

20 | BAZELON CENTER FOR
20 | MENTAL HEALTH LAW
VIRTUAL ANNUAL AWARDS

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

NOVEMBER 17, 2020



A Word From Our Leadership

We Welcome!

We are so pleased that you are here tonight for our 2020 Virtual Annual Awards!

This event is a celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the leaders whose work has made such a difference in the lives of people with disabilities, and, by doing so, has made a difference in the lives of all of us.

The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law has been championing the rights and dignity of people with disabilities since 1972. We advocate for the civil rights, full inclusion and equality of children and adults with mental disabilities. Through high-impact litigation, policy advocacy, and technical assistance, the Bazelon Center works to improve systems of Health Care & Mental Health Care; Education; Employment; Housing; Criminal Justice; and Access to Community Services.

As our Legal Director, Ira Burnim, put it succinctly, "Our ideas are pretty simple. Kids should grow up in families and have access to a meaningful education. People

should be able to stay in their own homes and get services in their communities. People need jobs - just like people who don't have disabilities. That's what we're fighting for."

Showing your support by joining us this evening means a great deal, as we and our special guests take time to recognize the **Honorable Tony Coelho**, a primary sponsor of the ADA, who is receiving our Lifetime Achievement Award.

We also honor Advocate of the Year, **Allisa Fernandez**, Advocate of the Year, **Chacku Mathai**, Outstanding Pro Bono Lawyer, **Jeff Goldman**, and Outstanding Pro Bono Partner, **Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP**. Through tonight's program, we hope you will learn more about the Bazelon Center's important and impactful work and that you will continue to support our movement to protect and advance the rights of people with mental disabilities.

Congratulations to our honorees. Thank you to tonight's sponsors and donors. And a special

thank you to **Amna Nawaz**, Senior National Correspondent, PBS NewsHour, for making this evening special.



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Holly O'Donnell
President and CEO

Mission & Vision

Our ideas are pretty simple. Kids should grow up in families and have access to a meaningful education. People should be able to stay in their own homes and get services in their communities. People need jobs – just like people who don't have disabilities. That's what we're fighting for.

IRA BURNIM
Bazelon Center

The mission of the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is to protect and advance the civil rights of adults and children with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

We envision a society where Americans with mental disabilities live with autonomy, dignity, and opportunity in welcoming communities, supported by law, policy, and practices that help them reach their full potential.

The Center works on issues relating to:

- Health Care & Mental Health Care
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Criminal Justice
- Access to Community Services
- Immigration

2020 | Select Achievements

Doe v. State of Ohio

Ground-breaking settlement agreement with State of Ohio in longstanding special education class action lawsuit that will improve the academic achievement of students with disabilities, in part by supporting their inclusion in regular classrooms.

Katie A. v. Bontá

After an 18 year battle, foster children and youth in Los Angeles County get the intensive home and community-based mental services they need.

Baltimore, Maryland

Large advocacy effort, working with partners, including the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the ACLU of Maryland, to ensure that the City of Baltimore and its police department effectively implement reforms required by a 2017 Consent Decree with the U.S. Department of Justice.

COVID-19 Advocacy

Ensuring that people with disabilities are treated fairly during the COVID-19 crisis in the United States.

Alameda County, California

In July 2020, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and our partners filed a federal lawsuit under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) against Alameda County and Alameda Health System. The lawsuit challenges the unnecessary and illegal segregation of people with mental health disabilities -- especially Black people with disabilities -- in psychiatric institutions and the failure to ensure people with disabilities are provided the services they need.



Watch this video, [read the complaint](#) and the [press release](#).

