



# CITY LIMITS

## 2017 GALA

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

HONORING  
ADAM BLUMENTHAL  
ANGELA FERNANDEZ  
GABE PRESSMAN

CITY OF STRENGTH  
CITIZENS OF VALOR



Congratulations to  
**Adam Blumenthal**  
on the honor of receiving  
the 2017 City Limits  
**Civic Champion Award.**



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PwC is proud to congratulate  
tonight's honoree

**Adam Blumenthal**

recipient of the 2017 City Limits  
Civic Champion Award.



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## Letter from the Editor

New Yorkers carry toughness like a badge. Some of us pin it to our chest. Others keep it in our pocket for when we really need it. Either way, being a true New Yorker means treating adversity as an achievement. How many miles did you walk to get home that September day when the towers fell? How did you get by when a superstorm knocked out the lights for a week? How bad was it during 'the bad old days'?

The last year has required a different kind of toughness from New Yorkers. The threat this time isn't terrorism or a storm surge or a sharpened screwdriver, but a national government utterly at odds with most of the values the city holds dear. Inclusion. Compassion. Social responsibility. Common decency. Some of our neighbors face an immediate, physical threat. More of us detect a slow erosion of the things we believe in. For many, from the instant the era began, despair has been easy to summon.

But there New Yorkers were on a chilly January night at JFK airport, packed in against one another at the edge of a parking lot, sharing their snacks and hand warmers with strangers in the crowd, shouting themselves hoarse in defense of people they would never meet. It wasn't pre-planned thing. People just showed up to battle for the society they believed in.

It was impressive to see but it was not shocking to City Limits, because we have seen that spirit before, in virtually every story we've done about the issues facing New York. Whether its homelessness or water pollution, lousy landlords or overaggressive cops, hunger or hate, there are always some New Yorkers who step up—to defeat the bad, to work for a better city. To take care of each other.

City Limits exists because journalism is an important part of that struggle—informing the public, asking tough questions, and holding all sides accountable. The stories aren't always simple tales of right and wrong, but that's exactly the kind of story in-depth reporting was designed to tell. Over the past year, we've brought that approach to covering Mayor de Blasio's rezoning proposals, the debate over closing Rikers Island, the homelessness crisis and the 2017 campaign.

Tonight, you join is to celebrate that work—but also to honor three New Yorkers who embody the strength our city exudes. Angela Fernandez, a fierce advocate and skilled organizer who wages the daily effort to keep families together amid an increasingly hostile legal environment for the undocumented. Adam Blumenthal, a one-time deputy comptroller turned financier who invests money in struggling, unionized companies with the goal of righting the ship to save profits and decent jobs. And Gabe Pressman, who devoted his life—which ended a few months after we named him

the winner of our 2017 Urban Journalist award—to covering government in New York.

We are immensely proud of the three people who permitted us to honor them this year. We're grateful for the work Angela and Adam do everyday to make the world a better place, and we salute Gabe for his irreplaceable service to our city.

So, tonight, let's celebrate these extraordinary—and extraordinarily strong—New Yorkers. Let's toast City Limits as it heads toward its 43<sup>rd</sup> year. Let's marvel at the beauty of skyline and the statue.

And then tomorrow, it's back to work.

Yours,

Jarrett Murphy

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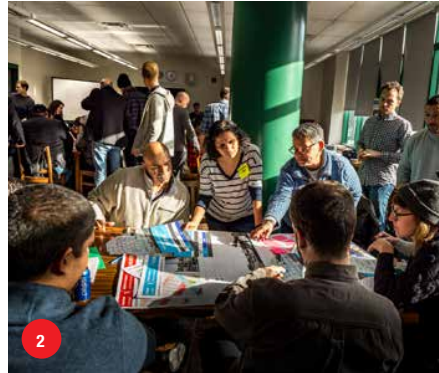
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# City Limits Highlights Reel

Over the past year, City Limits has published nearly 700 items -everything from in-depth investigations to live video coverage of public hearings. Every story is unique, and the images on these pages reflect only a few. We reported on school segregation (1) and community planning (2), the troubles with buses (3) and the role that hairdressers—yes, hairdressers (4)—can play in improving public health. We asked New Yorkers to help us draw up an infrastructure wish-list (5) for President Trump, covered protests against the president's immigration policies (6) and brought a squad of young reporters to interview Council candidate Mel Wymore (7). For an investigation of health disparities, we visited with the women who are running to change Brownsville (8). From the compost piles of the Lower East Side (9) to the primary battles of the Bronx (10), City Limits had this city covered.



