

# Trump Will Be Arraigned Today. Clinton Will Be Honored.

Hours after Donald Trump appears in court, his former opponent, Hillary Clinton, will be the honoree at a dinner 10 blocks from Trump Tower.

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By **James Barron**

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*Good morning. It's Tuesday. We'll look at one of those coincidences in scheduling that can only happen in New York. We'll also look at whether a court ruling might prompt prosecutors to abandon difficult cases.*



Today New York will be focused on the arraignment of a former president, the first proceeding of its kind in American history.

But other things are on the day's agenda besides Donald [Trump's scheduled appearance for booking, fingerprinting and entering a plea in court](#). This evening a private club on East 66th Street will continue a tradition dating to the 1870s with a black-tie dinner.

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The honoree will be Hillary Clinton, who lost the presidency to Trump in 2016.

The timing is a coincidence, said John Sussek III, the president of the [Lotos Club](#). The date was chosen around the beginning of the year, long before the grand jury hearing the case against Trump voted on the indictment that brought Trump to Manhattan from Mar-a-Lago, his resort in Florida.

“We have had princes and princesses, senators and congressmen,” Sussek said, noting that one recent honoree was Dr. Anthony Fauci, a leader in the federal response to the pandemic. Another past honoree was Robert Morgenthau, a predecessor of Alvin Bragg, the Manhattan district attorney, whose office brought the case against Trump.

The criteria, Sussek said, “are essentially an individual who has made great contributions in whatever field or fields they’re in. It’s recognition of their accomplishments in society.”

The club, which took its name from the lotos-leaf-eaters in a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson, has held state dinners since the 1870s. Its early members included Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, who [took a nap during the 12-course meal](#) lauding him. Also on the club’s membership roll in its early years was John Hay, who held a job that Clinton later took; he was secretary of state under President William McKinley and President Theodore Roosevelt.

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Democrats and Republicans have been cheered at state dinners, as the club calls gatherings like the one tonight. [Former President Harry Truman](#), a Democrat, and [former President Dwight Eisenhower](#), a Republican, were each hailed at state dinners after leaving the White House. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court was celebrated at one in 1996, a couple of years after President Bill Clinton nominated her to the court.

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Over the years, the club has invited people with no political connections, including the Yankees star [Joe DiMaggio](#), the astronaut [John Glenn](#) and at least two musical theater teams: [Richard Rodgers](#) and [Oscar Hammerstein II](#) (of “Oklahoma!” and “South Pacific,” among others) and John Kander and [Fred Ebb](#) (of “Cabaret” and “Chicago”).

Lotos gives state dinner honorees lifetime memberships (\$4,800 a year for regular resident members). Clinton will also be presented with a small bust of Ginsburg by the sculptor [Zenos Frudakis](#), a Lotos member who did the larger busts of Twain and Ulysses S. Grant at the club.

“You may recall what Donald Trump said in 2016, that if we voted for Hillary Clinton we’d have a criminal president under constant investigation and who would soon be indicted,” Sussek said in the speech he planned to deliver tonight. “And you know what? Trump was right. I voted for Hillary Clinton and ended up with a criminal president under constant investigation and has now just been indicted.”