Read about our other 2020 Achievements at <http://www.bazelon.org/newsroom/press-releases/>

Past Awardees

2019

Keynote Speaker

VANITA GUPTA

*President & CEO,
Leadership Conference on
Civil & Human Rights*

Outstanding Pro Bono Lawyer

AARON M. PANNER

*Partner, Kellogg, Hansen,
Todd, Figel & Fredrick,
PLLC*

Outstanding Pro Bono Partner

STEPTOE &
JOHNSON, LLP

Advocate of the Year

KATHY FLAHERTY

*Executive Director,
Connecticut Legal Rights
Project*

Emerging Young Advocate

NYAMUON "MOON"

NGUANY MACHAR

*Cultural Strategist and
Advocate, Disability Rights
Maine*

Corporation of the Year

ERNST & YOUNG LLP

2017

Outstanding Public Service Award

KENNETH FEINBERG

Pro Bono Service Award

SCHULTE ROTH &
ZABEL LLP

Excellence in Advocacy Award

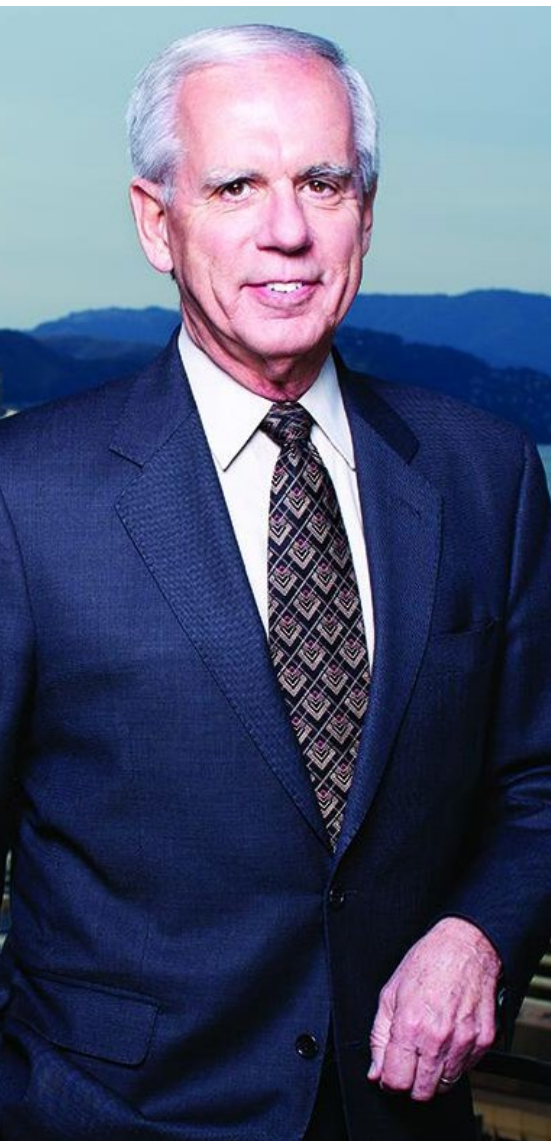
SENATOR PATTY

MURRAY
(D-WA)

Excellence in Leadership Award

ROBERT BERNSTEIN,
PH.D.

The Honorable Tony Coelho



The Honorable Anthony “Tony” Coelho has spent his entire adult life helping advance the lives of people with disabilities. He calls this his “ministry” while those in the disability community call him their “voice” and “champion.”

Diagnosed with epilepsy when he was 22 years old, Mr. Coelho’s ministry is marked by significant milestones: primary author and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) — the most important piece of civil rights legislation in the last 30 years; advocating for the ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and convincing President Bill Clinton to establish the Office of Disability Employment Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor.

Mr. Coelho is a former six-term United States Congressman from California, elected in 1978 and serving until 1989. In 1986, Mr. Coelho was elected House Majority Whip, the third most powerful position in the House of Representatives.

After leaving Congress, Mr. Coelho joined Wertheim Schroder & Company, Inc., an investment-banking firm in New York, where he served as a Managing

Director and then as President and CEO of Wertheim Schroder Investment Services, a firm that he grew from \$400 million to \$4 billion in managed investments.

In 2018, Mr. Coelho founded The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation at Loyola Marymount University. The Coelho Center convenes thought leaders to pursue positive change on disability issues; leverages technology to advance the lives of people with disabilities; and creates a pipeline of lawyers with disabilities to populate the bench and hold elected office.

