



MILTON L. WILLIAMS, JR.
COUNSELOR AT LAW



VLADECK, WALDMAN, ELIAS & ENGELHARD, P.C.
1501 BROADWAY
(212) 403-7335
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
FAX (212) 221-3172
E-mail: mwilliams@vladeck.com

M. Williams

**The Fund for Modern Courts
2011 Cyrus R. Vance Tribute**

WELCOME

Milton L. Williams, Jr.

Chair

The Fund for Modern Courts

REMARKS

Hon. Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.

District Attorney, New York County

HONORED SPEAKER

Hon. Eric T. Schneiderman

Attorney General of the State of New York

The Yale Club

Tuesday, November 29, 2011 8:00 A.M.

The Fund for Modern Courts recognizes the Honorable Eric T. Schneiderman, who was elected the 65th Attorney General of New York State on November 2, 2010, as the 2011 Cyrus R. Vance Tribute honoree. He is the highest ranking law enforcement officer for the State, responsible for representing New York and its residents in legal matters. He has worked to restore the public's faith in its public and private sector institutions by focusing on public integrity, economic justice, social justice and environmental protection.

Attorney General Schneiderman created a new "Taxpayer Protection Bureau" to root out fraud and return money stolen from New York taxpayers at no additional cost to the state; bolstered the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, which has recovered tens of millions taxpayers' dollars; and expanded his office's authority to investigate public corruption involving taxpayer funds by partnering with the state Comptroller. The Attorney General also has taken a leading role in the national fight for a fair mortgage settlement for homeowners, holding banks accountable for their role in the foreclosure crisis; joined a lawsuit challenging AT&T's proposed acquisition of T-Mobile for potential anti-competitive impacts on consumers and businesses statewide; sued federal regulators to force an environmental impact review of proposed gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin; and challenged the Indian Point nuclear power plant's practices related to high-level radioactive waste storage, earthquake preparedness and fire safety.

Before becoming Attorney General, he was a leading reformer in the State Senate where he sponsored sweeping ethics reforms and the toughest law in the nation to root out fraud against taxpayers, as well as chairing the committee to expel a corrupt senator for the first time in modern history. He previously spent 15 years in private practice as an attorney, and later as a partner at the firm of Kirkpatrick and Lockhart, where he handled complex litigation. He was also a public interest lawyer for many years, representing taxpayers in lawsuits against the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), tenants trying to evict drug dealers from their buildings, and women seeking access to health clinics. Attorney General Schneiderman graduated from Amherst College in 1977 and Harvard Law School in 1982.

The Cyrus R. Vance Tribute honors the former United States 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, who served as the Chair of the Fund for Modern Courts from 1986 to 1990. In addition to his distinguished 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. To celebrate his vision and accomplishments, the Vance Tribute features a notable public figure engaged in making the New York State Court system more efficient, fair, and accessible to all. The Tribute is partially funded by a generous grant from the Communities Foundation of Texas. Previous honorees include then Attorney General Eliot Spitzer; Mayor Michael Bloomberg; then Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye; then Chief Administrative Judge and now Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman; then New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau; Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes; Corporation Counsel of the City of New York Michael A. Cardozo; and Hon. Fern Fisher, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts and Director of the New York State Courts Access to Justice Program.

The Fund for Modern Courts: Milton L. Williams, Jr., Chair • Barry A. Bohrer, Executive Committee Chair
The Fund for Modern Courts is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice in New York State. Founded in 1955 by concerned citizens, prominent lawyers, and business leaders, Modern Courts makes the court system more accessible and efficient for all New Yorkers, and operates successful in-court programs such as the Citizen Court Monitoring Project. Utilizing outreach and education, Modern Courts promotes change in the courts and increases citizen participation in the justice system.

Welcoming Remarks by Milton L. Williams, Jr/

2011 Vance Tribute

Good morning. I would like to welcome you all to the ninth annual Cyrus R. Vance Tribute breakfast. On behalf of the Fund for Modern Courts we welcome this year's honoree, Eric T. Schneiderman, Attorney General of New York State, and all those who have joined us this morning.

I would like to give a special welcome to Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, our Vance Tribute honoree in 2006 and Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, our 2009 honoree.

**I also would like to note that Senior Associate
Judge of the Court of Appeals, Carmen**

**Beauchamp Ciparick, the Honorable Gail
Prudenti also have joined us today, along with all
the other justices and judges present.**

*an District Attorney Blown, and former Chief
Judge
Judith
Kaye*

**In 2003, the Fund for Modern Courts
inaugurated the Cyrus R. Vance Tribute to honor
Cyrus Vance's vision, accomplishment, and
integrity in government. Each year since then, the
Vance Tribute has recognized a notable public
figure who exemplifies the legacy of Cyrus Vance,
and who has made the New York State Court
system more efficient, fair and accessible to all.**

Cyrus Vance set an exemplary standard for public service throughout his career. He served as United States Secretary of State, Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, President of the City Bar Association, and was a Partner at Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett, LLP. He also served as Chair of Modern Court from 1986 to 1990 and was tireless in his efforts to reform the New York State Court system. Among his many successes was promoting the implementation of merit selection for New York State's highest court, producing the nationally renowned Court of Appeals.

Cyrus Vance, Jr., District Attorney for New York County and a former member of the Modern Courts' Board of Directors will introduce our honoree, but I would like to make a few brief remarks about our honoree.

Eric T. Schneiderman, who was elected the 65th Attorney General of New York State in November 2010, is the highest ranking law enforcement officer for the State, responsible for representing New York and its residents in legal matters. He has worked to restore the public's faith in its public and private sector institutions by focusing on public integrity, economic justice, social justice and environmental protection.

Attorney General Schneiderman created a new "Taxpayer Protection Bureau" to root out fraud and return money stolen from New York taxpayers at no additional cost to the state; bolstered the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, which has recovered tens of millions taxpayers' dollars; and expanded his office's authority to investigate public corruption involving taxpayer funds by partnering with the state Comptroller. The Attorney General also has taken a leading role in the national fight for a fair mortgage settlement for homeowners, holding banks accountable for their role in the foreclosure crisis; joined a lawsuit challenging AT&T's proposed acquisition of T-

Mobile for potential anti-competitive impacts on consumers and businesses statewide; sued federal regulators to force an environmental impact review of proposed gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin; and challenged the Indian Point nuclear power plant's practices related to high-level radioactive waste storage, earthquake preparedness and fire safety.

Before becoming Attorney General, he was a leading reformer in the State Senate where he sponsored sweeping ethics reforms and the toughest law in the nation to root out fraud against taxpayers, as well as chairing the

committee to expel a corrupt senator for the first time in modern history.

We are delighted that he will accept this year's Cyrus R. Vance award.

I would now like to ask Cy to come up and introduce Attorney General Schneiderman, and share with us his thoughts about his father's vision of public service.