CITIZENS UNION 125+YEARS

Gotham Greats Celebration

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 The Metropolitan Club



The Durst Organization is pleased to join Citizens Union in honoring

Deborah Archer Richard Buery Eric R. Dinallo Ed Skyler Elizabeth Velez



Program

Welcome

Randy Mastro

Chair, Citizens Union

Remarks

Betsy Gotbaum

Executive Director, Citizens Union

Gotham Greats Award Presentation

Elizabeth Velez

President, Velez Organization

Gotham Greats Award Presentation

Richard Buery

CEO. Robin Hood Foundation

and

Deborah Archer

Professor of Clinical Law & Associate Dean, NYU Experiential Education & Clinical Programs

Gotham Greats Award Presentation

Eric R. Dinallo

Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton

Gotham Greats Award Presentation

Ed Skyler

Executive Vice President for Enterprise Services & Public Affairs, Citi

Closing Remarks

Betsy Gotbaum

1

For over 125 years Citizens Union, a nonpartisan organization representing and engaging New Yorkers, promotes reforms to make our city and state government more effective, transparent and accountable.

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Welcome!

Thank you for helping us celebrate as we move into the next 125 years of Citizens Union's work for reform of City and State government. Our 2023 Gotham Greats are an impressive group honored tonight for their significant contributions to the civic life of all New York.

They are Deborah Archer, Richard Buery, Eric Dinallo, Ed Skyler, and Elizabeth Velez.

The work of Citizens Union and Citizens Union Foundation has continued, focused on the issues of importance to New Yorkers. Our recent priority efforts include:

- We continue to make recommendations on independent redistricting processes for both NYS and NYC.
- We are advocating for on-cycle, even-year elections to align city elections with federal elections for increased voter turnout and cost savings.
- In 2023, the Governor signed legislation for easier voting: enhancing voter access, mail-in voting, facilitating registration, and other changes we have long promoted. We continue to press to remove two-party control of NYS election processes and boards.
- We seek independent ethics commissions and oversight in both city and state government, including for police accountability and discipline matters.
- We are reimagining Gotham Gazette from a daily to a periodic vital source of in-depth NYC/NYS policy journalism. Stay tuned!

We could do none of this—making a positive impact on New York government—without your support. I thank you on behalf of Citizens Union and Citizens Union Foundation's Boards of Directors and our hardworking staff.

Betsy Gotbaum

Executive Director

Bt God

Past Citizens Union Honorees

2022	John Avlon and Margaret Hoove Searchlight Award Douglas & Wendy Eisenberg Margaret Hoover Loretta Lynch Tali Weinstein
2021	Barry Berke Lisa Blau Eleanor Randolph
2020	Richard Edelman

2020 Richard Edelman Claudia Romo Edelman Robbie Kaplan

2019 Errol Louis William J. Mulrow Mary Jo White Harry J. Wilson

2018 Michael J. Dowling Caitlin Halligan Jeh Johnson Suri Kasirer

2017 Preet Bharara Tonio Burgos Rev. Calvin Butts Judith Livingston and Thomas Moore Scott Rechler

2016 John A. Catsimatidis Verna Eggleston Harlan Levy The Honorable Richard Ravitch Lally Graham Weymouth

2015 Mylan L. Denerstein Adam Flatto Haeda B. Mihaltses Stephen P. Younger

2014 Michael A. Cardozo Michele Hirshman Dr. Herbert Pardes Hon. William Thompson, Jr.

2013 Jay L. Kriegel, Robert F. Waaner, Jr. Award Hon, Michael R. Bloomberg Faith E. Gay Matthew Goldstein John Sexton

2012 Adrian Benepe. Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Dr. Antonio M. Gotto, Jr. Betsy & Kenneth Plevan Jason Stewart

ver, 2011 Gary P. Naftalis, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Monica Azare Sheila L. Birnbaum Julie Menin Rudy Washington

2010 Dr. Frank J. Macchiarola, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Lisa M. Caputo Hon. David N. Dinkins Randy M. Mastro

2009 Richard J. Davis, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Peter J. Beshar Hon, Edward I, Koch Lisa M. Quiroz

2008 Agnes Gund, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Janno Lieber Hon, Basil A. Paterson Dennison Young

2007 Patricia M. Hynes & Roy L. Reardon, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Alexandra Lebenthal Diana L. Taylor

2006 Richard Kahan. Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Partnership for New York City Elizabeth F. Stribling Hon, Peter F. Vallone, Sr.

