



# **CITIZENS UNION**

## **125 YEARS**



**Gotham Greats  
125th Anniversary  
Celebration**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022  
The Metropolitan Club**

Wendy and Douglas Eisenberg  
proudly support Citizens Union.

A transparent and accountable  
government is the foundation of  
a successful City and State.

Warmest congratulations  
to our fellow honorees on your  
well-deserved recognition.

Keep up the good work!



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# Program

Welcome

**Randy Mastro**

*Chair, Citizens Union*

## 125th Anniversary Commemorative Video

Remarks

**Betsy Gotbaum**

*Executive Director, Citizens Union*

Gotham Greats Award Presentation

**Tali Farhadian Weinstein**

*Attorney & Professor*

*Former Federal & State Prosecutor*

Gotham Greats Award Presentation

**Loretta Lynch**

*Former U.S. Attorney General*

*Partner, Paul Weiss*

Gotham Greats Award Presentation

**Douglas & Wendy Eisenberg**

*Co-Founders, A&E Real Estate Holdings*

Remarks

**Hon. Robert Abrams**

*Chair, Citizens Union Foundation*

Searchlight Award Presentation

**John Avlon**

*Author; Senior Political Analyst & Anchor, CNN*

**Margaret Hoover**

*Host, PBS' Firing Line with Margaret Hoover*

Closing Remarks

**Randy Mastro**

*Chair, Citizens Union*



For 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 125 years of Citizens Union's work for reform of City and State government. This year's Gotham Greats are an impressive group honored tonight for their significant contributions to the civic life of all New York.

They are Douglas and Wendy Eisenberg, Loretta Lynch, and Tali Farhadian Weinstein.

We are proud to also present our inaugural Searchlight Award for excellence in journalism to John Avlon and Margaret Hoover.

Like many organizations, Citizens Union and Citizens Union Foundation were significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic. Yet, through it all, the work of the organization never stopped, or even paused. As we emerge from COVID's new normal and look forward to getting back into affordable office space, we continue to focus on the issues of importance to New Yorkers.

- We continue to focus on New York City Council redistricting. Citizens Union's staff trained New Yorkers from every borough to testify before the NYC Districting Commission. We continue to watch the process of City redistricting and will offer recommendations at the conclusion of the process.
- We are in the midst of looking at the benefits of on-cycle elections that would align citywide elections with federal elections for increased voter turnout and cost savings.
- We are about to start a project looking at the effects of scaffolding throughout the city.

*Gotham Gazette* and its daily Eye-Opener continue to keep New Yorkers informed with quality reporting on a wide variety of issues that impact New Yorkers.

We could do none of this without your support. As we celebrate 125 years of making a positive impact on New York government, 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

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	1997	Amalia V. Betanzos, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Anne and Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff Sy Sternberg
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	1996	John and Mary Lindsay Richard D. Parsons
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	1995	Peter M. Lehrer Barbara Scott Preiskel
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	1994	Michael R. Bloomberg
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.	1993	Harry P. Kamen Michael I. Sovern
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	1992	Rev. Joseph A. O'Hare, S.J. John L. Tishman
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	1990	Allen Born F.A.O. Schwarz, Jr.
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	1988	Reuben Mark Arlene Mark
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	1987	John J. Phelan, Jr.
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	1986	William S. Woodside
2011	Gary P. Naftalis, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Monica Azare Sheila L. Birnbaum Julie Menin Rudy Washington	2000	Nathan Leventhal, <i>Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Award</i> Bruce Ratner Alair Townsend	1985	Delbert C. Staley
		1999	Judy Barker The Durst Family	1984	Gov. Hugh L. Carey Arthur Hauspurg Donald B. Marron
		1998	Michael Jordan Martin Segal	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



## Gotham Greats Celebration Chairs

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# John Avlon

Author; Senior Political Analyst & Anchor, CNN



John Avlon is receiving the inaugural Citizens Union Searchlight Award to recognize his promotion of democracy through civic discourse, public information and the study of history.

John Avlon is an author, columnist and commentator and a senior political analyst and anchor at CNN. He was the editor-in-chief and managing director of *The Daily Beast* from 2013-2018. He is the author of the books *Lincoln and the Fight for Peace*, *Independent Nation*, *Wingnuts*, and *Washington's Farewell* as well as co-editor of the acclaimed *Deadline Artists* journalism anthologies.

Mr. Avlon served as chief speechwriter to the Mayor of New York and won the National Society of Newspaper Columnists award for best online column in 2012. He has appeared on *The Daily Show*, *Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, CNN, *Real Time with Bill Maher*, PBS, and C-Span and has spoken at the Kennedy School of Government, the Citadel, the State Department's visiting journalist program, and civic organizations around the nation.

