

# 2025

## ROBERT M. BALL AWARD

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



**The Mayflower Hotel | October 22, 2025, 6pm**

## THE ROBERT M. BALL AWARD

Each year, the National Academy of Social Insurance brings together leaders from across the nation to celebrate bold, visionary leadership advancing the future of economic security for all.

**The Robert M. Ball Award** honors the Academy's founder, Social Security's longest-serving Commissioner and a transformative force behind Social Security, Medicare, and the broader U.S. social insurance system.

The Academy's signature annual gala, the Ball Award is more than a celebration. It's a moment to elevate changemakers whose leadership is shaping the future of economic security; catalyze conversation among leaders across government, business, labor, academia, and advocacy; and ignite energy and investment in building a more equitable and inclusive social insurance system for the next generation.

In recognition of the 90th anniversary of Social Security's founding, this year's gala celebrates the enduring legacy of the Social Security program and the visionary public servants who have safeguarded its promise for future generations.

Join us on the evening of **October 22, 2025**, as we honor this year's Robert M. Ball Award recipients: Michael Astrue and Martin O'Malley, two former Commissioners of Social Security whose leadership has shaped one of our nation's most vital institutions.

### Previous Ball Award honorees:

**2024:** William J. Arnone, Marty Ford & William M. Rodgers III

**2023:** Angela Glover Blackwell & David Blumenthal

**2022:** Marian Wright Edelman, Peter Edelman & Jacob Lew

**2021:** Robert Greenstein & Kilolo Kijakazi

**2020:** Jacob Hacker & Virginia Reno

**2019:** Carroll Estes & Theodore Marmor

**2018:** Nancy Altman & Stuart Altman

**2016:** William Spriggs

**2015:** Karen Davis

**2014:** Marilyn Moon

**2013:** Alice M. Rivlin

**2012:** Robert D. Reischauer

**2010:** John C. Rother

**2009:** Alicia H. Munnell

**2008:** Peter A. Diamond

**2007:** Henry Aaron

**2006:** Monroe Berkowitz

**2005:** Bruce C. Vladeck

**2004:** Stephen C. Goss



## THE 2025 AWARDEES



**Michael J. Astrue** served as the 15th Commissioner of the Social Security Administration from 2007 to 2013. Earlier in his career, he held multiple senior federal positions, including Associate Counsel to Presidents Reagan and Bush, Counselor to the Commissioner of Social Security, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Legislation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and General Counsel of HHS. In these roles, he successfully litigated landmark federal enforcement cases on HIV discrimination and patient dumping and helped implement early regulations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As Commissioner, he prioritized reducing the disability backlog and enhancing public service, with a strong emphasis on expanding electronic services. He led the development of innovative systems to fast-track disability claims, established National Hearing Centers that use video hearings to ease local caseloads, and modernized the agency's electronic services, making them faster, simpler, and more user-friendly.



**Martin O'Malley** served as the 17<sup>th</sup> Commissioner of the Social Security Administration from 2023 to 2024. Previously, he served two terms as Governor of Maryland (2007–2015) and as Mayor of Baltimore (1999–2007). Recognized nationally for pioneering the use of data-driven governance, O'Malley introduced CitiStat in Baltimore, a performance-measurement system that became a model for accountability and transparency in public administration.

At SSA, he prioritized improving customer service, simplifying processes, and advancing the agency's digital-first transformation. Under his leadership, SSA streamlined forms, expanded document upload and e-signature options, and modernized case-sharing across state agencies to reduce disability backlogs. His reforms earned bipartisan praise for restoring fairness and efficiency, including new policies that prevented the full garnishment of overpaid beneficiaries' monthly checks.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### VISIONARY CIRCLE | \$50,000

- Most prominent visibility and recognition during event and in event marketing materials.
- Up to twenty-five (25) registrations for the Ball Award with premier seating.
- Prominent visibility on signage during event.
- Full-page ad in event program.
- Special recognition from the podium and in event materials.
- Featured logo placement at the gala and on Academy communications.
- Pre-event meet and great with the honorees.

### LEGACY LEADER | \$25,000

- Prominent visibility in event marketing materials.
- Up to twenty (20) registrations for the Ball Award
- Full-page ad in event program
- Prominent visibility on signage during event
- Recognition from the podium and in event materials.
- Prominent listing in other Academy funder acknowledgment materials

### BRIDGE BUILDER | \$15,000

- Prominent visibility in event marketing materials.
- Up to fifteen (15) registrations for the Ball Award
- Half-page ad in event program
- Logo displayed at the event
- Recognition from the podium and in event materials.

### ANCHOR | \$10,000

- Up to twelve (12) registrations for the the Ball Award.
- Quarter-page ad in event program.
- Recognition from the podium and in event materials.

### PATHFINDER | \$5,000

- Inclusion with logo in pre- and post-event marketing materials
- Up to eight (8) registrations for the Ball Award
- Listing with logo in event program
- Listing in other Academy funder acknowledgment materials

### CATALYST | \$2,500

- Up to six (6) registrations for the Ball Award
- Name listed in event program

### ALLY | \$1,000

- Up to three (3) registrations for the Ball Award
- Name listed in event program

### FRIEND OF THE ACADEMY | \$500

- **One** (1) registration for the Ball Award
- Name listed in event program

For questions or more information, contact [Ariella Jailal](mailto:ariella.jailal@nasi.org) at [ajailal@nasi.org](mailto:ajailal@nasi.org)