



2016 Citizens Union Awards Dinner Honorees



John A. Catsimatidis, *New York Leadership Award*

John Catsimatidis is the Chairman and CEO of the Red Apple Group, which is primarily an energy company with holdings in oil refining and bio fuels, retail petroleum products, convenience stores, real estate, aviation, and supermarkets, plus investments in both medical and industrial technology. Catsimatidis hosts a very popular radio program, CatsRoundtable. The program airs on Sunday mornings on radio stations covering the entire Northeast corridor of the United States. The program has become the number one program in its time slot. In 2013, Catsimatidis sought the Republican nomination for Mayor of New York City. Starting as a relatively unknown businessman, Catsimatidis finished second with 41% of the vote against an establishment candidate. Catsimatidis was honored by the Greek government this week, September 1, 2016, as Greece issued a postage stamp bearing Catsimatidis image and an inspirational script. Catsimatidis is married to Margo Catsimatidis. They have adult children Andrea Catsimatidis and John Jr., both work with their father in the business.



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Verna Eggleston, *Civil Leadership Award*

Verna Eggleston has led the Women’s Economic Development initiatives at Bloomberg Philanthropies since the inception of the program in 2007.

Prior to joining Bloomberg Philanthropies, Verna served as the Commissioner for New York City’s Human Resources Administration (HRA) for the Bloomberg Administration. She was the longest serving Commissioner of the agency, serving in this role from 2002 to 2007, and was the first Commissioner appointed to the position twice by

the same sitting Mayor. Under her leadership, HRA developed “We Care”, a Mayoral initiative which received the 2008 Innovation award from the United States Department of Labor. Verna also served for 12 years under the Administrations of Mayors Ed Koch and David Dinkins, working on many social issues including opening the first facility for infants with AIDS, to being appointed Deputy Commissioner for the Administration for Children’s Services.

During her leave from City government, she served as the Executive Director of the Hetrick-Martin Institute, home of the Harvey Milk High School. While there, she met Mike Bloomberg who sought her advice on social services issues in New York and joined his first campaign for Mayor. Verna received a Master’s Degree in policy as a Mayor’s Scholar from the New School for Social Research. She was named one of the 100 Black Executives by Black Enterprise magazine, and received the Arthur Ashe award for social development. She presented her work on social reform before Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma of South Africa, and the Presidents of Congo and Rwanda. She worked with Oprah Winfrey and the Governor of Illinois on legislation against child abuse, and Attorney General Janet Reno on hate crimes.



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Harlan Levy, *Public Service Award*

Harlan Levy is a preeminent lawyer in New York for governmental investigations and litigation, business litigation, and white collar criminal defense. He has been a partner in Boies, Schiller & Flexner from 2000-2010 and 2015 to the present. He served from January 1, 2011 through 2015 as Chief Deputy Attorney of the State of New York. Mr. Levy oversaw many of that office's top matters as the second-ranking official under Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. His return to private practice in 2015 was noted by leading publications such as *The New York Times* (see "Harlan Levy, Schneiderman's Deputy, is Leaving Attorney General's Office," September 16, 2015). Earlier in his career he served as an Assistant DA in New York County under District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, and he is a member of that office's trial advocacy faculty. He is the author of a "superb" (*Wall Street Journal*) and "riveting" (*Publishers' Weekly*) popular book about the use of DNA in the courtroom published by Basic Books/Harper Collins. Mr. Levy is President-Elect of the Federal Bar Council Inn of Court and former Chair of the Council on Criminal Justice of the New York City Bar Association. He received the 2016 John J. McCloy Award from the Fund for Modern Courts. He is a graduate of Amherst College, where he received the Psi Upsilon or "First Citizen of the College" award, and Columbia Law School. He clerked for Judge Leonard Moore of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

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The Honorable Richard Ravitch, *New York Visionary Award*

