event can call the Bar Association's News Office, located in the Empire Room of the Marriott Marquis, at (212) 930-7647. The news room is expected to be staffed beginning this afternoon. It will also be open tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pre-registration is encouraged, and press are also encouraged to bring proper identification. The event itself will take place at the Marriott's Sky Lounge, 37th Floor, 1535 Broadway, New York.

For a copy of the Bar Association's press release, please contact Tammy S. Korgie, Department of Media Services and Public Affairs, New York State Bar Association, (518) 487-5536, [tkorgie@nysba.org](mailto:tkorgie@nysba.org). The release is also expected to be posted shortly on the Bar Association's web site at: [www.nysba.org](http://www.nysba.org). Click on the "News Center" tab, then click on "News Releases."

The New York City Law Department is one of the oldest, largest and most dynamic law offices in the world, ranking among the top three largest law offices in New York City and the top three largest public law offices in the country. Tracing its roots back to the 1600's, the Department's 650-plus lawyers handle more than 90,000 cases and transactions each year in 17 separate legal divisions. The Corporation Counsel heads the Law Department and acts as legal counsel for the Mayor, elected officials, the City and all its agencies. The Department's attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles. Its web site can be accessed through the City government home page at [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov) or via direct link at [www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html).

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