

# NYPD's Adoption of Iris Scanning Technology may Violate Civil Liberties says Top New York Lawyer David Perelman

**The New York Police Department starts using iris scans on suspects, a move questioned by top New York Lawyers at the Perelman Firm.**

**NEW YORK, NEW YORK** — November 25, 2010 – In a move questioned by the New York Civil Liberties Union and some of New York's top lawyers, the New York Police Department is now using machines to photograph and scan the irises of prisoners as they pass through New York Central Booking. The department claims that this new high-tech identification program is part of a failsafe measure meant to prevent escapes as suspects move through New York's complex and winding court system.

Individuals deeply concerned with civil liberties and privacy, like New York top lawyer David Perelman, are uneasy with new regime of personal data collection.

"The NYPD can now photograph the irises of suspects arrested for any reason and they implemented this without any legislative oversight or public discourse," said David Perelman. "There are also no reports on how authorities plan to protect this collected biometric data from misuse."

News of the initiative was first released late last week. Civil libertarians and privacy advocates say the collecting and storing of this data could "put innocent people under permanent suspicion."

"This move by the NYPD is encroaching on civil liberties," top New York lawyer Perelman said. "This type of data collecting is not authorized by any New York statute. Collecting fingerprints is specifically allowed. DNA evidence has had more legislative debate and its usage is only limited to certain types of cases."

A legal review by the NYPD had determined that legislative authorization was not necessary despite the fact that the department's collection of electronic data has been tainted with controversy as recently as this summer. The department was forced to stop electronic storage of names and addresses of people stopped under the stop-and-frisk program but not charged or arrested.

"A new state law was needed to stop the NYPD then, and that may be what we need again now," concluded Perelman. "This new data collection has the potential to lead to some serious violations of civil liberties."

About David Perecman and The Perecman Firm, PLLC:

For the past 30 years, the New York scaffolding accident attorneys, personal injury, auto, construction accident, and medical malpractice attorneys at The Perecman Firm, PLLC have championed all types of cases for scaffolding accidents and construction accidents. David Perecman, founder of the Firm, is a Board Director and the past Secretary and Treasurer of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association (NYSTLA) and a chair of its Labor Law Committee. Mr. Perecman's achievements have brought him recognition as an Honoree in the National Law Journal's Hall of Fame, in New York Magazine's "The Best Lawyers in America" and The New York Times Magazine "New York Super Lawyers, Metro Edition" for the years 2007-2010.

The Firm has recovered millions of dollars for its clients. Among the more recent victories, Mr. Perecman won a \$15 million verdict\* for a construction accident, a \$5.35 million dollar verdict\*\* for an automobile accident, and a \$40 million dollar structured settlement for medical malpractice.

\*later settled while on appeal for \$7.940 million

\*\* later settled for \$3.5 million

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