## Civic Champion Award Adam Blumenthal

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**In a city where investors and workers are often at odds, there's hope in Adam Blumenthal's work around the country to engineer deals that protect both capital and labor.**

Adam Blumenthal is Founder and Managing Partner of Blue Wolf Capital Partners LLC, and a member of its Investment Committee. The Blue Wolf Capital Funds are a family of private equity funds which focus on transformational investments in middle market companies while managing the complex relationships between business, customers, employees, unions, and regulators. Blumenthal currently serves on the board of directors of several of Blue Wolf's portfolio companies and is a Trustee of, and Chair of the Investment Committee of the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust, a \$60 billion fund responsible for retiree health benefits for over 700,000 UAW employees of Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors. Prior to founding Blue Wolf, Blumenthal built and managed American Capital Ltd., a publicly-traded buyout and mezzanine fund, and served as First Deputy Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer for New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. He has been a trustee of, and Chairman of the Investment Committee of, the Nathan Cummings foundation and the Community Service Society of New York.

## Community Beacon Award Angela Fernandez

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**Since well before this moment of hostility toward immigrants, Angela Fernandez has fought to keep families together, to preserve human dignity and to maintain New York's identity as a city from everywhere.**

Angela Fernandez, Esq., is the Executive Director and supervising attorney of Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights, an organization at the forefront of the immigrant rights movement. With 20 years experience in law, media, non-profit management, government, policy development and advocacy, Fernandez is deeply attuned to the current policy gaps within New York City and the progressive solutions to solve them. In the past five years, Fernandez has protected vulnerable New Yorkers by building broad city-wide coalitions to fight potentially devastating policies. She co-lead the effort to end New York State's participation in the Secure Communities program and co-developed a universal court-appointed representation program for detained immigrants, the first of its kind in the nation. Fernandez was recently appointed by NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio to serve on the Civilian Complaint Review Board and is the Chair of the Dominican Day Parade as well as an Executive Committee Member of both the New York Immigration Coalition and Commonwise Education.



# Remembering Gabe

by Chuck Scarborough



**G**abe Pressman was already a legend when I met him in 1980. He had just returned to WNBC, the station that had been his home from the early 50's until 1972 when he stomped out after management hired former Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes to anchor the

news. Stokes, Gabe later told me, was his "mortal enemy", a sentiment he reserved for all politicians.

How shall I describe my first impression of Gabe when he strolled back into our newsroom that day with his Nordic goddess of a wife, Vera, by his side? Perhaps it was best captured years later in an otherwise flattering article on Gabe in the Columbia Journalism Review: "Pressman will never be mistaken for Peter Jennings. He is seventy years old and short, his hair combed flat in the Wildroot Crème Oil style of about 1958. His face is somewhere between Peter Lorre and a bulldog." The bulldog reference seemed a bit excessive, unless you witnessed the relentlessness with which Gabe pursued a story and understood the source of that fierce determination.

Gabe's journalism career began when he was eight. He published a family newspaper with articles like, "Grandma's Sponge Cake, Made with Real Sponges."

Gabe went on to attend the Columbia School of Journalism, then became a freelance print reporter in Europe. In 1949 the World Telegram hired him as a general assignment reporter. He interviewed gangsters like Joey Gallo, Meyer Lansky and Frank Costello – which the paper figured pretty much prepared him to cover politics. Gabe was sent to city hall.

In 1954, he became WRCA's first roving radio reporter, lugging a 20-pound, hand-cranked tape recorder around town. Gabe was the first New York broadcaster

to take his microphone out of the studio to cover stories on the street. A year later he made the jump to television, WRCA-TV (WNBC). He invented field reporting with a movie camera, establishing the techniques and setting the standards for all of us who followed.

For more than six decades, Gabe covered every significant event and every significant politician who set foot in a convention hall or City Hall. Getting under their skin was his job. His questions could be lethal – literate, Shakespearian, even poetic at times – but always dangerous.

After nearly 40- years of covering politics, conventions, wars, race riots, blackouts and every imaginable urban ill, this was said about Gabe by former WNBC news director Jerry Nachman: "In a world of cynics and burnouts, he came to work angry every day."

