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**2012 Briscoe Awards will take place on
Monday January 30th at the “21 Club”, 6pm**

For Immediate Release

1/19/2012

Emerald Isle Immigration Center will honor Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and Sandra March, Trustee of the New York City Teachers’ Retirement System at the 19th Annual Robert Briscoe Awards to be held at the “21 Club” on January 30th. The event celebrates the contribution of a member of the New York’s Jewish Community to better the lives of immigrants. Robert Briscoe, after whom the award was named, was elected the first Jewish Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1956.

Brian O’Dwyer, Esq. Chairman of the Emerald Isle said of the honorees that: “Each has contributed a great deal to immigrants in their respective areas. Sandra March has worked to educate immigrants and improve the education system. Marty Markowitz has welcomed immigrants to Brooklyn and worked with them closely throughout his career.” The event has previously honored such luminaries as Senator Charles Schumer, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Broadcaster Gabe Pressman.

Robert Briscoe was at the forefront of the movement for Irish Independence at the beginning of the Twentieth Century and played a significant role in the early days of the Irish Free State. He accompanied Eamon de Valera on his vital diplomatic mission to New York in 1919. Following the creation of Fianna Fáil he became a Member of Parliament and served until 1965, after which his seat was won by his son Ben.

The event supports the vital work of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center in assisting immigrants and supporting those on the margins of our community. Since its foundation in 1988, the Center has served the most vulnerable immigrants, providing legal services, seniors' programs and comprehensive social services to the Tri-State Area. Over its twenty-four years in operation, Emerald Isle has worked to ease the pressure of immigration and to improve the position of immigrants in the US.

Reservations for the event are required and admittance is \$125, with all net proceeds going to support the work of Emerald Isle. The reception will begin at 6pm and finish at 8pm.

To RSVP or for more information on the event and possible sponsorships contact Eoin Delap, Development Coordinator. Email: edelap@eiic.org; or phone: (718) 478 5502 ext 204.