



*"He is the very best that government can offer—he is 'Mr. Good Government.' OATH is well-run, ethical and living up to its original promise. Everyone should have a chance to see it in action. It is what government tribunals should be."*

## **CHARLES D. MCFAUL**

*Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge/Counsel, Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)*

In 1979, the first chief judge of the new Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings asked Charles McFaul to become one of its administrative law judges. OATH was created as an independent, centralized, neutral, highly professional office in which workplace disputes, disciplinary and human rights matters, disagreements between contractors and the city, disputes regarding enforcement of city laws and codes and other allegations of administrative infractions, could be heard. OATH has emerged as "the gold standard" in administrative tribunals, not just in New York but throughout the country. Many attribute its fine reputation to the tireless work of Charles McFaul, who successfully fought to keep it away from political influence and has, by example and through years of devoted service, set the highest standards for its operation.

All agree that Charles McFaul is a fine lawyer and superb judge, able to resolve seemingly intractable cases creatively,

before they go to trial, saving time, money and reducing angst for all concerned. His management skills are as outstanding as his judicial abilities. In 99 percent of OATH's cases, agency heads accept OATH's findings, testimony to their processes, thoroughness and fairness. His penchant for innovation is extraordinary. He conceived and implemented OATH's mediation program, which achieves a 90 percent resolution rate on cases that come before them. He is implementing an electronic case management system that will reduce paperwork and allow parties to file pleadings and view hearing schedules via the Internet. He helped create a technological solution in which seven other agencies and OATH, housed in the same building, pool resources to get joint email, security systems and an electronic law library. The Chief Administrative Judge praises him as "The Father of OATH."