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From: Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY)

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REBNY TOASTS INDUSTRY'S ELITE AT REAL ESTATE'S BIGGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

**Jeffrey Gural, Leslie Wohlman Himmel, Andrew Singer, Frank Freda,
Leonard Boxer and David Brause receive top honors
at 115th Annual REBNY Banquet**

NEW YORK, December 7, 2010 – As real estate's biggest night of the year approaches, the [Real Estate Board of New York](#) (REBNY) announced the six industry leaders whose hard work and achievements will be recognized at its 115th Annual Banquet on January 20, 2011 at the New York Hilton. The event is the place to "see and be seen" as New York City's real estate elite gathers for high-powered networking, deal making, and to salute the accomplishments of their best and brightest stars. In addition to honoring their colleagues, this year's ceremony will include an educational component complete with a video presentation of current issues affecting New York City's real estate market.

"Each one of our honorees this year demonstrates the drive, dedication and knowledge needed to succeed in real estate, but it is their accomplishments outside of the industry that really separate them from the rest," said REBNY President Steven Spinola. "The time and energy that these individuals have given to their communities is unparalleled and we are proud to honor them for their contributions."

This year's honorees are:

- Jeffrey Gural, Newmark Knight Frank, will receive *The Harry B. Helmsley Distinguished New Yorker Award*, which is presented to a REBNY member for invaluable contributions to New York's civic welfare and the real estate community.
- Leslie Wohlman Himmel, Himmel + Meringoff Properties, will receive *The Bernard H. Mendik Lifetime Leadership in Real Estate Award*, which is presented each year to a REBNY member for a lifetime of exceptional accomplishment in the profession and dedication to leadership in New York real estate.
- Andrew J. Singer, The Singer & Bassuk Organization, will receive *The Louis Smadbeck Broker Recognition Award*, which honors an executive who exemplifies the characteristics of a successful commercial broker.
- Frank Freda, Cushman & Wakefield, will receive *The George M. Brooker Management Executive of the Year Award*, which recognizes individuals of superior accomplishment

in the commercial management industry based on outstanding professionalism, civic achievement and contributions to the real estate industry.

- Leonard Boxer, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, will receive *The Kenneth R. Gerrety Humanitarian Award*, which recognizes meritorious service to the community by a REBNY member.
- David Brause, Brause Realty Inc., will receive *The Young Real Estate Man of the Year Award*, who is selected by the Young Men's/Women's Real Estate Association of New York on the basis of integrity, professional and personal ethics and knowledge, ability and accomplishments in the field of real estate, contribution of time and effort to the Association and The Real Estate Board of New York and constructive participation in the life of the community.

The video presentation, to be displayed throughout the evening, will address: the real estate industry's positive financial impact on New York City, the economic benefits of new construction, real property tax system, tax incentives, Washington lobbying efforts, and landmarks among other key issues.

Ms. Himmel, this year's sole female honoree, is only the second woman to receive the Mendik award. The first to receive the award was current REBNY Chairman Mary Ann Tighe in 2009.

"The REBNY Banquet is the real estate industry's most anticipated event of the year. Last year's Banquet was nearly sold out and had a great turnout with nearly 2,000 attending. I encourage everyone to attend again this year," added Mr. Spinola.

REBNY advises those wishing to attend to purchase tickets early. For more information, contact MaryAnn Aviles at REBNY, 212-532-3100. Please visit www.REBNY.com.

Photos available upon request.

The Real Estate Board of New York is the city's leading real estate trade association with more than 12,000 members. REBNY represents major commercial and residential property owners and builders, brokers and managers, banks, financial service companies, utilities, attorneys, architects, contractors and other individuals and institutions professionally interested in the city's real estate. REBNY is involved in crucial municipal matters including tax policy, city planning and zoning, rental conditions, land use policy, building codes and legislation. In addition, REBNY publishes reports providing indicators of market prices for both the residential and commercial sectors. Please visit us online at www.REBNY.com.

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About the Honorees

Jeffrey Gural Chairman, Newmark Knight Frank

Jeffrey Gural is Chairman of Newmark Knight Frank. In January 2006, Newmark & Company Real Estate, Inc. (founded in 1928) formed a partnership with Knight Frank. Newmark Knight Frank is a full service commercial and industrial real estate management firm and currently manages approximately one hundred fifty buildings in the Metropolitan area of which they have an ownership interest in forty-one buildings.

Mr. Gural is responsible for all acquisitions and the managing and leasing of 8,000,000 square feet of properties that Newmark Knight Frank's partners have an ownership in. In addition he is responsible for the overall supervision of the company's non-institutional portfolio.