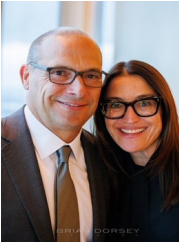
He serves on the board of Citizens Union, where he frequently hosts public programs, The Bronx Academy of Letters, and on the advisory board of the Theodore Roosevelt Association; he was appointed to the New York City Voter Assistance Advisory Committee in 2011. Mr. Avlon is a co-founder of No Labels – a group of Democrats, Republicans and Independents dedicated to the politics of problem-solving and making government work again. He earned a BA from Yale University and an MBA from Columbia University.

John Avlon lives in New York City with Margaret Hoover and their son and daughter.



# Douglas & Wendy Eisenberg

## Co-Founders, A&E Real Estate Holdings



Douglas and Wendy Eisenberg, co-founders of A&E Real Estate in 2011, are receiving the Citizens Union Gotham Greats award this evening for protecting quality neighborhood housing, their commitment to protecting families, and their philanthropic and civic leadership.

Douglas and Wendy Eisenberg have built A&E into a vertically integrated real estate management and investment firm with preeminent property management, asset management and construction capabilities.

Douglas Eisenberg, A&E Executive Chairman, has worked for the Mayor of the City of New York as well as the Borough President of The Bronx. Mr. Eisenberg currently is a member of the boards of Montefiore Hospital, New York Junior Tennis League, Randall's Island Park Alliance, Citizens Committee for New York City, and the New York Urban League.

Mr. Eisenberg holds a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from Cornell University and a JD from Brooklyn Law School.

Wendy Eisenberg, serving on the Executive, Management and Investment Committees of A&E, spearheads the property management arm, provides legal oversight, oversees A&E's staffing functions, and sets the corporate culture. Ms. Eisenberg was a member of the 18b Panel for the Appellate Division of the First Department for eight years and an Associate at Rosin and Reiniger, a family law firm, representing foster care agencies in litigation. She worked for the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children where she represented abused and neglected children and matrimonial cases.

Ms. Eisenberg graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara and Brooklyn Law School as a Robert Sparer Public Interest Fellow.



# Margaret Hoover

Host, PBS' Firing Line with Margaret Hoover



Margaret Hoover is receiving the inaugural Citizens Union Searchlight Award to recognize her promotion of democracy through engaging civic discourse.

Margaret Hoover hosts PBS' "Firing Line with Margaret Hoover," a public affairs, multi-platform program with long-form interviews of prominent people for the rigorous exchange of ideas with the guiding principle that civil discourse is a civic responsibility.

A CNN contributor, Ms. Hoover has served in The White House under President George W. Bush, in the Department of Homeland Security, on Capitol Hill and on two presidential campaigns. She is the President of American Unity Fund, a political organization focused on achieving full freedom and equality for LGBT Americans. A bestselling author, her writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Daily News, The Daily Beast, CNN.com, and FoxNews.com.

Ms. Hoover serves on the boards of Stanford University's Hoover Institution, the Hoover Presidential Foundation, the Belgian American Educational Foundation, The Markle Foundation, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Ms. Hoover has an AB degree from Bryn Mawr College.

Margaret Hoover lives in New York City with John Avlon and their son and daughter.



# Loretta Lynch

Former U.S. Attorney General

Partner, Paul Weiss



Loretta Lynch is receiving Citizens Union's Gotham Greats award this evening for her fight against corruption and her accomplished government service.

Loretta Lynch is currently a partner in the Litigation Department at Paul Weiss. She advises clients on complex government and internal investigations and high-stakes litigation matters.

Frequently retained for high-profile public advisory roles, she was a Special Advisor to the N.Y. Attorney General's Office investigation into the conduct of New York City police officers during protests after the death of George Floyd; and by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in a dispute between the Federal Defenders of New York and the Federal Bureau of Prisons regarding attorney access to incarcerated clients during the COVID-19 suspension of in-person visits at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.

Loretta Lynch served as U.S. Attorney General from 2015 to 2017, the first African-American woman to hold this office. She was US. Attorney, Eastern District of New York (1999-2002, 2010-2015); Chief Assistant to the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York (1998-99); Chief, Long Island Division, United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York (1994-1998); Deputy Chief, General Crimes Section, United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York (1992-1993); Assistant U.S. Attorney, United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York (1990-1992).

Ms. Lynch received her J.D. and her B.A. in American Literature from Harvard University. She lives in New York with her husband, Stephen Hargrove.



# Tali Weinstein

Attorney & Professor

Former Federal & State Prosecutor



Tali Farhadian Weinstein is receiving Citizens Union's Gotham Greats award this evening for her dedication to equal justice, her government service, and her philanthropic contributions focused on assisting refugees.

