



Disability Rights Iowa

LEGAL PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

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Disability Rights Iowa honored as the 2023 recipient of the Roxanne Conlin Public Justice Award

The Iowa Association of Justice presented this prestigious award to Disability Rights Iowa for their continued efforts towards serving youth with disabilities living in the Boys State Training School in Eldora, IA.

DES MOINES, IOWA – Many Iowans know Roxanne Conlin as a fierce advocate. She fights for the rights of Iowans who have faced harm or discrimination. Over her career, Conlin has achieved great status. She became the Assistant Attorney General of Iowa at 24. She served as one of the first two women United States Attorneys. She was also the first woman president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Conlin's accolades far exceed the list above. Due to this extensive resume, IAJ created the 'Roxanne Conlin Public Justice Award.' IAJ created the award to recognize and honor lawyers and their clients whose cases have made a significant contribution toward the betterment of society during the past year. Catherine Johnson, Executive Director, and Cyndy Miller, Legal Director, accepted the award today on behalf of Disability Rights Iowa. Johnson noted "Disability Rights Iowa is honored by this recognition. We are excited that our work mirrors Roxanne's drive to ensure Iowans are not discriminated against based upon disability. We are grateful to have partnered with the law firms of Children's Rights and Ropes & Gray and are proud to share this honor with them." She ended saying "Thank you to the Iowa Association of Justice for recognizing the impact of our work on improving the lives of Iowa youth with disabilities. This honor reenergizes our agency to continue our work of creating change in Iowa."

Andrew Martens, Executive Director of IAJ finishes by saying "In recognition of the successful pursuit of justice for residents of the Boys State Training School in Eldora. DRI brought to light the abhorrent conditions endured in Eldora. By holding the state accountable for systematic torture and the deprivation of constitutional rights, DRI forced necessary changes in the conditions at the school and improved the lives of the children living there."

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About Disability Rights Iowa

Advocating for justice. Advancing human and legal rights. Protecting Iowans with disabilities.

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