A native of California, Mr. Coelho earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1964 from Loyola University in Los Angeles (now Loyola Marymount University), where he served as Student Body President during his senior year. Mr. Coelho has served as a member of Loyola Marymount University’s Board of Trustees and received an Honorary Doctorate in 1987. Mr. Coelho currently serves on the Board of Directors of both the Epilepsy Foundation and the American Association of People with Disabilities.

Jeff Goldman

Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius LLP



Jeff Goldman is of counsel to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, where he focuses on securities litigation. Jeff has had frequent successes representing companies and individuals in securities fraud cases and in sales practice disputes. Jeff also represents clients in other types of complex litigation and is regularly asked to assist clients in presenting difficult legal issues to courts, and in preparing critical motions. As a versatile advocate and explainer, Jeff has a history of success in front of jurors, judges, and arbitrators. Jeff often appears before regulatory agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission where he presents understandable, common-language explanations of sophisticated trading strategies and difficult accounting guidance. As a longtime resident of Maine, Jeff has also assisted Morgan Lewis clients in a wide range of matters in Maine federal and state courts, and in state regulatory agencies. Prior to entering private practice, Jeff served as a law clerk for Judge Kermit V. Lipez of the First Circuit Court of Appeals and for Margaret H. Marshall, Chief Justice of Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

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From helping Thurgood Marshall reverse the doctrine of "separate but equal" in

Brown v. Board of Education to representing Edith Windsor in challenging the Defense of Marriage Act in *United States v. Windsor*, our attorneys have achieved landmark victories in civil rights cases that have changed society for the better. Paul, Weiss lawyers participate in all levels of pro bono work, working directly with individual clients, non-profits and small businesses in a wide range of substantive areas, as well as handling appeals and drafting key amicus briefs before the Supreme Court.

Pro bono and public service are central tenets of the firm. These values are reinforced throughout every lawyer's career at Paul, Weiss.

Allilsa Fernandez

Northwell Health



Allilsa Fernandez graduated magna cum laude from Stony Brook University in December 2018 with a B.A. in psychology, despite being told she would never be able to attend school because of her struggles with psychosis. Allilsa is currently a volunteer member with Sylvia Rivera Law Project working in Shelter Organizing, which meets with the Department of Homelessness to address policies surrounding Trans, Gender non-conforming and disability.

She is also a volunteer member with Met Council, working on addressing Housing insecurities and tenants rights, especially at the intersections of poverty, people of color, and disability, and she works as a Peer Specialist in Lenox Hill Hospital.

She is also a consultant for Facebook on Mental Health and Disability Policies and currently is working with district attorney candidate Janos Marton on mental health policies and the carceral system. She founded Peer Mental Health Alliance, an organization that provides resources, peer-to-peer support and creative arts programming, which aims to end the stigma.

Through her activism, Allilsa fought for and assured ADA compliance at Stony Brook University. In 2020 she completed a law fellowship with the Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation, and during the pandemic Allilsa created a Facebook

group called Mental Health Pandemic to address the mental health needs surrounding COVID-19, and helped found Disability Underground which addresses healthcare advocacy and mutual aid surrounding COVID-19. Her work has been featured in mainstream media such as Forbes Magazine.

Chacku Mathai

Center for Practice Innovations
at Columbia University



Chacku is an Indian-American, who became involved in consumer/survivor/ex-patient advocacy and peer support when he was 15 years old. Chacku's personal experiences with racism, xenophobia, racialized trauma, suicide attempts, and disabling mental health and substance use conditions, including psychosis as a youth and young adult, launched Chacku and his family towards a number of efforts to advocate for improved services, social conditions, and alternative supports in the community.

He has since accumulated 35 years of experience in a variety of roles including youth leadership, community organizing/advocacy, direct service, training, and program leadership in Community Mental Health Centers, residential programs, and peer support, as well as international, national, statewide, and local board governance and executive leadership roles.

Amna Nawaz



Amna Nawaz serves as senior national correspondent and primary substitute anchor for the PBS NewsHour.