Prior to joining Newmark Knight Frank in 1972 he was a member of the staff of Morse-Diesel Construction Co., for approximately six years where he was responsible for the supervision and construction of more than one million square feet of new office space in such notable buildings as 437 Madison Avenue and 645 Madison Avenue.

Mr. Gural is a member of the Board of Directors of The Real Estate Board of New York; President of the New York Chapter of The Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation; a member of the Board of U.S.O.; Chairman of "I Have a Dream – NY" and Co-Sponsor of the Chelsea-Elliot "I Have a Dream" Project; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Times Square Business Improvement District; member of the Board of Directors of Cooper Union, member of the Board of Directors of the 14th Street-Union Square District Management Association; member of the Board of Directors for Art New York; member of the Board of Directors for Starworks; Vice President of The Broadway Association; member of the Board of Directors of the Eldridge Street Synagogue; member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Center of the Upper Westside; member of the Board of the Settlement Housing Fund. Mr. Gural is a member of the Board of Directors of the UJA-Federation, where both he and his father, Aaron Gural, were honored at the organization's 1995 Annual Luncheon.

Mr. Gural is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, with a degree in Civil Engineering. He is married, has three grown children, five grandchildren and resides in Manhattan.

The Harry B. Helmsley Distinguished New Yorker Award memorializes Mr. Helmsley, his generation's most admired real estate executive.

Leslie Wohlman Himmel
Managing Partner, Himmel + Meringoff Properties

A Managing Partner of Himmel + Meringoff Properties since 1985, Leslie has been recognized as the highest ranking female landlord in New York's commercial real estate marketplace. Together with partner Stephen Meringoff, they control and own a commercial property portfolio comprised of over two million square feet and valued at more than \$500 million.

Focused on the acquisition, disposition and financing of buildings that are suited for renovation and strategic re-positioning, Ms. Himmel's expertise is in creating legal, tax and financial structures and in negotiating complicated transactions expeditiously. As a long-term holder of real estate, H+M's philosophy is to create value and minimize risk. Each of the properties in the company's portfolio is on long-term fixed rate mortgages with little maturity risk.

Among her many professional activities, one of the most noteworthy is that she Co-chairs REBNY's Economic Development Committee, which she founded in 1992 under then Chairman Bernard Mendik. The committee focused on creating a solution to the credit crisis at the time and continues today to meet with political leaders to achieve a better New York City economic environment.

She was honored as YM/WREA's 2009 Senior Women of the Year and was a recent speaker at the ULI Young Leaders Group. A member of REBNY's Board of Governors since 2001, she continues to serve as Assistant Treasurer of the Executive Committee of REBNY, a position she assumed in 2008 after having been a member at large since 2004. She is also a member of

REBNY's Owners and Builders. She is a member of the Harvard Business School Club of New York, Young Presidents' and World Presidents' Organizations, was elected to the Trustees Council of Penn Women (University of Pennsylvania) and the Wharton School Zell Lurie Real Estate Center.

Ms. Himmel is an active supporter of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Real Estate Council and Lincoln Center's Real Estate and Construction Council. As a gift to Harvard Business School in honor of her 30th reunion, she established a fund earmarked for women in business called "The Women's Student Association Fellowship Fund." And, as a tribute to her daughter who recently graduated from Wharton, she made a sizeable contribution to the school to be used to promote young women in business and real estate.

She was recognized by *Crain's New York Business* as one of New York's 100 Most Influential Women," featured in *The Mann Report's* "Tribute to Women of the Real Estate Industry," been a guest on the televised 'Stoler Report, and was one of AREW's '100 Women Real Estate Leaders for the 21st Century.'

Ms. Himmel graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. degree, following which she earned an M.B.A. with high honors from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

The Bernard H. Mendik Lifetime Leadership in Real Estate Award is named for Bernard H. Mendik, who served as REBNY's chairperson from 1992 to his passing in 2001.

Andrew J. Singer
Chairman & CEO, The Singer & Bassuk Organization

Mr. Singer is a member of the Board of Governors of the Real Estate Board of New York, past Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Real Estate Board of New York and the past Chairman and current Vice Chairman of the Real Estate and Allied Trades Division of UJA Federation of New York.

