



**Brooklyn A Board Chair Valarie Hing**



**Honoree Terri Thomson**



**Honoree Robert Sheehan**



**Terri Thomson and her husband, Eddie Thomson**



**Honoree Barbara Schliff**

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# Brooklyn A's 38th Anniversary Benefit Rakes in Record-Breaking Proceeds

Over \$300,000 Raised for Pro Bono Assistance to Brooklyn's Low-Income Residents

DOWNTOWN — "It captured what we are all about," said Project Director and Chief Counsel Marty Needelman of Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A's 38th Anniversary and Annual Partnership Awards Benefit.

Held at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge Tuesday evening, the gala honored Robert Sheehan, executive partner of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom; Terri Thomson, director of community affairs at Citigroup; and Barbara Schliff, director of housing resources at Southside United Housing Development Fund Corporation (Los Sures).

Barry Kamins, the first Brooklyn lawyer to head the City Bar Association, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Known as "Brooklyn A," the corporation is the primary provider of free civil legal services to low-income individuals and groups throughout North and East Brooklyn. According to Needelman, the gala was attended by over 400 supporters, who raised in excess of \$300,000 for Brooklyn A's programs.

For the past 12 years, Honoree Robert Sheehan has been executive partner at Skadden Arps, one of the

largest and wealthiest law firms in the world. It is also one of the leaders in the U.S. of providing pro bono assistance to low-income people.

Honoree Terri Thomson is a former Queens representative to the New York City Board of Education. She has been with Citigroup since 1990 and is well known as an advocate for the city's public school students. In her current position at Citigroup, she advises the corporation on issues such as neighborhood investment and civic and corporate responsibility.

Honoree Barbara Schliff has been with Los Sures since 1973. As director of Housing Resources, some of her many tasks include organizing tenant associations, bringing numerous buildings into the city's 7(a) assistance program, advocating for tenants in Housing Court, and training and supervising more than 28 staff organizers.

From humble grassroots organizers to major figures of the New York City Bar Association, Needelman said the diverse group of leaders present at the gala characterized the partnerships that have flourished at Brooklyn over the years.



Barbara Schliff, director of Housing Resources at Los Sures, and Marty Needelman, project director and chief counsel to Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

*Eagle* photos by Kate Attardo

