

# **District Leader Report**

**By Daniel Marks Cohen**

As we march towards petitioning beginning at the end of this month, I wanted to inform the Club about my support for two candidates for public office. Paramount to the Club should be the next Assembly member representing the 69<sup>th</sup> AD, succeeding incumbent Daniel O'Donnell, who is not seeking re-election after 22 years in office. As some of you may know, I briefly considered running for this seat myself, and weighed the impact of the campaign on me and my family versus supporting someone else for the seat. Ultimately, I decided not to pursue the seat, as I am still getting back on my feet from the 2021 City Council campaign for the 7<sup>th</sup> district, and while it is tempting to jump into another race, I am just not in the right space, mentally, to undertake that journey. But while there are several candidates who are prepared to take that step, one of them rises above the rest, and that is Micah Lasher. I have known Micah his entire life and have watched him develop from a young man and colleague into a committed public servant without peer. He has devoted much of his adult life to

public service, including working for candidates and elected officials including a Mayor, a State Attorney General, and the current Governor. His knowledge and reach, his energy and empathy, and his deep experience and sense of humor would serve us well in the 69<sup>th</sup> AD, and I am proud to endorse him for State Assembly.

There are quite a few elections on the primary ballot this June, including for US Senate (Gillibrand), Congress (both Nadler and Espaillat), and State Senate (both Cleare and Hoylman-Sigal). None of them is expected to have any credible challengers. There are, however, a few openings for Civil Court, and I know that they may seem small when compared to the positions for higher office, but the lower courts are where future State Supreme Court judges are made, including right now, State Supreme Court Justice Arthur Engoron, who was elected to the Civil Court with the help of this Club in 2003 and was subsequently elevated to the State Supreme Court. Justice Engoron is currently deciding the fate of Donald Trump's business empire in the tax fraud case that would significantly impact the former President's personal finances. While one cannot say if all

current Civil Court judges will have such an impact, we must take the role seriously, both because of their impact on our daily lives now and the potential that they could have one day in the future. One judicial candidate that I believe shows such potential is Ralph Wolf. He is running for the open 5<sup>th</sup> District Civil Court seat and has assembled a long list of supporters, now including me. I urge the Club to support Ralph when it endorses candidates for Civil Court later this month. Ralph will be a worthy jurist and would benefit from the Club's endorsement.