



Disability Rights Connecticut

“Connecticut’s protection and advocacy system”

846 Wethersfield Avenue
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DRCT Honors Ruth Bader Ginsburg

We mourn the passing of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Among Justice Ginsburg’s long list of legal and social accomplishments, disability rights advocates particularly remember her lead opinion in the groundbreaking 1999 case of *Olmstead v. L. C.*

Olmstead upheld the community integration mandate of the ADA. The case ruled that states are required to place persons with mental disabilities in community settings rather than in institutions when treatment professionals find that community placement is appropriate, the affected individual agrees to community placement and the cost is reasonable.

In Justice Ginsburg’s opinion, she stated:

Recognition that unjustified institutional isolation of persons with disabilities is a form of discrimination reflects two evident judgments. First, institutional placement of persons who can handle and benefit from community settings perpetuates unwarranted assumptions that persons so isolated are incapable or unworthy of participating in community life. ... Second, confinement in an institution severely diminishes the everyday life activities of individuals, including family relations, social contacts, work options, economic independence, educational advancement, and cultural enrichment.

Coming on the heels of a series of Supreme Court cases that had narrowly construed the ADA, *Olmstead* was a major breakthrough in our quest to achieve equal opportunity, participation and integration of people with disabilities. With deep gratitude, we remember Justice Ginsberg and her contributions to our community.