



(From left to right: Scott Deunnes, Nessa Siegel, and Steve Thompson)

Nessa G. Siegel Receives Lifetime Achievement Award at Disability Awareness Night

EASTLAKE, OHIO – Special Needs Advocate, Nessa G. Siegel, was awarded the *EP Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award*, as part of a Disabilities Awareness Night hosted by the Lake County Captains on Saturday, July 12th 2008.

Ms. Siegel was being recognized for her outstanding service as an attorney, representing individuals with disabilities in the areas of special education, guardianships, benefits eligibility, and Social Security appeals for children with disabilities. She is the founding partner of Siegel & Agins, Co. LPA where she has practiced special education law for more than 20 years. Deeply impacted by the life of her cousin, Keith, who suffered from Cerebral Palsy and cognitive delay, Ms. Siegel's primary passion is helping children with disabilities realize their right to appropriate and enriching educational services.

Ms. Siegel is a well known champion of disability rights within the community. She is a founding member of Share a Vision, an organization that develops group homes for children with disabilities. She has also served as President of Cuyahoga County Learning Disabilities Association, frequently lectures on education and the law at local colleges, and has published a number of articles on a variety of disability-related topics. She is also a founding board member of Individuals Devoted to Educational Advocacy (IDEA), a non-profit organization that awards scholarships to disabled students for summer programming.

The award was presented by the Michael Carter Financial Group at Cleveland's 4th Annual Disability Awareness Night. The national event was created by Exceptional Parent magazine and sponsored by MassMutual to raise awareness about the 54 million Americans living with disabilities. Scott Duennes, Executive Director of Cornacopia, Inc. was also recognized for his work in vocational training and job placement for individuals with severe disabilities.

Siegel & Agins, Co. LPA practices special education law, advocating for children with disabilities so that they too may have the opportunity to be educated to their fullest potential. Founded in 1986, the attorneys of Siegel & Agins specialize in the use of individualized education programs (IEPs), mediation, due process hearings, state administrative review, and federal litigation to obtain services needed from schools. Driven by the philosophy that knowledge empowers all, Siegel & Agins works with families to ensure that every child realizes his right to education.