

## **Bearak honored as Gotham's “Networker of the Year”**

[Gotham City Networking](#), Inc. honored Government and Public Affairs Counselor Corey [Bearak](#) of Bellerose as “2011 Networker of the Year” at a reception, Wednesday evening, December 7, 2011 at the Friars Club in midtown Manhattan. Architect Joshua [Zinder](#) of Princeton also was honored.

Corey joined Gotham [LI \(Long Island\) Legal](#) in 2009 and became founding member the following year of [Gotham Towers](#). In between he became one of Gotham's *Traveling Willburys* who visit Gotham groups outside of NYC and Long Island such as Westchester, Fairfield and New Have in Connecticut, Princeton in New Jersey and Philadelphia. Last month, he became co-chair of [GOTHAM GREEN](#).

Bearak became a Gotham member after meeting its founder, Fred C. Klein at a CLE (Continuing Legal Education) program in September 2009 sponsored by the Israeloff accounting firm on Long Island. After chatting with Corey, Fred turned to the firm's Lisa Waterman who serves as group coordinator for several Gotham groups and asked if the group had a lobbyist. The rest is history.

Gotham initiated its first annual Networker of the Year Award in 2004; its [Hall of Fame](#) notes past honorees. Gotham's mantra is: "It's better to give than receive, but what goes around comes around!"



*Gotham Networkers of the Year Corey Bearak and Joshua Zinder. Photo courtesy of Fred Klein.*

Currently, Bearak brings experience forged during 23 years in public service to counsel clients who face difficult public policy matters or special needs in dealing with government. He combines expertise in strategic public policy, politics and media to devise and manage strategies on behalf of public officials, government and community agencies, trade unions, coalitions, trade groups, businesses, and political candidates. In addition to his government and public affairs practice, Bearak works with [Resolve It, Inc.](#), serves as Policy and Political Director for [Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1056](#), developed educational and other programming for [Community Partnership Referrals and Resources](#).

An attorney, Corey joined Bronx Borough President Fernando [Ferrer's](#) staff February 1, 1999 as Legislative Counsel. For Borough President Ferrer, Bearak's primary responsibilities included developing issues and proposing new initiatives, counseling the Borough President on legislation and serving as a legal, media and policy advisor. Through April 2003, Bearak served Ferrer's successor, Adolfo [Carrion](#) Jr. as Director of Planning, Policy and Budget.

Previously, Corey served more than 16 years as Counsel/Chief of Staff to a northeast Queens City [Council Member](#). Before joining city government, he served as an Assistant to then Secretary of State Mario Cuomo and in the Office of Bronx District Attorney Mario Merola. From June 2003 through May 2005, he wrote a weekly column on public policy, [The Public Ought to Know](#).

His involvement in [Gotham GREEN](#), Bearak follows a long association with environmental causes dating back to law school when he served as part of the legal team that coordinated security at the 1979 No-Nuke Rally at Battery Park City. During his two decades in public services Bearak was involved in the drafting and passage of numerous environmental initiatives including The New York City Recycling Law (1989). Other Environmental laws included The Right to Know Law (mandating the disclosure of toxic chemicals), the Spill Bill (covering accidental releases of hazardous substances), mandating the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles, the ban on apartment house incinerators and regulating the disposal of medical waste. He also developed clean water legislation and a strategic clean air plan. As president of the borough-wide Queens Civic Congress he worked with the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition to develop a plan to hold down water rates and better protect New York City's Watershed.

In addition to his work on environmental matters, Bearak's government service also included developing or working on many policy and legislative initiatives and local laws on public safety and justice, budget and fiscal reform, and city governance.

Active in many community organizations, Bearak's involvements have included the [Northeast Queens Jewish Community Council](#) [Chairman, Executive Committee, after serving seven years as President], Community School Board 26 (1989 to June 1993), Community Board 13 (1980-1988 and 2001-present), the borough-wide [Queens Civic Congress](#) [co-founder, President, 2008-2010 after serving eight years as Executive Vice President] and the Order [Knight of Pythias](#), a fraternal, charitable and benevolent association.