Ogden N. Lewis, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Hon. Peter J. Powers Kevin M. Rampe

2004 Robert M. Kaufman, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Tim and Nina Zagat

2003 John D. Feerick, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Roy and Barbara Goodman

2002 George S. Kaufman David L. Mitchell

Fire Commissioner and the NYC Fire Department, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award John Castle Terry Lane

2000 Nathan Leventhal, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Bruce Ratner Alair Townsend

1999 Judy Barker The Durst Family

1998 Michael Jordan Martin Segal

Amalia V. Betanzos. Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award Anne and Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff Sy Sternberg

1996 John and Mary Lindsay Richard D. Parsons

Peter M. Lehrer 1995 Barbara Scott Preiskel

Michael R. Bloomberg

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Deborah Archer

Professor of Clinical Law & Associate Dean NYU Experiential Education & Clinical Programs



Deborah Archer, a notable scholar, educator, and leader in the fields of Civil Rights and Racial Justice, is receiving the Citizens Union Gotham Greats Award this evening for her lifelong commitment to equal justice and her public service.

Deborah Archer is Associate Dean of Experiential Education & Clinical Programs and Co-Faculty Director of the Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at New York University School of Law. In 2021, she became President of the American Civil Liberties Union. She is recognized nationally as an expert on civil liberties, civil rights, and racial justice. As an award-winning teacher and legal scholar, Ms. Archer's articles have appeared in leading law reviews. Before full-time teaching, she worked as an attorney with the ACLU and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., where she litigated voting rights, employment discrimination, and school desegregation. Ms. Archer previously served as Chair of the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board, the nation's oldest and largest police oversight agency. She serves on the boards of the ACLU, the New York Civil Liberties Union, and the National Center for Law and Economic Justice.

Ms. Archer has a BA from Smith College and a JD from Yale Law School. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Richard Buery and their two sons.

Richard Buery

CEO, Robin Hood Foundation



Richard Buery is receiving the Citizens Union Gotham Greats Award this evening for his leadership promoting equal opportunities for families. His exemplary work has focused on fighting poverty through government and non-profit positions where his creative initiatives advanced quality education for all young New Yorkers.

Since 2021, Richard Buery has served as CEO of Robin Hood, one of the nation's leading anti-poverty organizations. He co-chaired Governor Hochul's "New" New York Panel for reimagining post-COVID opportunity for New York City and State. He has extensive experience as a leader, manager, and social innovator within both local government and New York's vast social service nonprofit sector. Before joining Robin Hood, Mr. Buery led the Achievement First charter school network. From 2014 to 2018, he served as Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives for the City of New York, where he was the key architect of the City's Pre-K for All initiative. Mr. Buery was President and CEO of the Children's Aid Society from 2009 to 2014 before his work as Deputy Mayor.

A first-generation Panamanian American, Mr. Buery was born and raised in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School at 16, earned an AB from Harvard University, and a law degree from Yale University. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Deborah Archer and their two sons.

Eric R. Dinallo

Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton



Eric Dinallo is receiving the Citizens Union Gotham Greats Award this evening for his substantial government and pro bono service and his leadership and expertise in insurance and governance.

Mr. Dinallo is Chair of the Debevoise & Plimpton insurance regulatory practice and a member of its Financial Institutions and White Collar & Regulatory Defense Groups in New York, since rejoining the firm in 2020. He is widely recognized in professional journals as a leader and preeminent advisor to industry on insurance and regulatory matters.

He was Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Guardian Life Insurance Company of America until 2020. From 2007-2009, he was the New York State Superintendent of Insurance, with key roles in restructuring AIG after the financial crisis and negotiations about the World Trade Center. Prior to 2007 he served in the NYS Attorney General's office and was an Assistant D.A. He ran for NYS Attorney General in the 2010 primary and has served on various state government Transition Committees. Since 2009, Mr. Dinallo has been an adjunct professor of Business Ethics at NYU Stern School of Business focusing on markets, ethics, and the law. He is Chairman of the American Institute for Stuttering.