Richard Ravitch, a former New York State Lieutenant Governor, is a lawyer, businessman, author, and public official who has been engaged in the private and public sectors for more than 50 years. He began his career in the construction business as a principal of the HRH Construction Corporation, where he was responsible, among other things, for supervising the development, financing and building of over 45,000 units of affordable housing in New York, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and other locations. In 1975, he was appointed by Governor Hugh Carey to serve as Chairman of the New York State Urban Development Corporation a financing and development agency with 30,000 dwelling units under construction, which had become insolvent and faced the first municipal bankruptcy since the 1930's. Later in 1975 and during the following year Mr. Ravitch assisted New York City and State officials in resolving the City's defaults. In 1979, Mr. Ravitch was appointed Chairman and CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Mr. Ravitch completely reorganized the MTA, developed a long-term capital plan and budget for a system-wide upgrading of operating equipment, roadbed and signal capabilities, and designed the financing plan for such improvements. Following his MTA service, Mr. Ravitch led an effort to recapitalize The Bowery Savings Bank, once the nation's largest mutual savings bank, involving its acquisition from FDIC by an investor group and his serving as Chairman and CEO. Subsequently, Mr. Ravitch was retained by the owners of the Major League Baseball clubs to serve as President of the Player Relations Committee to advise them on the creation of a revenue-sharing plan and proposal to the players. In 1999, Congress created the Millennial Housing Commission to examine the federal government's role in meeting the nation's growing affordable housing challenges. Mr. Ravitch was appointed to serve as Co-Chair of the Commission which led a diverse group to rethink America's affordable housing policy. The author of *So Much to Do: A Full Life of Business, Politics, and Confronting Fiscal Crises* (Public Affairs, 2014), Mr. Ravitch recently served as an advisor in the Detroit bankruptcy and also co-chaired the State Budget Crisis Task Force with former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul A. Volcker. He is a director of the Volcker Alliance, a nonprofit founded in 2013 by Mr. Volcker to address the challenge of effective execution of public policy and help rebuild public trust in government. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Columbia College, Mr. Ravitch also received his LLB from Yale University School of Law.

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Lally Weymouth, *Civil Society Builder Award*

Lally Weymouth has been writing on foreign affairs and conducting interviews with foreign leaders for over twenty five years from her base in New York city. Recently, she conducted the first foreign interview with President Tsai Ing-Wen of Taiwan. Last June, Brazil's new President Michel Temer gave Lally Weymouth his first U.S. interview. Argentina's new President, Mauricio Macri granted her his first U.S. interview last February.

Last November, Lally Weymouth travelled to Myanmar to interview Daw Aung San Suu Kyi following her victory in the elections in that country. Lally Weymouth did the first interview with Saddam Hussein in 1984. She interviewed Colonel Muammar Qaddafi in his tent in Libya in 2003. Since that time she has interviewed most Israeli and Arab leaders -- from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to President al-Sissi of Egypt. Lally Weymouth belongs to the Council on Foreign Relations and the Economic Club of New York.



2016 Citizens Union Awards Dinner Special Recognition



Peter J.W. Sherwin, *Citizens Union Chairman's Award*

Peter J.W. Sherwin is a partner in the Litigation Department and head of the International Arbitration Group. Peter's practice focuses on acting as counsel in complex cross-border commercial disputes, often involving a joint venture, a licensing or distribution relationship, or an acquisition, most of which are resolved in international arbitration and the rest in federal and state courts in the United States. He has significant pharmaceutical, lodging, real estate, and sports industry experience and, when necessary, regularly takes cases through trial or arbitral hearings. Peter also regularly serves as an arbitrator in proceedings before the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR). He is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law (J.D) and Washington & Lee University (B.S. and B.A).

In addition to his work at Proskauer, Peter has ably and effectively served as the Chair of the Citizens Union and Citizens Union Foundation Board since 2008 and is stepping down as Chair this fall. During this time he saw the organization through its first strategic planning process, as well as its rebranding effort. Adding to that legacy of civic service, Peter also served as a member of Mayor Bloomberg's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary and on the Executive Committees of the New York State Bar Association and the New York City Bar Association.