

*Emerald Isle Immigration Center's*  
*18th Annual*

# ROBERT BRISCOE AWARDS

2011 HONOREES

*The Honorable*

**ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN**

*New York State Attorney General*

**MARC ABBOTT, Esquire**

*Senior Partner, Abbott, Reiss & Allen, P.C.*

Award ceremony

**MONDAY, MARCH 14TH 6–8PM**

**21 CLUB**

21 West 52nd Street New York City

## ABOUT THE AWARD:

The Briscoe awards are bestowed each year on members of New York's Jewish community in appreciation of efforts to better the lives of Irish immigrants.

### ROBERT BRISCOE

Robert Briscoe was the first Jewish Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ireland. His election to that post in 1956 made news all around the world, but came as no surprise to the Irish who were familiar with his lifelong service to his country. Often that service held many risks in the face of British oppression.

Born in 1894, the son of a Lithuanian immigrant, he was raised in the orthodox Jewish tradition. In 1914, his father sent him to the United States to avoid conscription in the crown forces during World War I. Upon his return to Ireland after the Easter rising of 1916, he joined other young revolutionaries in Fianna Eireann. During the war of independence, Michael Collins sent him on a mission to procure arms for the I.R.A in Germany and the U.S.A. under the alias "Captain Swift." His thirst for freedom and justice saw him take the anti-Treaty side in Ireland's bloody Civil War. He later became a founder-member of the Fianna

Fáil party and was first elected to the Dáil (parliament) in 1927.

In 1939, Mr. Briscoe led a delegation of the World Zionist Organization to seek international support for the settlement of Jews in Palestine. In 1945, he toured the Middle East on a trade mission, the first of many, to publicize Irish goods abroad. 1965 saw

him elected to the Council of State. In 1959, Robert Briscoe published his autobiography *For the Life of Me*, in which he states, "All the time I was growing up I was being steeped in the dark, storm-wracked, blight-shot history of my country, of Eire." Mr. Briscoe died in 1969 in Dublin.

### PREVIOUS HONOREES INCLUDE

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| 2010: Alan B. Lubin<br>Haisa Diner                                   | 2002: Ruth J. Abram<br>Barrie L. Abrams                      |
| 2009: Oliver Koppell<br>Neal S. Schelberg                            | 2001: Nita Lowey<br>Jeffrey Weisenfeld                       |
| 2008: Richard A. Brown<br>Jordan A. Ziegler                          | 2000: Peter Glazier<br>Eliot Spitzer<br>Randi Weingarten     |
| 2007: Mark E. Brossman<br>Gabe Pressman                              | 1999: Frank Lautenberg<br>Philip Milstein<br>Claire Schulman |
| 2006: Anthony Weiner<br>Stuart R. GraBois                            | 1998: Bruce Frankel<br>Benjamin Gilman<br>Barry Lipton       |
| 2005: Michael Bloomberg<br>Howard Milstein                           | 1997: Moe Biller<br>Alan Hevesi<br>Donald Rubin              |
| 2004: Rabbi Dr. Alvin Kass<br>Charles E. Schumer<br>Stuart Applebaum | 1996: Ted Jacobsen<br>Howard Teich                           |
| 2003: Rabbi Joseph Potasnik<br>Robert King                           |  |



*Briscoe award recipients Michael Bloomberg and Jordan A. Ziegler*

- 1995: Dr. Gary Zucker  
Jay Mazur  
Ed Koch
- 1994: Marci Gilbert  
Sol Chaiken  
Neil Abramson