

July 23, 2019

**New York County Lawyers Association Statement  
on the Passing of Robert Morgenthau**

Stephen C. Lessard, President of the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) issued this statement today on behalf of the Association:

“We express our most sincere condolences to the family of Robert Morgenthau, the longest serving New York County District Attorney and NYCLA Member for 61 years. He leaves a legacy of lifelong public service beginning as United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York in 1961 to his retirement from the New York County District Attorney’s office in 2009, at 90 years old. He set an unparalleled example of selfless dedication to the public and will be greatly missed.”

In 2016, Mr. Morgenthau delivered the keynote address at NYCLA’s Edward Weinfeld Award Ceremony Luncheon, and in 2009 he was honored by NYCLA with the Boris Kostelanetz President’s Award, which was presented by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Sonia Sotomayor at NYCLA’s 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner. Earlier in his career, NYCLA recognized him with its Distinguished Public Service Award in 1993.

Catherine Christian, NYCLA’s 55<sup>th</sup> President, began her legal career working for Mr. Morgenthau as an Assistant District Attorney. “I am so proud to have worked for Robert Morgenthau, whose accomplishments and commitment to New York City and the rule of law are unparalleled. A [photo](#) from 2007 of him congratulating me as I began my term as NYCLA President is one of the rare photographs in which he is smiling. I was honored by that and will cherish the memory.”

**About the New York County Lawyers Association**

The New York County Lawyers Association ([www.nycla.org](http://www.nycla.org)) was founded in 1908 as one of the first major bar associations in the country that admitted members without regard to race, ethnicity, religion or gender. Since its inception, it has pioneered some of the most far-reaching and tangible reforms in American jurisprudence and has continuously played an active role in legal developments and public policy.

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