He did. Angry about the plight of the homeless, angry about poverty, angry about a lack of progress against cancer, angry about injustice, angry about violence in the Middle East, angry about duplicitous and imperious politicians—angry about threats to freedom of the press.

Gabe was adamant about the first amendment. He understood that the freedoms enshrined there – freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly – were more than a list of rights. They were a vital check on power. He knew that without those freedoms, democracy could not long survive. When the United States entered World War Two, Gabe put his life on the line to defend them. Ensign Pressman served as a communications officer on a sub chaser in the Pacific theater. He fought in the battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval engagement of the war.

Gabe served his nation and his city with valor until his last breath. He did so with courage, integrity, toughness, and compassion. Gabe was the epitome of what our colleague Tom Brokaw so aptly called "The Greatest Generation".

# Urban Journalist Award Gabe Pressman (1924-2017)

**Some public servants carry badges or shovels. Other make laws or teach classes. Gabe Pressman devoted his life to serving the people of New York City through his dogged coverage of the public square.**



**T**he late Gabe Pressman (1924-2017) served as a broadcast reporter for more than 60 years and was the first TV street reporter in New York. Pressman was one of New York's most respected journalists, known for his investigative reporting on politics and social issues

with NBC New York. In his over half a century long tenure, Pressman covered major stories including the sinking of Andrea Doria, the Weinberger kidnapping on Long Island, the riots at the Democratic Convention in Chicago in 1968, civil strife in Newark and New York in the late sixties, the Mayoral campaigns for Abraham Beame, William F. Buckley, John Lindsay, and the entrance of Robert F. Kennedy into New York politics. Pressman was responsible for a innumerable award-winning programs and series, including The War on Cancer (an investigation of the activities of the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society focusing on the politics of cancer); The Mood of America (a report on the 1976 presidential election); The Homeless: Shame Of A City; To Bear Witness (a half-hour special on the gathering of holocaust survivors in Jerusalem in the summer of 1981); A Crisis of Conscience (chronicled the 1982 turmoil within Israel over the massacre in the Lebanese refugee camps); the 1985 Democratic Presidential Primary Debate; and Ask The Governors (an open forum with Cuomo, Kean, and O'Neill telecast live in July 1983). Pressman's many awards include 11 Emmy Awards; the 1989 Edward R. Murrow Award; the New York Chapter of The National

Academy of Television Arts and Sciences 1986 Governors' Award; a 1985 Olive Award for Excellence in Broadcasting; a Peabody Award in 1984 for "Asylum In The Streets"; a Unity award from Lincoln University in 1981 for "Blacks And The Mayor: How Far Apart?"; the New York Press Club's Feature Award for "The Homeless" in 1982; the UPI New York State Broadcasters' Award for Best Feature News Story "The Homeless" in 1982; the New York State Associated Press Broadcasters Association Award for Excellence in Individual Reporting in 1982; the New York Chapter Of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi's Deadline Club Award for "The Hungry" in 1983; and two New York area Emmy Awards in 1983 for "The Homeless."

Gabe was particularly proud of his service to his country in the U.S. Navy. He enlisted at age 19 and served from 1943 - 1946. He participated in the Philipines Campaign, including in the Battle of Leyte Gulf as a communications officer, and achieved the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade (J.G.).

# The City Limits Youth Training Program in Public-Service Journalism



One 2016 story on obstacles encountered by inmates seeking public information to challenge their convictions won honors from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Three years ago, City Limits launched an internship program for high-school and college students from the Bronx. The program had three goals: provide paid work experience in the borough with the highest unemployment in the city, introduce participants to the basics of investigative journalism, and produce stories that highlighted underreported problems in the Bronx.

Since then, guided by experienced journalist-instructors, our interns have produced reports on fast food, disparities in access to fitness, problems with day-care regulations, litter hotspots, unreliable bus schedules,

barriers to reporting crime and the lack of attention to gun dealers in busts of local gun-smuggling rings.

The program is about more than teaching young people the basics of reporting. It's also about increasing civic awareness and a sense of ownership of the city. The learning is not a one-way street: For City Limits staff, the interns remind us of the curiosity and passion at the heart of good journalism.

We are proud to honor Gabe Pressman's legacy by providing intern scholarships for aspiring young reporters from disadvantaged communities with a portion of funds raised at tonight's event.

## ADAM BLUMENTHAL

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Greenberg Traurig is proud to support **City Limits** and their mission to inform democracy and equip citizens to create a more just city.

