



MANHATTAN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

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Manhattan Institute Honors Wendy Kopp and Robert Rosenkranz with Alexander Hamilton Award

On **Wednesday, April 28, 2010**, the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, New York's largest and most influential think tank, held its tenth annual Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner. **The award recognizes New Yorkers who exemplify Hamiltonian values: civic leadership, fiscal restraint, entrepreneurial spirit, and energetic public debate.** A crowd of New York's business, media, and philanthropic elite—500 strong—attended in support of the Institute. The annual black-tie fundraiser, held at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City, raised over \$1.4 million this year for MI.

The 2010 honorees are: **Ms. Wendy Kopp**, chief executive officer and founder of Teach For America, she will be introduced by Robert K. Steel, former president and chief executive officer at Wachovia Corporation; and **Mr. Robert Rosenkranz**, founder of the Intelligence Squared U.S. Debates, chief executive officer of Delphi Financial Group, Inc., and a Manhattan Institute trustee, who will be introduced by Daniel P. Henninger, deputy editor of the Editorial Page, at the *Wall Street Journal*.

The Alexander Hamilton Award was created to celebrate New York and honor those individuals helping to foster the revitalization of our nation's cities. The Manhattan Institute chose to name the award after Hamilton because, like the Manhattan Institute, he was a fervent proponent of commerce and civic life, and he believed that the health of the nation hinged upon vibrant cities.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg stopped by the event to congratulate the honorees and the Institute, saying "On issues from Wall Street reform to welfare reform, the Manhattan Institute's ideas have had a big influence on our Administration and our city. The Manhattan Institute understands, as I do, that the future of NYC is tied to the future of Wall Street – which is why we are both advocates for responsible reform."

"Breaking the cycle of poverty and becoming a productive citizen greatly depends on the quality of education a child receives," said **Lawrence Mone**, president of the Manhattan Institute. "Wendy Kopp's Teach For America gives children attending some of the worst city public schools the chance to learn from some of the brightest minds in the country. The Manhattan Institute is proud to honor her extraordinary work."

Wendy Kopp's idea for Teach For America began as her undergraduate senior thesis in 1989. Ms. Kopp now oversees one of the nation's largest providers of teachers for low-income communities, with some 7,300 corps members educating more than 450,000 students in America's neediest communities. Ms. Kopp is also the author of *One Day, All Children: The Unlikely Triumph of Teach For America and What I Learned Along the Way*.

"At Teach For America, we have seen firsthand that educational inequity becomes solvable in the face of committed leaders who assume responsibility for students' success," said Ms. Kopp. "Our organization is rooted in entrepreneurialism and civic leadership—two important Hamiltonian values—and I am honored to be one of this year's awardees."

“Robert Rosenkranz has clearly demonstrated a commitment to innovation and the free exchange of ideas, which are critical to a society’s economic success,” said Paul Singer, chairman of the Manhattan Institute. “Through his development of a globally publicized debate forum, Bob has provided Americans an opportunity to engage in a fruitful discussion of key issues that serves to enhance the overall policy debate. The Manhattan Institute honors and celebrates Bob’s important contributions to strengthening the pillars of a free society; these are rooted in the democratic principles that Alexander Hamilton and other founders used to build our great nation.”

Robert Rosenkranz is chairman and CEO of Delphi Financial Group and the founder of The Rosenkranz Foundation. In 2006, his Foundation launched Intelligence Squared U.S. (IQ2US), an annual series of live Oxford-style debates that take place in New York City and tackle important cultural and public policy issues. IQ2US is aired nationally on NPR stations and reaches an international audience through Bloomberg Television. Mr. Rosenkranz serves on several boards, including the Manhattan Institute’s.

Mr. Rosenkranz said, “I am deeply honored to be included among the distinguished recipients of this award, past and present. For me it is particularly meaningful since the Hamilton Award is dedicated to acknowledging and encouraging commitment to civic life. Alexander Hamilton, perhaps more than any other American, raised the level of public discourse by publishing the Federalist Papers at the critical moments when the ratification of the Constitution was the subject of rancorous dispute. Intelligence Squared tries to operate in his spirit, with the goal of raising the level of public discourse around today’s critical public policy issues. Thus it is especially gratifying that our initiative is being recognized with an award that bears his illustrious name.”

Previous award winners include former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, former Mayors Rudy Giuliani and Edward Koch, author Tom Wolfe, former Governor Hugh Carey, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and philanthropists Roger Hertog, Chuck Brunie, and Walter Mintz. More information is available online at http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/ah_2010.htm.

Full video of the event will be available soon on the Manhattan Institute’s website, www.manhattan-institute.org.

The Manhattan Institute, a 501 (c)(3), is a think tank whose mission is to develop and disseminate new ideas that foster greater economic choice and individual responsibility.

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