



## **2017 Community Leader Media Award**



**Donn Esmonde**

Donn was the metro news columnist for The Buffalo News for more than 20 years, where he championed a progressive and inclusive agenda. Donn's columns revealed a deep belief in the people of this region, and he wrote passionately about the benefits of preservation, downtown revival, sensible waterfront development, and neighborhood growth. Now retired, his ongoing work to rehabilitate properties on the West Side is a reflection of his long standing support of grassroots efforts aimed at reform and progress.

Donn is known for successfully pressing the NYS waterfront development agency to unearth and re-water the Commercial Slip, now the historic centerpiece of Canalside. He advocated for the salvation of numerous at-risk buildings and positive local initiatives. He championed a legion of everyday people who fought for fairness and justice. This past summer, he was the impetus for the idea of a communal gathering of peace and conversation in downtown Buffalo between community members and law enforcement, an event that the NFJC was instrumental in helping to organize.

Donn is a native of Long Island, but he made this city and region his home. He was a firm supporter of our City's rebirth, and knowing that a rising tide lifts all boats, he worked hard to make sure all of our communities will benefit from our resurgence.

For his work to champion the causes of growth, equity, and honest leadership, the NFJC is proud to present Donn Esmonde with the 2017 Community Leaders Award in Media.



*"...a just community begins with me!"*

360 Delaware Avenue Suite 106  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.853.9596  
[www.nfjcwny.org](http://www.nfjcwny.org)