

Proskauer Mourns the Passing of Michael Cardozo

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend and partner, Michael A. Cardozo.

Michael was a pillar of our firm and the legal community for more than five decades. He epitomized the very best attributes of a Proskauer partner: integrity, intellect, generosity, and a deep commitment to justice. Michael joined Proskauer in 1967, became a partner in 1974, and served in numerous leadership roles, including Chair of the Litigation Department and member of the Executive Committee. He retired from the firm in 2022, leaving behind a legacy that continues to shape our practice and culture.

Michael was a nationally respected litigator whose work helped define the modern landscape of sports law. He represented the NBA, NHL, and Major League Soccer in many of the most consequential cases in the field. Alongside his close friends and colleagues David Stern, Bob Batterman, and Howard Ganz, Michael helped build Proskauer's Sports Law Group into a nationally recognized practice.

In 2002, Michael answered the call to public service, becoming New York City's Corporation Counsel under Mayor Michael Bloomberg. He served in that role for 12 years, the longest tenure in the city's history, overseeing litigation that touched nearly every aspect of city life.

Throughout his career, Michael remained deeply committed to civic life. He served as President of the New York City Bar Association, chaired the Fund for Modern Courts and the New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, and most recently served on the state's Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government.

Michael was also a mentor, colleague, and friend to generations of Proskauer lawyers. He gave generously of his time and wisdom, always with humility, clarity, and a deep sense of purpose. His integrity and devotion to public service were matched only by his warmth and loyalty to those around him.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Michael's family and friends. His impact on our firm and profession will not be forgotten.