Tali Farhadian Weinstein is a prosecutor, professor, and criminal justice reformer. Her family came to America in 1979 as refugees, fleeing the violence and antisemitism in revolutionary Iran, so she could grow up experiencing safety, fairness, and justice. She has dedicated her career to fighting for those principles.

She was a Law Clerk of Judge Merrick B. Garland at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and at the U.S. Supreme Court for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. During the Obama administration Ms. Farhadian Weinstein worked at the U.S. Department of Justice, as Counsel to Attorney General Eric Holder and as a federal prosecutor. From 2018-2020, she served as the General Counsel of the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, a national model of progressive prosecution. She was part of the leadership team charged with implementing the office's criminal justice reform agenda and created the nation's first Post-Conviction Justice Bureau.

Ms. Farhadian Weinstein is currently a Legal Analyst for NBC News and MSNBC and is an Adjunct Professor of Law at NYU Law School. She is a Trustee of the New York Public Library and serves on the Board of Directors of the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP).

Ms. Farhadian Weinstein holds degrees from Yale College, Oxford University where she was a Rhodes Scholar, and Yale Law School. She lives in New York City with her husband, Boaz Weinstein, and three daughters.



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on its 2022 Gotham  
Greats Event and joins  
in congratulating all of  
this year's honorees

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We are proud to support the  
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Gotham Greats Celebration

Congratulations to our friend and colleague  
Loretta E. Lynch

and fellow honorees  
Doug & Wendy Eisenberg  
Tali Farhadian Weinstein  
John Avlon  
Margaret Hoover

Jenner & Block is proud to support **Citizens Union** and its mission to reform New York City and State government. Congratulations to this year's esteemed honorees, **Doug & Wendy Eisenberg, Loretta Lynch, Tali Farhadian Weinstein, John Avlon, and Margaret Hoover.**

