

# Anchin Alert

**Anchin, Block & Anchin LLP**  
**Accountants and Advisors**



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## **The New York Construction Awards Honors Construction, Architecture & Engineering Industry Innovators, Leaders & Rising Stars**

The New York Construction Awards, hosted by leading accounting and consulting firm Anchin, Block & Anchin LLP and presented by The New York Building Congress (NYBC), The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC NY), and The American Institute of Architects – New York Chapter (AIA-NY) honored industry innovators, leaders and rising stars at Bloomberg Headquarters in New York City on June 19th.

After being introduced by Philip Ross, Chair of Anchin's Construction Industry Group, Richard T. Anderson, President of NYBC, kicked off this year's construction industry awards event by sharing some results from their annual forecast. The current outlook projects that New York construction activity will grow to \$33.4 billion in 2014 and \$37 billion in 2015. Paul Williams, President and Chief Executive Officer of DASNY (the Dormitory Authority State of New York), one of the leading public finance and construction management agencies in the nation, followed with his keynote delivery.

Williams began his remarks by saying that he had good news: The industry has made a significant turnaround since he spoke at Anchin's awards event three years ago. Today, the number of NY state construction jobs has grown, and continues to grow, particularly downstate. He noted that DASNY has financed \$45 billion in tax exempt bonds, and stressed that the agency continues to grow and evolve to meet consumer demands. For example, DASNY promotes and supports sustainable design approaches and construction practices.

He noted that the Tappan Zee Bridge project, the single largest bridge construction project in New York's history, will create thousands of construction jobs in the region. Highlighting New York State's stellar record in diversity in public procurement, 10% of the bridge's total construction cost, or \$314 million, will be awarded to DBE enterprises, with \$64.8 million committed thus far. Now at 21.06%, Williams said he would not be surprised if rate of diversity in public procurement reached 25% in the next fiscal year.

Williams also stressed gains in alternative project delivery since 2011, and he championed New York as an example for the country in effective and efficient project procurement and management.

Ten awards were presented by Anchin and industry partners, the New York Building Congress, ACEC-NY and AIA-NY at this year's event, based upon applications submitted by companies and judged by an illustrious panel of industry executives:

- Rick Bell, Executive Director, American Institute of Architects – NY Chapter
- Aine Brazil, Partner, Thornton Tomasetti
- Cindy Feinberg, Partner, JFK&M
- Charles Gozdziwski, Chairman, Hardesty & Hanover
- Laura Imperiale, Director of Government Affairs, Tully Construction
- Gary Loesch, Chief Operating Officer, H2M Group
- Tomas Rossant, Founding Partner and Design Principal, Ennead Architects
- Elliot Sander, President and CEO, HAKS Engineers

The judges did not have to declare a recipient in every category, which makes these awards even more impressive. After reviewing all entries, the judges recognized the following companies:

#### Industry Impact Award, Construction

- Turner Construction, Charles Murphy, Senior Vice President

*The company believes in collaborating with its partners to deliver projects more effectively and efficiently. It also believes in being a “good neighbor,” as it was when it hired many construction workers who could walk to work during construction of Yankee Stadium.*

#### Industry Impact Awards, Design

- Thornton Tomasetti, Robert DeScenza, President

*Recognizing that the design and construction industry needs to contribute to the environmental challenges of our time, the company believes that innovation is the engine of NYC’s future prosperity.*

- Robert A.M. Stern Architects (RAMSA), Paul Whalen, Partner

*RAMSA designs buildings that are environmentally sustainable and energy efficient. The company developed a master specification, which they continue to refine, aimed at improving the environmental sustainability of the buildings it designs.*

#### Industry Impact Award, Development

- SL Green Realty Corp., Edward Piccinich, Executive Vice President and Director of Management and Construction

*A leader in creating state-of-the-art space for tenants, the company firmly believes in teamwork and collaboration. From simple to complex projects, the company’s goal is making a positive contribution to the NYC landscape.*

#### Legacy Awards

- Hardesty & Hanover, Charles Gozdziwski, Chairman

*Ever since it was founded 127 years ago, the company has believed in the importance of quality in engineering and attention to detail. Recognizing that engineering services and support are important throughout a product’s life cycle, the company maintains a forward-thinking approach using the latest project management, design and support innovations.*

- WASA/Studio A, Harry Spring, Senior Managing Partner and Jack Esterson, Senior Partner

*Currently celebrating 125 years of service, this company is one of the oldest continuously operating architecture and engineering firms in the United States. Because it understands the nature of innovation, it continuously incorporates the latest technology as it designs building that are both beautiful and efficient.*

#### Rising Star Award

- HAKS, Elliott (Lee) Sander, President & CEO

*Established in 1991, HAKS is a relative newcomer to the construction management industry. Since its inception, the firm has continued to evolve and grow. Serving both public- and private-sector customers along the East Coast, HAKS is one of the fastest growing minority owned firms in the area.*

#### Outstanding Public Service Awards

- Gilsanz Murray Steficek (GMS), Ramon Gilsanz, President

*A proud participant in the ACE Mentoring Program since 2006, staff members of GMS mentor high school students to expose the students to careers in Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE). The company also is a contributor to the CANstruction Program, an annual design competition in which architects and engineers use canned food to build large scale structures. At the end of the event, the structures are broken down and the food donated to local food banks.*

- Jaros Baum & Bolles (JBB), Mitch Simpler, Managing Partner

*Founded in 1915, the company has contributed to the community in myriad ways, including: being a founding member of both the New York Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council and the Building Smart Alliance; serving on the National Fire Protection Association's 90A and 90B Standards Committee; serving on taskforce with NYC to rewrite the Mechanical and Electrical Codes; and being a member of the ACE mentoring program.*

#### Outstanding MWBE Award

- AFG Group, Cheryl O'Connor, CEO

*As an independently owned and operated woman-owned small business since 2000, AFG provides comprehensive program, project, and construction management services to federal and public agencies, healthcare and labs, courthouses, and educational facilities. Adding value throughout a project's lifecycle from concept to occupancy, AFG's experienced technical and management professionals help clients navigate through complex design, procurement, and construction processes, while anticipating and diverting risks.*

The award winners were not publicly announced prior to the event, but each was notified and asked to record a brief video. These heartfelt videos contributed greatly to the awards ceremony as attendees learned how much these awards mean to the companies who were honored. You can view these videos at Anchin's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/AnchinNews>.

Frank Schettino, Anchin's Managing Partner, closed the event by congratulating the Class of 2014 award winners. He then announced that Anchin's annual State of the Construction Industry event will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2014 from 8:00am-10:00am at Club 101 in New York City.

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