



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Brad Hoylman-Sigal

## Statement by Senator Hoylman on ABA President Silkenat's Withdrawal as Keynote Speaker at Russia Forum New York

BRAD HOYLMAN November 8, 2013

*New York, NY* – New York State Senator Brad Hoylman released the following statement in response to the news that American Bar Association (ABA) President James Silkenat had withdrawn as the keynote speaker at the November 18, 2013 Russia Forum New York.

“I applaud ABA President James Silkenat for withdrawing as the keynote speaker at the upcoming Russia Forum New York. His action sends a strong message to the Russian Federation that its state sponsored attacks against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people will not be condoned by leaders in the international legal and investment communities. It also sets an example for other leaders in commerce and government about the moral imperative to oppose anti-LGBT discrimination.

“I am grateful to Mr. Silkenat for the thoughtful conversation he had with me on this matter earlier this week. I also wish to thank Queer Nation and Gay City News for bringing attention to Mr. Silkenat's prospective participation in the event.”