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AND SUPPORT TO

**BETSY GOTBAUM**

AND THE HONOREES

**JOHN AVLON AND MARGARET HOOVER**

**DOUGLAS AND WENDY EISENBERG**

**LORETTA LYNCH**

**TALI FARHADIAN WEINSTEIN**

WHO HAVE DONE SO MUCH  
FOR NEW YORK

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE  
**AGNES GUND**

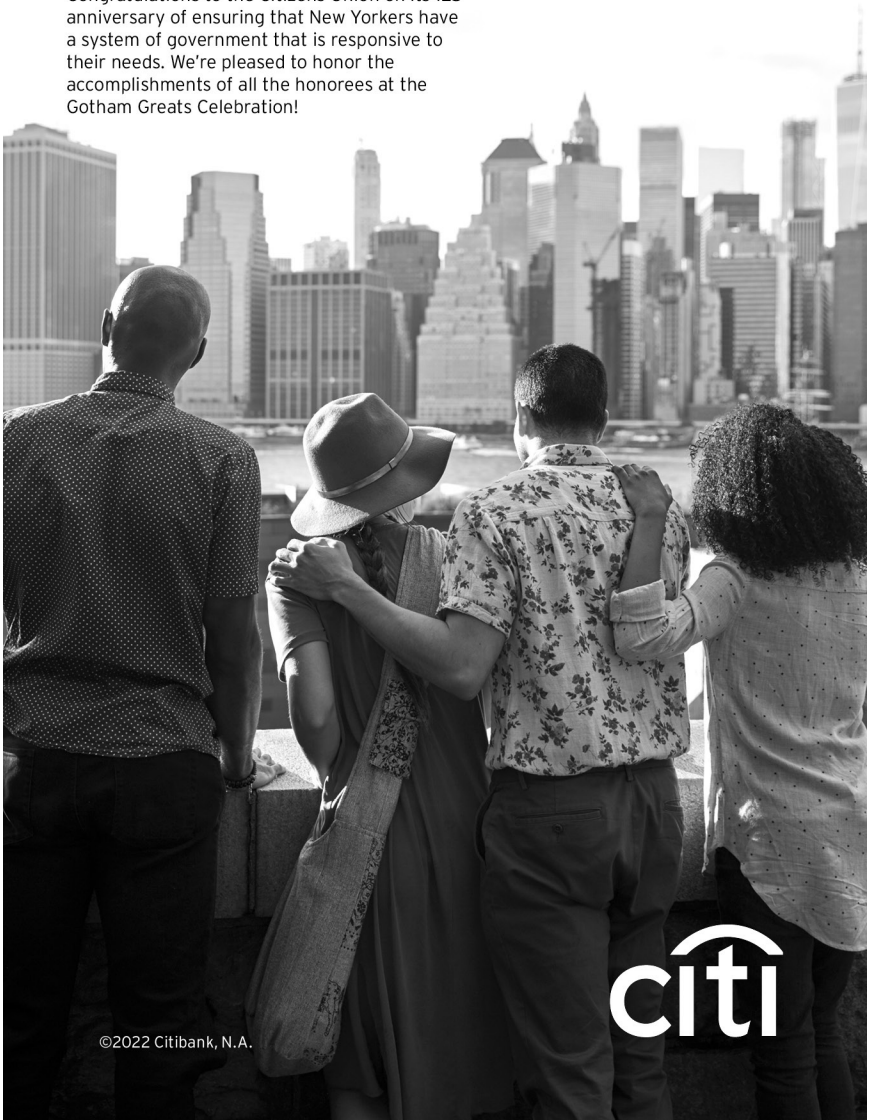


FOR THE LOVE OF

# celebrating 125 years of reform.

for the love of progress

Congratulations to the Citizens Union on its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ensuring that New Yorkers have a system of government that is responsive to their needs. We're pleased to honor the accomplishments of all the honorees at the Gotham Greats Celebration!



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***Happy Anniversary to  
Citizens Union!***

We are proud to celebrate 125 years  
of Citizens Union standing up for  
Democracy in New York.

Congratulations to the  
Gotham Greats and Searchlight  
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 Blitzner



The Durst Organization  
is pleased to join  
Citizens Union in honoring

Tali Farhadian Weinstein  
Doug & Wendy Eisenberg  
Loretta Lynch  
John Avlon  
Margaret Hoover



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Gibson Dunn is proud to support



and congratulates  
this year's honorees

## **2022 Gotham Greats Awards**

Doug & Wendy Eisenberg

Loretta Lynch

Tali Farhadian Weinstein

## **2022 Searchlight Awards**

John Avlon

Margaret Hoover

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Everyone at Bolton-St. Johns would like to send a  
warm congratulations to

## Citizens Union

for your work throughout New York  
and beyond

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Gary Naftalis

and

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

congratulate

the Gotham Great honorees.

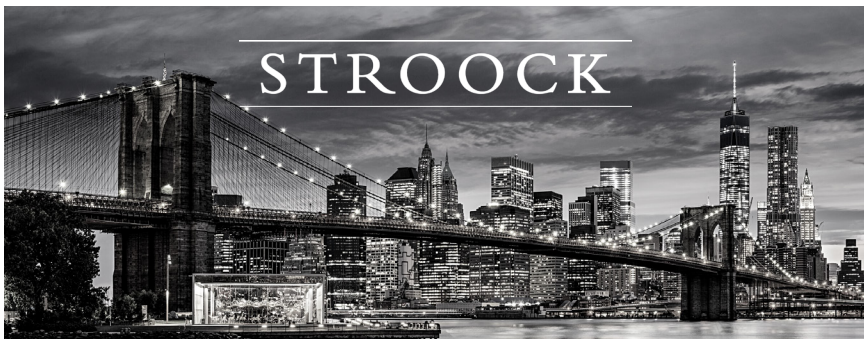
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## Citizens Union.



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We are pleased to support Citizens Union  
and celebrate the accomplishments of  
**Doug and Wendy Eisenberg**  
and all of tonight's honorees  
in improving City and State civic life.

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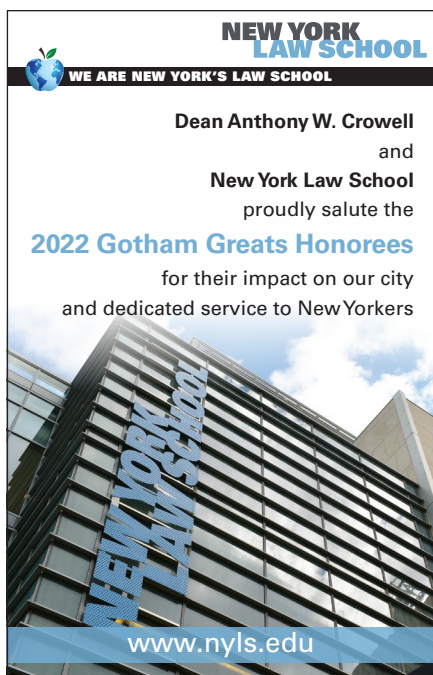
## Happy 125th Anniversary to Citizens Union

I am proud to be part of  
Citizens Union's 125th year  
of Democracy in New York

and congratulations  
to this year's Gotham Greats

Thank you to the Citizens Union  
Board of Directors and staff.

LORNA B. GOODMAN













# Leading the Way

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King & Spalding proudly supports Citizens Union. We join in congratulating all honorees and your commitment to accountability, accessibility, and the highest ethical standards.

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