



Contact

Michael A. Cardozo

Partner

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Litigation partner and former New York City Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo is an experienced commercial and sports litigator who has vast experience in lawsuits involving New York City and the workings of the New York State court system. In addition, he is very active in numerous organizations dealing with New York City affairs.

Before his appointment as Corporation Counsel by Mayor Bloomberg, Michael was a litigator with Proskauer from 1967-2001. He counseled and litigated on behalf of numerous sports leagues, including the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League and Major League Soccer. Among the sports cases he successfully tried was a six week antitrust jury trial for Major League Soccer. He was also co-chair of Proskauer's Litigation Department and served three terms on the Firm's Executive Committee.

As New York City's 77th and longest-tenured Corporation Counsel, Michael was head of the city's 700-lawyer law department from 2002 through 2013, serving as legal counsel to Mayor Michael Bloomberg, elected officials, the City and all its agencies. His experience in representing virtually every city agency, as well as his extensive dealings with the federal and state governments, has also given him a unique insight on the way in which the government operates.

Since returning to Proskauer in 2014, Michael has taken on a wide variety of commercial cases and separate suits against New York City and the States of

Florida and New Jersey. He also helps to oversee the Firm's pro bono practice and its diversity programs.

Long active in the public sector, Michael presently serves as a member of the Boards of Citizen's Union and Sanctuary for Families, and the Advisory Board of Legal Outreach, which works with and supports minority high school students who aspire to become lawyers. He has recently been appointed by the New York State Chief Judge to chair the New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation. He previously served as president of the 22,000-member New York City Bar Association, chair of both the Fund for Modern Courts and the Columbia Law School Board of Visitors and head of two court system task forces.

Practices

Litigation, Appellate

Industries

Sports

Education

Columbia Law School, J.D., 1966

Brown University, B.A., 1963

Admissions & Qualifications

New York

Clerkships

U.S. District Court, New York, Southern District - Judge Edward C. McLean

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, New York, Eastern District

U.S. District Court, New York, Southern District

U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit

U.S. Supreme Court

Memberships

American Arbitration Association Commercial Arbitration Panel, Member

Commercial Arbitration Panel for Sport, Member

CPR International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution, Panel Member

Legal Outreach, Member Advisory Board

New York City Bar Association, Former President

Fund for Modern Courts, Former Chair

New York State Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law

Citizens Union, Member, Board of Directors

Sanctuary For Families, Member, Board of Directors

Awards & Recognition

American Lawyer Lifetime Achievement Award

Citizens Union Public Service Award

New York Urban League Frederick Douglass Medallion for Leadership and Service

The Federal Bar Council's Emory Buckner Award for outstanding public service

The Fund for Modern Courts' Career Public Service Award

The Fund for Modern Courts' Cyrus R. Vance Tribute for dedicated work towards
judicial reform

Columbia University Law School's Lawrence A. Wien Prize for Social Responsibility

Human Relations Award, Anti-Defamation League

George A. Katz Torch of Learning Award from American Friends of Hebrew
University

Legal Outreach Public Service Honoree

Best Lawyers in America

City & State 50 Most Powerful Leaders in New York City's Legal Community,
Member

New York Law Journal's Impact Award

New York Super Lawyers

The Legal 500 United States

[Government Service](#)

Chair, New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive

Compensation (2019-)

New York City Corporation Counsel (2002-2013)