



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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U.S. ATTORNEY MICHAEL J. GARCIA RESIGNS

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, 47, today announced his resignation effective December 1, 2008. Upon Mr. GARCIA's resignation, LEV L. DASSIN, 43, the Deputy United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, will serve as the Acting United States Attorney.

Mr. GARCIA, a graduate of Binghamton University, the College of William and Mary, and Albany Law School of Union University, first served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York from 1992 to 2001. For his work on a number of high-profile terrorism cases as an Assistant United States Attorney, Mr. GARCIA was twice awarded the Department of Justice's Exceptional Service award (the Department's highest honor) as well as the Distinguished Service award. Mr. GARCIA then served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement until 2002 when he was appointed Acting Commissioner of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. Upon the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, Mr. GARCIA became the first Assistant Secretary of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In September 2005, he returned to the Southern District of New York as the Senate-confirmed United States Attorney.

During his tenure as United States Attorney, Mr. GARCIA served on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee and was the chair of its Subcommittee on Terrorism and National Security. He was also a member of the President's Corporate Fraud Task Force.

Mr. GARCIA plans to join a private law firm in New York City.