

Peter D. Coddington—Bronx County District Attorney’s Office

Peter Coddington joined the Office of the Bronx County District Attorney in 1979 as an Assistant District Attorney assigned to the Appeals Bureau, and, in 1986, became Chief of the Appeals Bureau. In 1993, he was promoted to the post of Chief Appellate Attorney, where he remained until August of 1998, when he left the Office to represent New York City Police Officers in disciplinary and criminal defense matters. In July of 2000, he returned to the Bronx County District Attorney’s Office as Chief Appellate Attorney.

During his career, Mr. Coddington has argued over one hundred and fifty criminal cases in various appellate courts, including thirty-six cases before the New York Court of Appeals and two before the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Coddington has litigated numerous precedent-setting appeals, including the *People v. Juwana Wrotten*, which upheld a trial court’s authority to use televised testimony in a criminal trial, and the *People v. Mazin Assi*, which involved the fire bombing of a synagogue and established that the New York hate crime statute is applicable to acts directed at property as well as persons.

At the trial level, Mr. Coddington was part of the trial team in the successful prosecution of the *People v. Luis Garcia and Jose Cosme Pizarro*, a quintuple homicide, and then he successfully defended both convictions in the appellate courts. Mr. Coddington also conducted the Frye hearing in the *People v. Joseph Castro*, which helped to establish the scientific criteria for the admission of DNA evidence in New York and served as the framework for the admission of DNA evidence nationwide. Mr. Coddington then served as Chair of the DNA subcommittee of Legislative Committee of the New York District Attorney’s Association, and in that capacity assisted in enacting the statutory framework that controls the collection and use of DNA evidence in New York.

In recognition of the skill and commitment that Peter Coddington brings to cases of the utmost importance and sensitivity at both the trial and appellate levels, I am honored to present him with the Dewey Medal.