Prior to joining the NewsHour in April 2018, Nawaz was an anchor and correspondent at ABC News, anchoring breaking news coverage and leading the network's livestream coverage of the 2016 presidential election. Before that, she served as a foreign correspondent at NBC News, reporting from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey, and the broader region. She is also the founder and former managing editor of NBC's Asian America platform, built to elevate the voices of America's fastest-growing population.

At the NewsHour, Nawaz reports on politics, education, climate change, health care, national security, culture, and sports. She's interviewed heads of state, senior Administration officials, and entertainment icons. Her reporting has taken her to border communities along the US-Mexico border and into Central America, to remote parts of the Brazilian Amazon, and to big cities and small towns in every corner of America.

In 2019, her reporting as part of a NewsHour series on global plastic pollution was the recipient of a Peabody Award, and was turned into an hour-long, primetime special, *The Plastic Problem*, for PBS. In 2019, Nawaz also co-hosted the *Broken Justice* criminal justice podcast, examining the role of

public defenders and the story of one man wrongfully imprisoned for decades.

While at ABC News, Nawaz reported the documentary, "Roberts County: A Year in the Most Pro-Trump Town," following four families' lives over President Trump's first year in office, and hosted the podcast series, "Uncomfortable," featuring in-depth, one-on-one conversations with thought leaders on the issues dividing America.

Nawaz has also been honored with an Emmy Award for the NBC News Special "Inside the Obama White House," a Society for Features Journalism Award, and was a recipient of the International Reporting Project fellowship in 2009. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where she captained the varsity field hockey team, and later earned her master's degree from the London School of Economics.

She lives with her husband and two daughters in the Washington, D.C. area.

History Of Bazelon Center For Mental Health Law

The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law was founded in 1972 by a group of committed lawyers and professionals in mental health and mental disabilities. Known until 1993 as the Mental Health Law Project, our name today honors the federal appeals court judge whose watershed decisions pioneered the field of mental health law.

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We are thrilled to be able to celebrate this year's 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award winner, the Honorable Tony Coelho.

As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), we're honored to support the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and its mission to advance the civil rights of those protected under this groundbreaking law.

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2020 BAZELON
CENTER FOR MENTAL
HEALTH LAW
VIRTUAL ANNUAL
AWARDS

*Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of
the Americans with Disabilities Act*



Tony Coelho

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Congratulations! AudioEye applauds your relentless advocacy for individuals with disabilities and your continued push for equality as we work together to make the Internet accessible for all.



AudioEye is an industry-leading digital accessibility platform used by website owners to ensure their digital content is accessible for individuals with disabilities. AudioEye is committed to making the Internet more inclusive for all people.

Tony Coelho is a proud member of the AudioEye Board of Directors.

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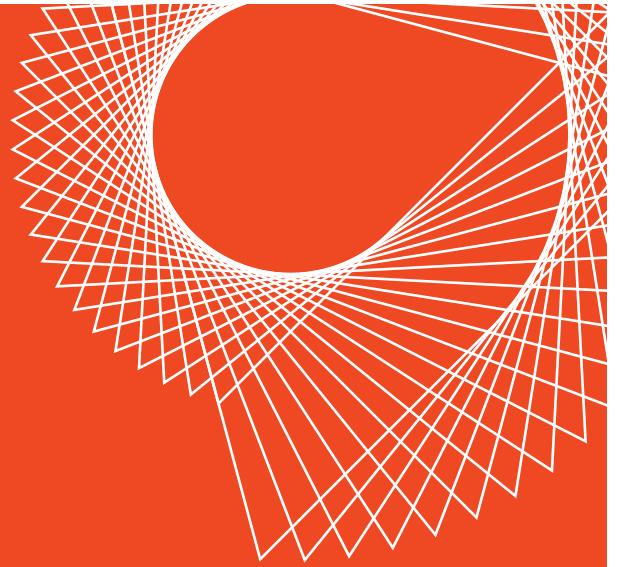


Committed to progressive systemic change

We proudly support the **Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law** in its efforts to protect and advance the civil rights, full inclusion and equality of adults and children with mental disabilities.

