



# PRESS RELEASE

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New York State  
Unified Court System

Chief Administrative Judge  
Hon. Lawrence K. Marks

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## Erie County Judge Honored by Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus

**Buffalo, New York** – Erie County Family Court Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin was honored today in Buffalo by Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-26) for her tireless work on behalf of at-risk children and families, including survivors of family violence. Judge Bloch Rodwin is a recipient of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus's 2018 Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation. The national award, for which she was nominated by Congressman Higgins, will be presented at the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus's twelfth-annual awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on April 12. This prestigious honor is given in tribute to California Judge Lois Haight, chair of the 1982 President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, who led pioneering efforts to promote crime victims' rights and services.

"Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin is an outstanding judge, charismatic leader and true champion of justice whose contributions have had a positive impact on policies and practices affecting the rights of domestic violence survivors and other crime victims. I congratulate her on this eminent, highly deserved award," said Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks.

"On behalf of Erie County Family Court and the court system's Eighth Judicial District, we are immensely proud of Judge Bloch Rodwin for her leadership in this important arena. She has brought much-needed awareness to domestic violence and child welfare issues, also working diligently to implement systemic reforms and enhance services to improve the life chances of vulnerable children and families in Buffalo and beyond," said Eighth Judicial District Administrative Judge Paula Feroletto.

"For Judge Bloch Rodwin, the quest isn't simply what she does, it's who she is. Throughout her lifetime of service she has sought not only to resolve the immediate challenge

facing an individual victim or a family but pursued improvements to fix the system, elevate support services and ultimately prevent future occurrences of crime and abuse,” said Congressman Higgins.

Judge Bloch Rodwin, a former bureau chief of the Erie County District Attorney’s Domestic Violence Bureau, joined the Erie County Family Court bench in 2008. She presides over a range of family law matters that include child neglect, child custody, juvenile justice and family violence. Throughout her tenure on the bench, she has spearheaded training and other initiatives to address such critical issues as child abuse, elder abuse, cyberstalking, domestic assault and the over-representation of minority children in foster care.

Among her numerous professional and civic activities, she is the founder of the Alexa Foundation, which serves child abuse and sexual assault survivors, director of the New York State Family Court Judges Association, a member of the New York State Advisory Council on Immigration Issues in Family Court and a frequent lecturer on issues relating to domestic violence and child welfare.

The mission of the Congressional Victims’ Rights Caucus is to elevate crime victim issues in a bipartisan manner without infringing on the rights of the accused. Since 2006 the Caucus has honored outstanding individuals, agencies and collaborative initiatives whose efforts directly benefit victims and survivors of crime, and promote individual and public safety. The Caucus’s Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation is one of numerous honors received by Judge Bloch Rodwin over the course of her distinguished public service career.

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