Congratulations to the 2017 honorees, **Adam Blumenthal, Angela Fernandez,** and the late **Gabe Pressman.**



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**We celebrate  
the outstanding accomplishments of City Limits  
and congratulate  
Adam Blumenthal and all the honorees!**



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**The Community Service Society of  
New York and President and CEO  
David R. Jones, Esq.  
Salute**



**City Limits and the  
2017 City Limits Honorees  
Adam Blumenthal, Angela Fernandez,  
and the late Gabe Pressman**

# Congratulations!

to **City Limits**

on another year of important and cogent reporting  
on our magnificent city.

to **Adam Blumenthal, Angela Fernandez,**  
and to the friends and family of **Gabe Pressman.**

In an era stained by  
unthinking divisiveness,  
all of their lives and work  
are a testament to the  
higher principles that  
tie us together  
as **New Yorkers**  
and as **Americans.**



Andy Breslau

Mark Edmiston

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congratulates

Adam Blumenthal

Angela Fernandez &

the

City Limits team



SUPPORT THE GABE PRESSMAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

**TODAY**

Congratulations to  
**CITY LIMITS**



and its honorees  
**ADAM BLUMENTHAL**  
**ANGELA FERNANDEZ**



And on the creation of the  
**GABE PRESSMAN**  
**STUDENT FELLOWSHIP**  
to honor a great newsman's  
public service legacy.



from Reynold Levy &  
Elizabeth Cooke Levy



**Congratulations to  
Adam Blumenthal  
and all  
2017 City Limits Gala  
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ADAM

To a tireless and committed  
citizen of New York,  
we are proud of you.

Sincerely,  
The CRS Team



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The Downtown Lower Manhattan Association congratulates City Limits on their 2017 City of Strength Citizens of Valor Gala and salutes honorees Adam Blumenthal, Angela Fernandez and the late Gabe Pressman for their important contributions to the city we all love.



# ¡Felicitaciones Angela Fernandez!

*Tireless fighter for fairness and due process  
for all immigrants*

With admiration from your fellow advocates and friends,

Nancy Morawetz  
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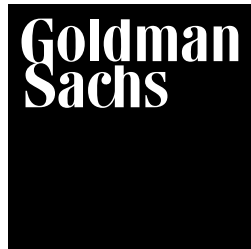


**CITY LIMITS**

and joins in honoring

**ADAM BLUMENTAL  
ANGELA FERNANDEZ**  
and the life and career of  
**GABE PRESSMAN**

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Congratulations to tonight's honorees, three distinguished New Yorkers who embody City Limits' values.

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Blue Wolf Capital Partners LLC

**Angela Fernandez | Community Beacon Award**  
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights

**Gabe Pressman (1924-2017) | Urban Journalist Award**  
Broadcast reporter for more than 60 years

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City Limits & three  
terrific New Yorkers:*

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Adam Blumenthal  
Gabe Pressman**

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through knowledge**

**We salute tonight's honorees  
Adam Blumenthal  
Angela Fernandez  
And the late, great Gabe Pressman**

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**Stanwich Advisors congratulates  
City Limits' 2017 Civic Champion Award Honoree  
Adam Blumenthal**

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## My Hero, Gabe Pressman:

"...he would barge into an all-print news conference with his oversized microphone, trailed by thick cables and a ragtag crew, staggering under the weight of film, cameras, & sound equipment...Gabe usually asked the question no one had thought of, or simply got the answer that looked and sounded better than it read in the morning paper."

*(From Liz Trotta's 1991 memoir "Fighting For Air: In the Trenches with Television News,")*

Tom Robbins

The Northwest Bronx  
Community & Clergy Coalition  
Congratulates City Limits  
For Over 40 Years of Dedicated  
Investigative Reporting

And To This Year's Honorees  
Especially **Angela Fernandez**  
for the  
**Community Beacon Award**



Allergy Services of America, LLC  
would like to take this opportunity  
to congratulate Adam Blumenthal,  
recipient of the 2017 City Limits Civic  
Champion Award.

Adam is deserving of our profound  
respect for his generous & dedicated  
commitment to the community.



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**Greetings** to our friends  
at City Limits!



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# KNOW

that serving the  
community makes  
a lasting impact.



PNC is proud to congratulate Adam Blumenthal and City Limits. We appreciate all you've done for our city and its citizens. Thank you for all that you do.

