

# New York Law



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## NEWS

### In Brief

#### **New York City Bar to Receive ABA's Pro Bono Award**

The Association of the Bar of the City of New York will receive the 2002 Harrison Tweed Award today during the American Bar Association's annual conference in Washington, D.C. The award is presented each year to bar associations that have made extraordinary efforts to improve the availability of pro bono services. The City Bar was nominated by the Bar Association of San Francisco for aiding families and small businesses affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

#### **Pataki Vetoes Taxpayer Rights Bill**

A taxpayer rights bill that would have imposed new requirements on state and city investigators looking at possible criminal offenses has been vetoed by Governor George E. Pataki. The bill would have afforded taxpayers the right to be informed from the start that the matter is a criminal probe and not a civil audit, among other things. The governor said he was concerned the measure would unreasonably impede investigations. The bill was opposed by both the state Department of Taxation and Finance and the New York City Mayor's Office.

#### **Contractor Charged with Pocketing Workers' Wages**

A construction contractor was arraigned in Bronx Supreme Court yesterday on charges that he stole \$245,000 from the New York City Housing Authority by pocketing money that should have been paid to 17 masons hired for a project at a Bronx public housing complex. Azam Ali Chaudhry paid nothing to two workers and failed to pay prevailing wages to 15 others, the state attorney general's office said.

#### **Back Taxes Take Back Seat to Ramp in ADA Case**

A Northern District federal judge has refused to let the City of Syracuse off the hook in a peculiar Americans with Disabilities Act case. In *Kennedy v. Fitzgerald*, 00-CV-0132, a wheelchair-user is seeking access to a local ice cream shop but a single concrete step at the store's entrance stands in his way. The plaintiff claims a ramp is required under the ADA, but the city has refused to issue a building permit to

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