In April 2008, Mr. Singer won the Real Estate Board of New York's coveted Most Ingenious Finance Deal of the Year Award for the fourth time and for the second straight year. This was a complex \$225 million financing of the rehabilitation of a major apartment house in Tribeca that unlocked substantial sums of untapped equity for the ground lessor. The 2006 transaction was the \$256,500,000 construction financing of 20 Exchange Place in Lower Manhattan. It was the first time a broker has won the Award twice for arranging separate financings on the same property. In 2005, Mr. Singer won the Award for arranging the acquisition financing of 20 Exchange Place - combining first mortgage, senior & junior mezzanine, and mezzanine credit enhancement of an adjacent Liberty Bond project to procure 96% acquisition financing for a 40% occupied property with declining cash flow. In 2001, the winning transaction was The Kaufman Portfolio, which involved arranging loans totaling \$205 million in a single placement covering the office buildings at 437 Madison Avenue, 747 Third Avenue, 777 Third Avenue, and 77 Water Street in Manhattan.

Since 2003, Mr. Singer has been directly responsible for arranging mortgage and mezzanine financing in excess of \$10 billion. His activities included arranging financing, often for the second, third or fourth times, for major office and residential properties including Carnegie Hall Tower, 747 Third Avenue, 777 Third Avenue, 230 Park Avenue South, The Archive, 50 Murray Street, The Lucida condominium, and 255 East 74th St, a condominium.

In the past 8 years, SBO has arranged financing of more of the apartments created under the Financial District residential conversion program than any other party, totaling construction and

permanent loans in excess of \$2 billion. Among the Financial District projects in which Mr. Singer has been involved are 63 Wall Street, 67 Wall Street, 20 Exchange Place, 200 Water Street, 45 Wall Street, 88 Greenwich Street, 71 Broadway, 99 John Street and 50 Murray Street.

Mr. Singer has been engaged on numerous occasions as an "expert witness" to testify in various real estate litigation and arbitration matters. His clients in these matters have included some of the largest property owners and most prominent law firms in New York City.

Mr. Singer has been a guest lecturer on numerous occasions at Columbia University, New York University, The University of Wisconsin and at a variety of corporate meetings.

The Louis Smadbeck Broker Recognition Award honors the memory of one of the profession's most esteemed practitioners.

Frank A. Freda
Executive Managing Director, Global Facilities Management, Cushman and Wakefield

Frank A. Freda has been active in the real estate industry since 1977. As Executive Managing Director, Global Facilities Management, Mr. Freda is currently responsible for overseeing C&W's Facilities Management Services throughout the globe.

For the first 13 years of his tenure at C&W, Mr. Freda was a member of C&W's Legal Department, the last three years of which he held the position of Law Office Manager, overseeing and directing the day-to-day activities of C&W's eight in-house attorneys. For the next 20 years of his tenure at C&W, Mr. Freda held various positions with increasing responsibilities overseeing the firm's provision of Property, Facility and Project Management Services to major corporate clients.

Very active in local affairs, Mr. Freda is past President of the Board of Directors of the Malverne Little League, a member of the Board of Governors of the Diabetes Research Institute, and is on the Executive Committee of the March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon, NYC Chapter. Mr. Freda is a member of CoreNet, IFMA, IREM, the Building Owners and Managers Association, the New York Building Congress, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Management Division of the Real Estate Board of New York. Mr. Freda is also a member of both the New York State and New York City Bar Associations.

Mr. Freda is a 1974 graduate of Hofstra University, where he obtained his Bachelors degree. He is a registered attorney in the State of New York and obtained his Juris Doctor degree from St. John's University School of Law in 1977.

The George M. Brooker Management Executive of the Year Award honors the memory of the late Mr. Brooker, the first Vice President for REBNY's Management Division and one of the profession's most respected members.

Leonard Boxer
Partner and Chairman, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

Leonard Boxer was born in New York, New York. He attended Erasmus Hall High School 1952-1956; New York University School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance 1956-1960; and New York University School of Law (LLB) 1960-1963.

Leonard Boxer was a founder and Managing Partner of Olnick Boxer Blumberg Lane & Troy, a prominent boutique law firm specializing in real estate, which firm merged into Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP on January 1, 1987. Mr. Boxer presently is a Senior Partner of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, and Chairman of its Real Estate Department, one of the largest in the United States.

Mr. Boxer was an equity partner and co-developer of the following high-rise luxury mixed-use residential developments: Le Triomphe, 245 East 58th Street (156 units); The Colorado, 201 East 86th Street (256 units); The Montana, 2380 Broadway (156 units); Hudson Park, Hoboken, New Jersey (302 units); Liberty Tower Apartments, Jersey City, New Jersey (648 units); Liberty Terrace, Jersey City, New Jersey (119 units); Crystal Point Condominiums, Jersey City, New Jersey (269 units).

