



Plenary Part 1: The Origins and Evolution of Bail Reform

The Honorable Michael Gianaris, Deputy Majority Leader, New York State Senate



Senator Michael Gianaris serves as Deputy Majority Leader and proudly represents western Queens. Guided by the principle that our government should level the playing field between everyday New Yorkers and powerful private interests, Senator Gianaris is a progressive champion. He authored critical legislation to end the major capital improvement program that is decimating affordable housing residents, direct more revenue to the struggling MTA, make voting easier, and make the criminal justice system fairer through eliminating bail for most non-violent crimes. He believes to grow New York the best economic development stems from serious investments in infrastructure and education.

A first-generation American, Senator Gianaris was born and raised in Astoria, Queens, where he continues to reside. He is the product of New York City public schools and graduated from Fordham University and Harvard Law School before setting his sights on a career in public service.



Errol Louis, Political Anchor, Spectrum News NY1



Errol Louis is the Political Anchor of NY1 News, where he hosts "Inside City Hall," a nightly prime-time show about New York City politics, featuring interviews with top political and cultural leaders. Louis has conducted interviews with ex-mayors Ed Koch, David Dinkins, Rudy Giuliani, Mike Bloomberg and Bill de Blasio; Govs. Andrew Cuomo and Kathy Hochul; and presidential candidates including Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump.

Louis has moderated dozens of debates between candidates for mayor, public advocate, city and state comptroller, state Attorney General, congress and U.S. Senate. In 2016 he was a questioner in the final CNN presidential debate between Hillary Clinton

and Bernie Sanders.

In addition to political leaders, Louis has interviewed iconic cultural figures including filmmaker Ken Burns, activist Gloria Steinem and authors Robert Caro and Gay Talese. In 2019 he launched a popular weekly podcast, "You Decide with Errol Louis," that features longer discussions with political and cultural figures including ex-President Bill Clinton; playwright Aaron Sorkin; actors Edward Norton and Brian Cox; and congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Louis is a longtime CNN Contributor, providing on-air commentary on key events including presidential primaries and Election Night. He writes regularly for CNN.com, as well as a weekly column for New York Magazine on a range of political and social affairs.

Louis was recently ranked #36 on the list of the 100 most powerful people in New York City politics. He is an adjunct professor of Urban Reporting at the Craig Newmark



Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, where he has taught political and investigative reporting to more than 100 graduate students. He is co-editor of *Deadline Artists*, a two-volume anthology of America's greatest newspaper columns published in October 2011.

Louis graduated from Harvard College with a B.A. in Government. He also earned an M.A. in Political Science from Yale University and a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School.

He lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Juanita Scarlett, and their son Noah.