Mr. Dinallo earned a B.A. from Vassar College, an M.A. from Duke University School of Public Policy, and his J.D. from NYU Law School. He lives in New York with his wife, Patricia Almodovar and their two children.

Ed Skyler

Executive Vice President for Enterprise Services & Public Affairs, Citi



Edward Skyler, Executive Vice President and Head of Enterprise Services and Public Affairs at Citi, is receiving the Citizens Union Gotham Greats Award this evening for his accomplished service in NYC government and his work in the non-profit sector to enhance life in New York City.

At Citi, Mr. Skyler oversees the functions that shape the reputation of Citi, including Communications, Government Affairs, Marketing, Sustainability/ESG, and Community Investing and has responsibility for managing certain global operations. He also shares leadership of Investor Relations and Regulatory Affairs. He chairs the Board of the Citi Foundation.

He was in Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's administration from 2002 to 2010, initially as Press Secretary and Communications Director and finally as NYC Deputy Mayor for Operations. He oversaw four consecutive balanced and on-time City budgets; negotiated legislation to reform lobbying and "pay-to-play" practices; and spearheaded critical initiatives such as the overhaul of the City's 911 system and its sustainability agenda. Prior to joining the Bloomberg Administration, he worked in the Corporate Communications group of Bloomberg LP.

Mr. Skyler is committed to civic service. He served as Chairman of the Citizens Budget Commission, is an Executive Committee Member of the New York Police & Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund, and is a Trustee of The Paley Center for Media.

He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from the Fordham University School of Law



President, Velez Organization



Elizabeth Velez is receiving a Citizens Union Gotham Greats Award this evening to recognize her extensive public service and preeminence in the New York construction industry as President and principal of The Velez Organization.

The Velez Organization is one of the most successful construction services firms in the region. Completed under Ms. Velez's direction are 600+ units of affordable housing in the Bronx and Harlem and significant educational, healthcare, and large-scale projects throughout New York. She is a sought-after advocate by numerous public and private institutions on economic development, legislative issues, and the building industry, a frequent speaker, and recipient of awards for her leadership in Construction, public service and philanthropy.

Ms. Velez is on the Board of the MTA and on its six-person Traffic Mobility Review Board, recommending the structure for congestion pricing. She was Commissioner of the NYC Property Tax Reform Commission and was appointed in 2022 to the NYC Economic Development Corporation. She served on both NYC and NYS COVID pandemic advisory and recovery boards and the NYS Stands with Puerto Rico Recovery & Rebuilding Committee and the NY Memorial Commission for Hurricane Maria. Ms. Velez was 2020-2021 Chair of the New York Building Congress and now chairs its Council of Presidents.

She is a Trustee on many non-profit boards: the New York City Police Foundation; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York; Boricua College; Non-Traditional Employment for Women (NEW); Youthbridge; ACE Mentor-NY: and the Hofstra University School of Business.

This month, Ms. Velez is being inducted into the National Academy of Construction.

Ms. Velez holds a B.A. and an M.B.A. from Hofstra University.

Celebrating the Next 125 Years of Citizens Union Championing Good Government for New Yorkers

Democracy is Our Business!

Congratulations to the Gotham Greats awardees for their service to our City, State and Country.

Gratitude to the Citizens Union Board of Directors, the talented staff, and supporters who make it all possible.