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Arnold & Porter proudly supports the
**Judge David L. Bazelon
Center for Mental Health Law**
in its comprehensive approach to
advocating for people with mental illness
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Celebrating you and all those who champion Inclusion and Justice

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The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
2020 Annual Awards*

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Our commitment to the community

We are proud to support the **Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law** and its mission to protect and advance the civil rights of children and adults with mental and physical disabilities.

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Congratulations



Bank of America would like to congratulate all the 2020 award winners, and a special recognition to the Honorable Tony Coelho for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award! Thank you all for everything you do and continue to do. Bank of America is proud to support the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law.

Visit us at bankofamerica.com/about.

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**Celebrating 25 & 30
years of changing lives!**



**Congratulations
Tony Coelho**
on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award
for authoring the Americans with Disabilities Act!



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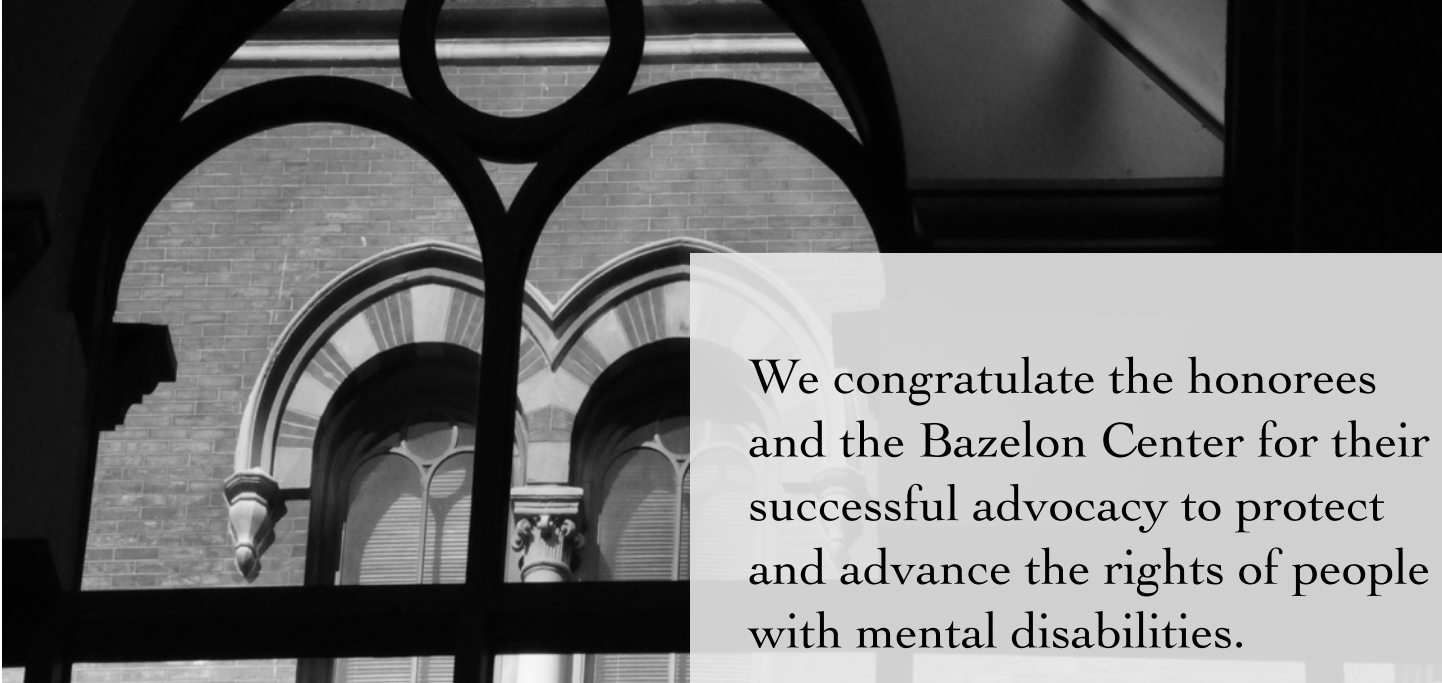
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We congratulate the honorees and the Bazelon Center for their successful advocacy to protect and advance the rights of people with mental disabilities.

