



# LAW DEPARTMENT

Michael Cardozo, Corporation Counsel

## Key Public Service Areas

- ✓ Represent the City in litigation and other legal matters involving the City's interests.
- ✓ Prosecute crimes involving youth under the age of 16.

## Scope of Agency Operations

The Law Department is the attorney for the City, City agencies and certain non-City agencies and pension boards, and manages litigation and other legal matters involving the City and its interests. The Law Department is responsible for more than 80,000 matters, and provides legal advice to all City agencies.

## Critical Objectives

- Limit the City's liability and assist City agencies to minimize their exposure to lawsuits.
- Effectively prosecute juveniles in Family Court.

## Preliminary Performance Highlights

- Tort cases pending decreased 3 percent during the first four months of Fiscal 2012, continuing a downward trend since Fiscal 2005.
- Tort cases commenced increased 13 percent during the reporting period due in part to property damage claims from repeated flooding in Queens and Staten Island, as well as the December 2010 snowstorm.
- The citywide tort payout decreased 21 percent. This is due, in part, to successful attempts to dismiss matters before trial. In addition, the Department's long term focus on the dual goals of backlog reduction and early resolution of meritorious claims, as well as the enactment of the sidewalk law that transferred liability for certain matters from the City to property owners, has yielded results.

## Performance Report

- ✓ Represent the City in litigation and other legal matters involving the City's interests.

Performance Statistics	A c t u a l			T a r g e t		4-Month Actual FY11	4-Month Actual FY12
	FY09	FY10	FY11	Updated			
	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12
★ Total tort cases pending	17,791	17,362	16,850	17,800	17,800	17,450	16,927
Tort cases commenced - Citywide	6,337	6,442	6,388	*	*	2,136	2,405
Tort dispositions - Citywide	6,730	6,921	6,573	6,100	6,100	1,929	1,886
★ Total tort payout (\$000) - Citywide	\$570,581	\$541,595	\$560,852	*	*	\$124,547	\$97,895

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report

- ✓ Prosecute crimes involving youth under the age of 16.

Performance Statistics	A c t u a l			T a r g e t		4-Month Actual FY11	4-Month Actual FY12
	FY09	FY10	FY11	Updated			
	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12
Referred cases filed for prosecution (%)	59%	55%	55%	55%	55%	55%	55%
Crime victims assessed for community-based services (%)	34%	34%	46%	35%	35%	48%	50%
Juvenile conviction rate (%)	71%	72%	71%	70%	70%	69%	71%

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report



## Agency Customer Service

The Law Department provides service to its customers through its website and correspondence.

Indicator	LAW	Citywide	LAW	Citywide	LAW Change	Citywide
	Jul-Oct FY11	Jul-Oct FY11	Jul-Oct FY12	Jul-Oct FY12	Jul-Oct FY11 to FY12	Jul-Oct FY11 to FY12
Average response time for email correspondence (days)	1	5	1	8	0%	60%
Average response time for letters/mail correspondence (days)	1	11	1	9	0%	-18%

## Agency Resources

Agency Resources	A c t u a l			September	Updated		4-Month	4-Month
	FY09	FY10	FY11	2011 MMR FY12	FY12'	FY13'	Actual FY11	Actual FY12
Expenditures (\$ millions) <sup>2</sup>	\$132.2	\$139.8	\$135.0	\$140.5	\$141.3	\$141.7	\$57.0	\$59.3
Revenues (\$ millions)	\$42.8	\$32.7	\$43.4	\$22.2	\$23.8	\$20.6	\$38.2	\$10.9
Personnel	1,430	1,382	1,307	1,341	1,391	1,386	1,324	1,362
Overtime Paid (\$000)	\$1,153	\$1,134	\$763	*	*	*	\$184	\$215

<sup>1</sup> January 2012 Financial Plan

"NA" - Not Available in this report

<sup>2</sup> Expenditures include all funds. January Plan figures reflect modifications in Federal, State, and other non-City funding since the adoption of the 2012 budget.

## Noteworthy Changes, Additions or Deletions

None

For more information please visit the website at: [www.nyc.gov/law](http://www.nyc.gov/law)