



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Hillary Wasserman

212-784-5726

hwasserman@groupgordon.com

**New York Lawyers for the Public Interest Honors Recipients of the
2017 Felix A. Fishman Awards**

Bernard J. Carabello and Eric A. Goldstein Honored for their Social Justice Leadership in New York City

New York, NY, November 16, 2017 – New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), a leading civil rights advocacy group for New Yorkers marginalized by race, poverty, disability, and immigration status, today honored Bernard J. Carabello, Founder of the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, and Eric A. Goldstein, New York City Environment Director and a Senior Attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council, at the 2017 Felix A. Fishman Awards Luncheon. The honorees were recognized for their leadership and dedication to advocating for the rights of New Yorkers with disabilities and working to create a sustainable, environmentally just city.

The Felix A. Fishman Awards are given by NYLPI every year to recognize the work of community lawyers and advocates who demonstrate a commitment to expanding access to justice. The Henry & Lucy Moses Fund endowed these awards in honor of Felix A. Fishman, a former trustee and director who committed his life to using the law to help others. A talented trusts and estates lawyer whose work was guided by an unerring moral compass, Felix A. Fishman was a staunch believer in progressive ethical ideals and considered the capacity to care for others as the true barometer of a successful lawyer. Established in 2003, the Felix A. Fishman Awards have recognized 31 honorees to date and will continue to honor those who serve the needs of their communities.

“NYLPI could not be prouder to honor Bernard and Eric with this year’s Felix Fishman Award,” said McGregor Smyth, Executive Director of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. “For 15 years, our luncheon has recognized the efforts of people who have gone above and beyond to make New York a leader in social justice. Bernard and Eric are extraordinary advocates, and extraordinary New Yorkers. They embody the bravery of the most formidable social justice leaders, and the values that Felix always held dear.”

As Founder of the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, Bernard is responsible for one of the largest grassroots organizations in the world. Bernard encourages people with disabilities to learn about their rights, organize, and vocally advocate for themselves and others. His impact is felt nationwide as he regularly travels the country to host talks and seminars on disability rights. Additionally, Bernard is a survivor of Willowbrook State School on Staten Island, previously the largest institution for people with developmental and physical disabilities in the country and the site of horrible abuse, disease, and death. Bernard’s brave participation in a 1972 investigative report on Willowbrook by Geraldo Rivera contributed to the filing of a landmark case and ultimately, a mandate for community placements for Willowbrook’s occupants and the closing of the institution. The orders also guaranteed community integration and lifetime protection from harm for the members of the class.

As New York City Environment Director and a Senior Attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Eric A. Goldstein is one of New York's leading environmental advocates on solid waste reform, recycling, drinking water protection, clean air, and environmental justice. More than 30 years ago, Eric spearheaded the creation of the NRDC's Urban Program, which has set an example for other national environmental organizations through its dogged advocacy on behalf of the environment and the residents of the nation's largest city. Eric, along with his NRDC colleagues, has brought successful litigation to compel compliance with federal Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act programs in New York; represented community groups in West Harlem and the South Bronx in cases that have reduced noxious odors from sewage treatment facilities; and helped build community empowerment. Eric helped draft, enact, and enforce New York City's groundbreaking recycling laws, and continues the fight to protect the city's most vulnerable communities from environmental injustices. Eric received his B.A. from SUNY Stony Brook, his J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law, and his LL.M. from the New York University School of Law.

About New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) advances equality and civil rights, with a focus on health justice, disability rights, and environmental justice, through the power of community lawyering and partnerships with the private bar. Through community lawyering, NYLPI puts its legal, policy and community organizing expertise at the service of New York City communities and individuals. NYLPI's partnership with the private bar strengthens its advocacy and connects community groups and nonprofits with critical legal assistance.

###