



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Dennis Hawkins
Telephone: 212-541-6741, x102
Mobile: 917-399-4675
E-mail: hawkins@moderncourts.org

**MICHAEL A. CARDOZO, CORPORATION COUNSEL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK,
TO BE HONORED AT 2009 CYRUS R. VANCE TRIBUTE**

New York, N.Y. – The Fund for Modern Courts has announced that Michael A. Cardozo, the Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, will be the honoree at its seventh annual Cyrus R. Vance Tribute, to be held at The Yale Club in Manhattan on Friday, December 4, 2008, at 8:00 a.m.

The Tribute is dedicated to the memory of former Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance to celebrate his vision and integrity as a public official and as a leader in the quest to improve the justice system in New York.

Previous honorees include then Attorney General Eliot Spitzer in 2003, Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2004, Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye in 2005, former Chief Administrative Judge and current Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman in 2006, New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau in 2007, and Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes in 2008.

Mr. Cardozo will address the participants on the topic of “Judicial Efficiency in Times of Economic Crisis: An Opportunity Too Important to Waste.” (For copies of his speech, or to speak with Mr. Cardozo directly, you can contact the New York City Law Department’s Press Office at 212-788-0400 or media@law.nyc.gov.)

Working with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Mr. Cardozo has advocated for both judicial selection reform and judicial pay raises. He regularly advises the Mayor on appointments that the Mayor makes to the judiciary, and as a result the Mayor’s record in merit and diverse judicial appointments has been outstanding. As Corporation Counsel, he supervises approximately 650 attorneys in the Law Department (www.nyc.gov/law), which has an active caseload of more than 90,000 lawsuits and legal matters, and he has personally argued cases in Federal and State courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Cardozo has initiated a Public Service Program that brings associates from leading law firms to work at the Law Department on New York City cases, and has encouraged Law Department attorneys to participate in *pro bono* and Bar Association activities.

Mr. Cardozo has long been active in the public sector. He was President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, has served as Chair of the Fund for Modern Courts, Chair of the Columbia Law School Board of Visitors, and Chair of both the New York State Joint Committee on Judicial Administration and the New York State Task Force on the Appellate Divisions. In the

mid-1970s, he was Counsel to Governor Carey's Task Force on Court Reform, whose Chair was Cyrus R. Vance.

Prior to becoming Corporation Counsel, Mr. Cardozo was a partner at Proskauer Rose LLP, where he was both an active trial lawyer and counsel to numerous sports leagues. He served as co-chair of the firm's 150-person Litigation Department and was elected by his partners on three different occasions to serve on the firm's Executive Committee.

Cyrus R. Vance had a long and distinguished public service career. He was former U.S. Secretary of State, Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, partner at Simpson Thacher and Bartlett, and President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He was also a leader of the Fund for Modern Courts and served as the organization's Chair from 1986 to 1990. In addition to his notable career on the national and international stages, Cyrus Vance was tireless in his efforts to reform the New York State Court system. Among his successes was promoting the implementation of merit selection for New York State's highest court, producing the nationally renowned Court of Appeals.

The Fund for Modern Courts is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, statewide court reform organization founded in 1955. Led by concerned citizens, prominent lawyers, and business leaders, Modern Courts strives to improve the administration and quality of justice in our courts. It is the only organization in New York State devoted exclusively to improving the judicial system.

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Tel. 212-541-6741 | Fax 212-541-7301 | justice @moderncourts.org |
www.moderncourts.org