



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

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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www.citizensunion.org

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

Past Citizens Union Honorees

2022	John Avlon and Margaret Hoover, <i>Searchlight Award</i> Douglas & Wendy Eisenberg Margaret Hoover Loretta Lynch Tali Weinstein	2011	Gary P. Naftalis, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Monica Azare Sheila L. Birnbaum Julie Menin Rudy Washington	1999	Judy Barker The Durst Family
2021	Barry Berke Lisa Blau Eleanor Randolph	2010	Dr. Frank J. Macchiarola, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Lisa M. Caputo Hon. David N. Dinkins Randy M. Mastro	1998	Michael Jordan Martin Segal
2020	Richard Edelman Claudia Romo Edelman Robbie Kaplan	2009	Richard J. Davis, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Peter J. Beshar Hon. Edward I. Koch Lisa M. Quiroz	1997	Amalia V. Betanzos, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Anne and Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff Sy Sternberg
2019	Errol Louis William J. Mulrow Mary Jo White Harry J. Wilson	2008	Agnes Gund, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Janno Lieber Hon. Basil A. Paterson Dennison Young	1996	John and Mary Lindsay Richard D. Parsons
2018	Michael J. Dowling Caitlin Halligan Jeh Johnson Suri Kasirer	2007	Patricia M. Hynes & Roy L. Reardon, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Alexandra Lebenthal Diana L. Taylor	1995	Peter M. Lehrer Barbara Scott Preiskel
2017	Preet Bharara Tonio Burgos Rev. Calvin Butts Judith Livingston and Thomas Moore Scott Rechler	2006	Richard Kahan, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Partnership for New York City Elizabeth F. Stribling Hon. Peter F. Vallone, Sr.	1994	Michael R. Bloomberg
2016	John A. Catsimatidis Verna Eggleston Harlan Levy The Honorable Richard Ravitch Lally Graham Weymouth	2005	Ogden N. Lewis, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Hon. Peter J. Powers Kevin M. Rampe	1993	Harry P. Kamen Michael I. Sovern
2015	Mylan L. Denerstein Adam Flatto Haeda B. Mihaltses Stephen P. Younger	2004	Robert M. Kaufman, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Tim and Nina Zagat	1992	Rev. Joseph A. O'Hare, S.J. John L. Tishman
2014	Michael A. Cardozo Michele Hirshman Dr. Herbert Pardes Hon. William Thompson, Jr.	2003	John D. Feerick, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Roy and Barbara Goodman	1990	Allen Born F.A.O. Schwarz, Jr.
2013	Jay L. Kriegel, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg Faith E. Gay Matthew Goldstein John Sexton	2002	George S. Kaufman David L. Mitchell	1988	Reuben Mark Arlene Mark
2012	Adrian Benepe, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Dr. Antonio M. Gotto, Jr. Betsy & Kenneth Plevan Jason Stewart	2001	Fire Commissioner and the NYC Fire Department, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> John Castle Terry Lane	1987	John J. Phelan, Jr.
		2000	Nathan Leventhal, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Bruce Ratner Alair Townsend	1986	William S. Woodside
				1985	Delbert C. Staley
				1984	Gov. Hugh L. Carey Arthur Hauspurg Donald B. Marron
				1983	Peter G. Peterson
				1982	John J. Creedon Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke and Mrs. Robin Chandler Duke
				1981	Preston Robert Tisch
				1980	Carl Spielvogel
				1979	Walter E. Hanson Peat Marwick
				1978	Thomas S. Carroll
				1977	Howard L. Clark
				1975	Andrew Heiskell and Marian Sulzberger Heiskell
				1974	Amyas Ames
				1973	Alton G. Marshall

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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.



Elizabeth Velez

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.

Debevoise & Plimpton

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Citizens Union.

We join in honoring our
colleague **Eric R. Dinallo**,
along with **Deborah Archer**,
Richard Buery, **Ed Skyler** and
Elizabeth Velez

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Gotham Greats Celebration

Congratulations to our friend, Ed Skyler
and fellow honorees
Deborah Archer
Richard Buery
Eric R. Dinallo
Elizabeth Velez

Standard Industries
is a proud supporter of the
Citizens Union Foundation.



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

A large, solid dark gray chevron symbol pointing upwards, framing the Standard Industries logo.

stañdard

MY CONGRATULATIONS
AND SUPPORT TO

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ED SKYLER

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WHO HAVE DONE SO MUCH
FOR NEW YORK

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE
AGNES GUND

A&E Real Estate is proud to support
the Citizens Union Gotham Greats Celebration.

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



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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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We congratulate this
year's honorees

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**Gotham is Greater because of our
Honorees!**

**We Celebrate all of the hard work
contributed by Citizens Union and all of the
2023 Gotham Greats!**

Congratulations
to our
PRESIDENT ELIZABETH VELEZ
for being honored

VELEZ
ORGANIZATION

SL Green is proud to join the
Citizens Union in honoring
2023 **Gotham Greats**
Award winner
Elizabeth Velez

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Congrats to the Honorees

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

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Gibbons P.C. is headquartered at One Gateway
Center, Newark, NJ 07102.

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

kslaw.com

**Citizens Union
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info@citizensunion.org
www.citizensunion.org**

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.