Mr. Boxer is married to Enid Boxer, and they have three sons, Michael, Jason and Douglas.

Leonard Boxer belongs to Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society at New York University, and is a member of the Board of Governors of the Real Estate Institute at New York University's School of Continuing and Professional Studies, the Real Estate Board of New York, and the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, Inc. Mr. Boxer was a Director of the Real Estate Tax Review Bar Association and was appointed to the Committee on Condemnation and Tax Certiorari of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. In addition, Mr. Boxer has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Real Estate Board of New York and acts as the Board's counsel.

With respect to New York University School of Law, Leonard Boxer serves many functions. He is a member of both the Board of Trustees and the Council on the Future of the Law School, and the Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy. He also serves on the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, the Law Alumni Association Board of Governors and is a co-chairman of the Weinfeld Associate Program. Leonard Boxer established the Boxer Family Professorship at the Law School, and in May 2000 Mr. Boxer was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of New York University.

Mr. Boxer has been active in numerous charitable endeavors for more than 30 years. His most notable involvements are the following: Trustee of the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine; Chairman of the Board and Trustee of the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged ("JASA"); Chairman of the Board of the Children's Hearing Institute of New York Eye & Ear Hospital; Trustee of the Cancer Research Institute (2000-2001); and New York Regional Cabinet of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

He also serves as a member of New York Advisory Board of Chicago Title Insurance Company since 1979, and was a member of the Board of Directors of Wyndham International, Inc., a New York Stock Exchange listed company. He is a Member of the Real Estate Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Guggenheim Museum. With respect to financial institutions, he is a member of the Advisory Board of Valley National Bank.

In addition, Mr. Boxer has been named as Co-Chairman of CUREC, The China-United States Real Estate Council. In 2010, Mr. Boxer was an honoree at the Lincoln Center Real Estate & Construction Council Gala.

Leonard Boxer has received the 1985 Humanitarian Man of the Year Award from the American Jewish Committee and is listed in the current Edition of "The Best Lawyers in America". In February 1991 he was named Corporate Guest of Honor by the Children's Hearing Institute of the Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital, and in December 1993 he received the Humanitarian

of the Year Award from National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine pursuant to which the Boxer Fund for Pediatric Allergy Research was established. In 1998, he received the initial Henry Pearce Memorial Award presented by JASA. Mr. Boxer was mentioned in the March 20, 1995 and the August 1, 2005 issue of New York Magazine as one of "The Best Lawyers in New York" specializing in real estate. In December 1999, he was appointed by Mayor Giuliani to the select Committee for a Memorial to Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese. On April 17, 2002 Mr. Boxer was honored at a luncheon given by the Real Estate Lawyers Group of UJA-Federation of New York Lawyers Division, and was Guest of Honor at the 2010 UJA Federation event in Palm Beach.

The Kenneth R. Gerrety Humanitarian Award celebrates the memory of Mr. Gerrety who served with distinction as REBNY's executive vice president for many years and gave valuable community service to his hometown of Garden City, New York.

David A. Brause
President, Brause Realty

David Brause has worked in real estate for eighteen years handling acquisitions, development and management of office, retail and residential property in Manhattan and the tri-state area. As President of Brause Realty Inc., one of the premier family real estate firms in New York City, he has been active in the ownership and development of approximately three million square feet of space. Significant developments include a 700,000 square foot redevelopment of a 1911 manufacturing building in Long Island City, into class A office space for MetLife Insurance, Barclays and the new headquarters of JetBlue Airways; construction of a 34-story luxury apartment building on East 57th Street in Manhattan; and construction of a 200,000 square foot mixed-use office, residential and retail development in Saratoga Springs, New York, anchored by Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Prior to joining Brause Realty, David worked at Goldman, Sachs & Co. as a Financial Analyst for the Whitehall Fund, where he was active in the acquisition of portfolios of real estate from the Resolution Trust Corporation and multiple financial institutions.

David earned a degree in finance from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. David has held many leadership roles in the non-profit world: a former Chairman of the Young Men's/Women's Real Estate Association of New York (YM/WREA), a home builder in Honduras with Habitat for Humanity, a member of the Carnegie Hall Real Estate Council, a member of the Board of Directors of the 14th Street-Union Square Business Improvement District, and a Chairman of Young Leadership events for UJA-Federation. Currently, David is the Chairman of the Long Island City Business Improvement District (LIC BID).

The Young Real Estate Man of the Year Award marks exceptional professional performance and commitment to industry causes by a younger member of the profession.

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