Judi Rappoport Blitzer

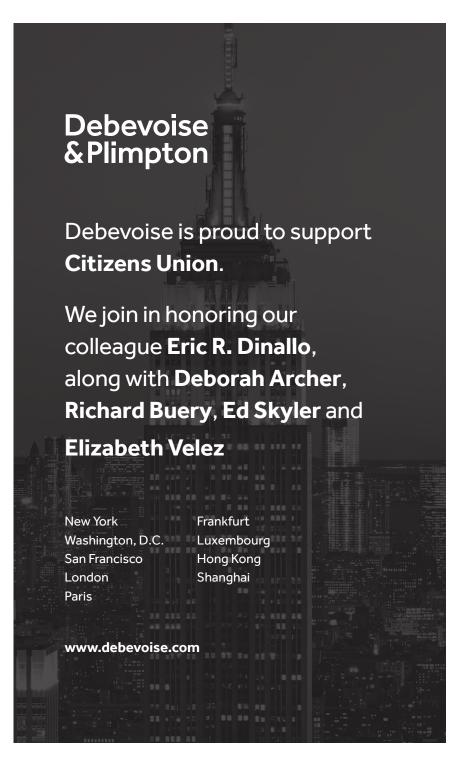
Vice Chair, Citizens Union Foundation

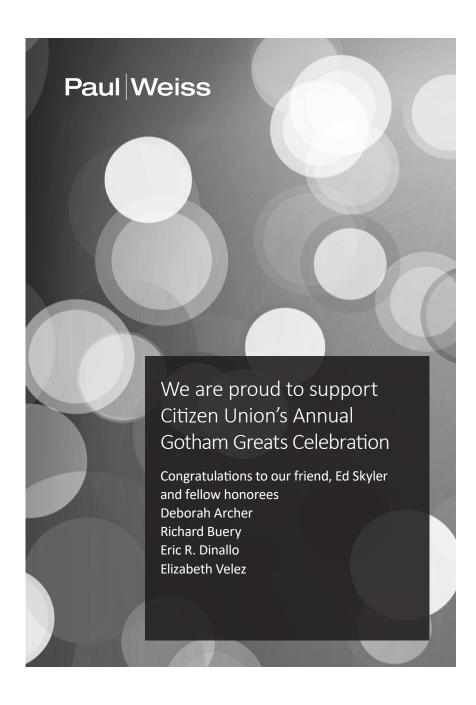
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Congratulations to this evening's honorees, especially our friend **Ed Skyler** for his tireless commitment to bettering New York.





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Congratulations and thank you to tonight's honorees for your tremendous contributions to New York City.



MY CONGRATULATIONS AND SUPPORT TO

BETSY GOTBAUM

AND THE HONOREES

DEBORAH ARCHER
RICHARD BUERY
ERIC R. DINALLO
ED SKYLER
ELIZABETH VELEZ

WHO HAVE DONE SO MUCH FOR NEW YORK

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE

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Congratulations to this year's esteemed honorees in improving City and State civic life.



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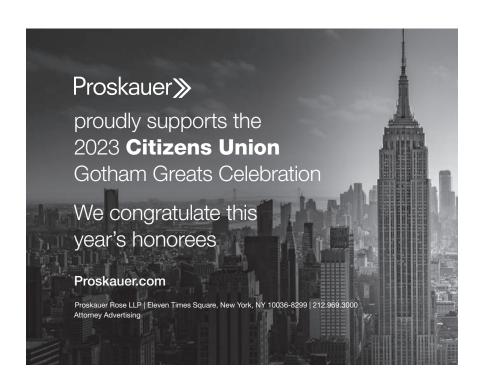


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We proudly support the 2023 Citizens Union Gotham Greats Celebration and join in congratulating all of this year's honorees.

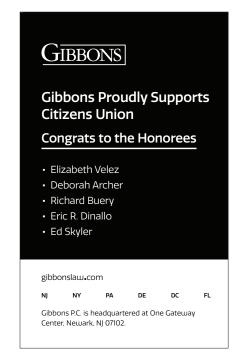
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Since 1970 I have served on Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee. Thank you to CU's knowledgeable non-partisan, dedicated volunteers and very professional support staff.

Joseph Gapper

Citizens Union Member since 1970



Leading the Way

King & Spalding proudly supports Citizens Union and its chair, our partner Randy Mastro, in furthering its agenda of advocating for good government in New York. We join in congratulating all of this year's Gotham Greats Award honorees:

Deborah Archer

Ed Skyler

Richard Buery

Elizabeth Velez

Eric R. Dinallo

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for the love of

empowering all New Yorkers.

for the love of progress

Congratulations to Edward Skyler,
Citi's Executive Vice President, on his Gotham Greats
recognition by the Citizens Union.
We celebrate Ed's contributions to the civic life of
all New Yorkers through his longstanding leadership
and commitment to our city.

