



E&S Industry Veterans Feted by AJC

A trio of the industry's most noted Equipment and Supply professionals were honored last month at the AJC 2019 Food Service & Hospitality Division Awards Dinner. For some three decades, Metro New York's equipment supply and food communities have teamed to battle anti-Semitism through education.

On a late Spring evening every year, competitors join together to support the AJC-American Jewish Committee. Once again, competitors came together to honor a trio of foodservice industry legends at the Bronx Botanical Garden to raise almost \$300K for the AJC's programs.

The Restaurant Depot duo of Larry Rosenthal and David Siegal stepped to the podium to be honored for careers of accomplishments that has spanned some four decades. Long time design/build guru executive Eric Weiss of Long Island's elite | studio e and his firm's next generation that includes Marci, Aaron and Ivan Weiss and Raquel Weiss Fusco were feted.

Proceeds of the annual event are earmarked for the AJC's mission of "Defending Our Values" and "Defining Our World." The AJC is the leading global Jewish advocacy organization. "Our unparalleled access to diplomats, government officials, and religious leaders gives us the opportunity to impact opinion and policy at the highest levels," noted the AJC's Gary Spruch who coordinates the event from the Association's Manhattan headquarters.

The National Distinguished Leadership Award was presented to the Restaurant Depot duo of Larry Rosenthal and David Siegal. AJC's National



(L to R) AJC's 2019 award winners Larry Rosenthal and David Siegal of Restaurant Depot and elite | studio e's Eric Weiss



(L to R) I. Halper's Andrew Halper, Ed-die Toby of KeyImpact and Kaufmann McKeown's Rob McKeown



(L to R) Automatic Ice's Jordan Singer and Jeff Hendler of Icesurance



(L to R) Waring's Dan DeBari and Samantha Mullins



(L to R) Larry Rosenthal shared the special award winning evening with family



(L to R) Eric Weiss and family celebrated a lifetime of passion for the foodservice industry

Corporate Innovation Award was bestowed upon to elite | studio e's Eric Weiss.

Rosenthal has served as Director of E&S Procurement at Restaurant Depot for the past 28 years. An industry icon, he has served on various SEFA committees, is very active in a number of other industry organizations, and is a past MAFSI honoree. He worked for Elaine Products and Admiral Craft for many years before being recruited in 1991 by Hyco Restaurant Supply to work for their new creation, Restaurant Depot.

Co-honoree David Siegal is currently the category manager for disposables and janitorial products at Restaurant

Depot/Jetro Cash & Carry in New York. He has served there for 25 years and was one of four original buyers to help launch Restaurant Depot. He initiated the company's successful import program and developed its Sunset Brands line. Prior to his tenure at Restaurant Depot, he worked for South Shore Restaurant Supply in Freeport, New York, joining his father as the third generation after graduating the University of Pennsylvania in 1982.

In his role as President & CEO of elite | studio e, Eric Weiss started in the food service industry at age 3 in his grandfather's grocery store. His father, Seymour, who thrilled the room with his blessing of the challah was a

respected executive in the dealer community, often spoke about business at home, further prompting Eric's interest. After 20 plus years at Superior Restaurant Equipment Company, Eric launched his own business, inspired to build a company attractive to clients, manufacturers, and employees. elite | studio e has grown to more than 50 employees, including Eric's son Aaron; daughter Raquel; nephew Ivan; and cousin Joshua Mass. The company has built a reputation for extraordinary creativity in design concepts and implementation; marketing; and branding. In 2017, elite | studio e was named Dealer of the Year by MAFSI Region 3.