

BRUCE MORRISON LEGACY

VISA PROGRAM 1992-1995

The Morrison Legacy Foundation

2026 NYC Gala

Honoring Niall O'Dowd
2026 Irish American Icon Honoree

28 September, 2026 · Pier Sixty, New York

www.morrisonlegacy.com

“Immigration is not charity. We didn't award the visas for the good of the Irish. We did it for the good of America.”

— Congressman Bruce Morrison

A Message from our Co-Chairs

It has been an incredible first year for the Morrison Legacy Foundation. What began as a way to thank and honor Congressman Bruce Morrison has grown into a community connected by the Morrison and Donnelly Visa Programs, a shared love for America, and a deep appreciation for the opportunities and lives it made possible. The contributions of Morrison and Donnelly Visa recipients continue to resonate across both the United States and Ireland - enriching our communities, strengthening the ties between our two nations, and demonstrating the lasting impact of legal Irish immigration to America.

Since our inaugural Gala honoring Congressman Morrison, we have begun laying the foundations for the work ahead. We are building an archive to preserve the stories of the 70,000+ Irish men and women who came to America through the Morrison and Donnelly Visa Programs; collaborating on a documentary that will capture the history and legacy of the program; deepening partnerships with universities and corporations on both sides of the Atlantic; and advancing our work around immigration advocacy.

At the heart of that work is a simple ambition: to highlight the enormous contribution that generations of Irish immigrants have made to the United States and to help ensure that the next generation of Irish men and women have the same opportunity to come to America legally - to work, build, contribute and thrive. We believe this is critical to the continued strength and vibrancy of Irish America.

Tonight, we are also proud to continue a tradition that began with Congressman Morrison: honoring the extraordinary figures who have shaped Irish America - our "Irish American Icons". Few people have played a more active role in modern Irish America than this year's honoree, Niall O'Dowd. Niall was pivotal to the Morrison Visa campaign, helping mobilize the Irish-American community and build the momentum needed to secure its passage. His work also extended far beyond immigration. He played an important role in the Northern Ireland peace process and, through his media platforms, elevated the profile of Irish Americans across business, science, technology, culture and public life. For decades, Niall has championed Irish America and helped redefine what this community represents. We are delighted to honor him tonight.

Congratulations, Niall, and thank you!

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary generosity of this community. We are deeply grateful to tonight's sponsors, whose support makes this evening and our wider work possible, and to our fellow Board members, who give so generously of their time, expertise and commitment to the Foundation. Thank you for joining us again tonight and for continuing to support the Morrison Legacy Foundation as we begin on the next chapter of our work.

With gratitude,

Elaine Brennan

CEO and Co-Founder

Loretta Brennan Glucksman

Chair of the Board and Co-Founder

Denis O'Brien

2026 Gala Co-Chair

Michael Brewster

2026 Gala Co-Chair

Niall O'Dowd



“Irish Americans have always led the way, with programs like the Morrison and Donnelly Visas, in taking care of their community, especially those in need. It is a proud tradition that continues tonight”

— **Niall O'Dowd**, on the Morrison Legacy Foundation

Founding Publisher,
Irish Voice · Irish America Magazine · IrishCentral.com

We are delighted to honor Niall O'Dowd as the recipient of our 2026 Irish American Icon Award. For more than four decades, Niall has been one of the defining voices of Irish America - championing Irish immigrants, advocating for legal pathways to the United States, playing an important behind-the-scenes role in the Northern Ireland peace process, and transforming how the achievements of Irish Americans are recognized and celebrated.

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Thurles, Co. Tipperary and raised in Drogheda, Niall studied at University College Dublin before emigrating to the United States in 1978. His American journey began in Chicago before taking him to San Francisco, where he entered Irish-American publishing, and ultimately to New York in 1985. There, he helped build the modern Irish-American media landscape, founding *Irish America* magazine and the *Irish Voice*, and later launching IrishCentral.com. Through his publications and initiatives including the Irish America Business 100, Niall gave a platform to generations of Irish and Irish-American leaders across business, science, technology, culture and public life.

But Niall did far more than document the story of Irish America - he helped shape it. In the 1980s, he became a prominent advocate for young Irish immigrants seeking a legal future in the United States, helping mobilize the grassroots support behind the Donnelly and Morrison Visa Programs and building the community momentum that helped carry immigration reform through Congress. He later became an important link between Irish America, Sinn Féin and the Clinton Administration during the Northern Ireland peace process, including the efforts surrounding Gerry Adams' historic 1994 U.S. visa.

Niall has spent his career giving Irish America a stronger voice and ensuring its contribution to the United States is seen and celebrated. His contribution has been recognized on both sides of the Atlantic, including an honorary doctorate from University College Dublin and the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for Peace, Reconciliation and Development in 2014.

Fittingly, Niall presented Congressman Bruce Morrison with the Foundation's inaugural Irish American Icon Award in 2025. Tonight, we are proud to turn the spotlight on Niall and celebrate his own remarkable contribution to generations of Irish and Irish Americans.

Dinner Program

Master of Ceremonies

Pat Tully

Auctioneer, Pat Tully Inc

Welcome

Elaine Brennan

Executive Director, Northwell Health

Spoken Word

Colum McCann

Internationally Acclaimed Irish Writer

Presentation of 2026 Irish American Icons Awards

Denis O'Brien

Founder of Digicel

Liam Neeson

Academy Award Nominated Actor

Acceptance Remarks

Niall O'Dowd

Founding Publisher of Irish America, Irish Voice and IrishCentral.com

Importance of the Morrison Visa Program

Gerald Angley

Consul General of Ireland in New York

Fireside Chat moderated by

Dan Barry

New York Times Journalist & Author

with

Terry George

*Academy Award
Winning Director*

Tony Reilly

*Founder and CEO of
Ascend Advisory Group*

Dr. Geraldine McGinty

*Senior Associate Dean for Faculty,
Weill Cornell Medicine & Professor
of Clinical Radiology*

Live Auction followed by Live Music

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BRUCE MORRISON LEGACY

US-IRISH IMMIGRATION LANDSCAPE

DONNELLY VISA YEARS

25,000

*Irish immigrants awarded green cards to
the U.S. under the Donnelly Visa
(1987-1990)*

MORRISON VISA YEARS

48,000

*Irish immigrants awarded green cards to
the U.S. under the Morrison Visa
(1992-1995)*

TODAY

35

*Diversity Visas (green cards) chargeable to
Irish and Northern Ireland nationals
(2025)*

OUR MISSION

The Morrison Legacy Foundation exists to preserve the legacy of the Morrison and Donnelly Visa Programs, connect the community it created, and advocate for legal pathways that create opportunities for future generations of Irish and Irish Americans.

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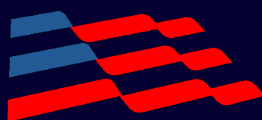
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For more details to get involved and support

Please contact Isabelle@morrisonlegacy.com or visit our website (www.morrisonlegacy.com) for more information



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www.morrisonlegacy.com

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