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# NEWS

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## **ARIZONA DISABILITY ADVOCACY COALITION HONORS DISABILITY COMMUNITY LEADERS AT ADA GALA**

The Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition ([AzDAC](#)) has announced the recipients of the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Awards. The winners were honored at the [20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ADA Gala](#), held recently at the [Tempe Mission Palms](#) hotel. The individuals and organizations that received awards were honored for their work on behalf of the disability community.

The “ADA Title I – Justice and Equality Employment Liberty Award,” honored a community member or organization that has made a positive, proactive impact in ensuring justice and equality in the workplace. The two awardees in this category were the [Arizona Humane Society](#) on Eugie Ave. in Phoenix and Cottonwood [Safeway](#).

The “ADA Title II – Justice and Equality Public Entities (State and Local Government) Liberty Award” honored a state or local government entity that demonstrates facility or program accessibility, or that has made a positive, proactive impact in ensuring justice and equality for people with disabilities. The two honorees in this category were the [Town of Chino Valley](#) and the [City of Scottsdale](#). The Town of Chino Valley was recognized for its paratransit system for seniors and residents with

disabilities, while the City of Scottsdale was honored in partnership with the [McDowell Sonoran Conservancy](#) for the Bajada Nature Trail.

The “ADA Title III – Justice and Equality Private Entities/Public Accommodations Liberty Award” recognized a private business or organization that is a good example of facility or program accessibility for Arizonans with disabilities or that has made a positive, proactive impact in ensuring justice and equality for Arizonans with disabilities. The honoree in this category was [AJ’s Fine Foods](#) of Mesa for the location’s conscious efforts to make the store layout, displays and products accessible for persons with disabilities.

The “ADA Title IV – Justice and Equality Telecommunications Liberty Award” was given to a community member and/or organization that demonstrates full accessibility for Arizonans with disabilities or that has made a positive, proactive impact in ensuring justice and equality in the area of telecommunications. The winner in this category was [Arizona Relay Service](#).

The “2010 ADA Community Advocate Liberty Award” honored a community member that has been a dedicated advocate for the justice and equality of Arizonans with disabilities. The winner was Pam Allen, a community advocate and resident of Phoenix.

The “2010 ADA Copper Canyon Public Policy Maker Liberty Award,” was given to a public policy maker or policy makers that have taken action to protect or improve the justice and equality of Arizonans with disabilities. The recipient of this award was [Sen. Meg Burton Cahill](#) of District 17.

The “2010 ADA Justice and Equality Pioneer Liberty Award” honored a community member, organization or public policy maker (or makers) that has broken

new ground to remove barriers to ensure full justice and equality for Arizonans with disabilities. The two awardees in this category were Scottsdale resident Robert J. Lynch, an architect and community advocate, and [Sun Sounds of Arizona](#).

The final award of the evening was a surprise to all in attendance, and specially presented by AzDAC. The “2010 ADA Justice and Equality Pioneer Liberty Award,” honored two individuals for their successful efforts to gain passage of SB 1232 to update Arizona’s ADA protections. The recipients were Tucson resident Peri Jude Radecic of the [Arizona Center for Disability Law](#) and Tempe resident David Carey from [Arizona Bridge to Independent Living](#).

“Each year we honor individuals and organizations for their work on behalf of people with disabilities, whether that be improving accessibility in public accommodations, working on legislation to ensure disability rights or helping others advocate for themselves,” said Sherri Collins, AzDAC chair and executive director of [Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing](#). “This year’s awards were particularly special because we were – and still are – celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ADA. All the recipients were very deserving, and we are grateful for their work in the disability community.”

For more information, visit [www.azdac.org](http://www.azdac.org).