

## Gala Emcee



**Melissa Russo** is NBC 4 New York's award-winning government affairs reporter. As an expert in local policy and politics with unmatched sources, Melissa is often first to break major stories on her beat. Melissa is known for her insightful

and compelling coverage of issues not ordinarily tackled on TV news.

Because of her reputation for fairness and substantive reporting, Melissa has gained unprecedented access to places where no other TV reporters have been permitted, including the homeless shelter system, juvenile justice system, Rikers Island and NYC Health Department Laboratories. Melissa is also a member of the NBC 4 New York I-Team, whose recent investigations have prompted major changes in government policy.

Melissa is the winner of two Edward R. Murrow awards and has received local and national recognition. Melissa has also won Emmys for outstanding political reporting, education reporting and coverage of children's issues.

In January 2012, City and State chose Melissa from hundreds of nominees as one of New York's 25 most civic-minded women.

Melissa anchored the Saturday evening newscasts at NBC New York 4 for several years and filled in for Gabe Pressman as host of the News 4 public affairs show Newsforum.

Melissa has a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Tufts. She is an active member and past president of The Inner Circle, the annual charity roast of politicians. She lives in Manhattan with her family.