Empowerment

Microsoft is a proud sponsor of the 2020 Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law Virtual Annual Awards.

Microsoft's mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. This includes creating and delivering technology that is accessible and functional for everyone.

[Microsoft.com/accessibility](https://www.microsoft.com/accessibility)





Cheers
to all Bazelon
Center award
winners and 30
years of the ADA!




Congratulations to the Bazelon Center's
2020 award recipients!

—Team WPA



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Cozen O'Connor
congratulates the
Bazelon Center for
Mental Health Law on
this year's successful
event and is proud to
continue our support of
the Center.



**Congratulations
to the Bazelon Center
for Mental Health Law
and the 2020 Award Winners!**



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celebrate this year's honorees.

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Congratulations and Thank You
to the Bazelon Center, Tony
Coelho, and All This Year's
Honorees for Standing Up and
Speaking Out.

And congratulations to our
colleague, Eve Hill, for her new
role as Chair of Bazelon's Board
of Trustees.

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We commend the Honorable Tony Coelho for the Lifetime Achievement Award and others who have made a tremendous difference in the lives of people with mental disabilities.

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RBGG is proud to support the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law on the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act



Best wishes for continued success.



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2020 BAZELON CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH LAW VIRTUAL ANNUAL AWARDS

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

NOVEMBER 17, 7:00 PM EASTERN

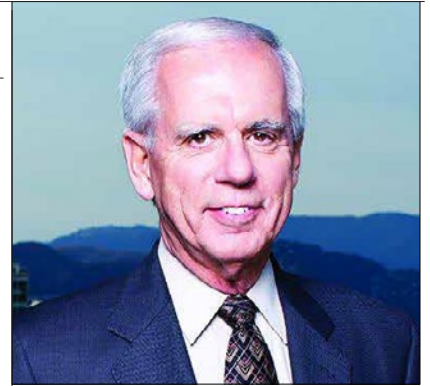
THIS
YEAR'S
AWARD
WINNERS

Advocate of the Year
Allilsa Fernandez | Northwell Health

Outstanding Pro Bono Lawyer
Jeff Goldman | Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Advocate of the Year
Chacku Mathai | Center for Practice Innovations at Columbia University

Outstanding Pro Bono Partner
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TONY COELHO
Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree



AMNA NAWAZ
Sr. National Correspondent, PBS NewsHour Emcee

Featuring Special Guests

- President Bill Clinton
- U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
- U.S. House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer
- U.S. Senator Bob Casey
- U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth
- U.S. Senator Dick Durbin
- Former U.S. Senator Tom Harkin
- Governor Tom Ridge
- Former Congressman Steve Bartlett
- U.S. Senator Roy Blunt
- Eve Hill, Chair, Board of Trustees, Bazelon Center
- Holly O'Donnell, CEO, Bazelon Center
- Ira Burnim, Legal Director, Bazelon Center
- Jennifer Mathis, Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy, Bazelon Center
- Stacey Abrams

- Joyce Bender, Founder, Bender Consulting Services
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- Judy Woodruff, Anchor, PBS NewsHour
- Lynda Carter, Actress & Performer
- Maria Town, President & CEO, American Association of People with Disabilities
- Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC
- Chai Feldblum, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
- Kenna Chic, Alumni, Coelho Center Law Fellows Program
- Matthew Yanez, Alumni, Coelho Center Law Fellows Program
- U.S. Representative Katie Porter
- Judy Heumann
- U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley



President Bill Clinton



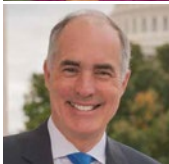
Stacey Abrams



U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi



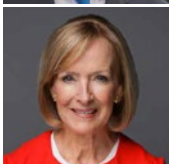
U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth



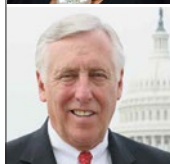
U.S. Senator Bob Casey



U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley



Judy Woodruff, Anchor, NewsHour



U.S. House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer



Lynda Carter, Actress & Performer

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