About the Award

The Steve Bieringer “Keep on Trucking” Award will be issued annually to the individual who makes the greatest contribution to building the American Diabetes Association’s Legal Advocacy volunteer networks: the Advocacy Attorney Network, the Health Care Professionals Legal Advocacy Network, and the Advanced School Advocate Training program. The award recognizes Steve’s tireless work over many decades to Stop Diabetes including the over five years he spent building the Association’s capacity to help more people facing discrimination.

Honorees will be chosen based on their ability to add more volunteers to the three networks as well as overall contributions to building volunteer capacity.

From 2005 through 2009, Steve Bieringer led the Association’s efforts to train and grow the ranks of advocates, more than doubling the number of advocates working to help end discrimination. Recognizing the need to train these advocates to handle the hardest cases and make sure today’s lawsuit didn’t hurt tomorrow’s plaintiff, Steve developed a comprehensive training program for attorneys called Fighting for Fairness. This two-day program brought together legal and medical experts to educate lawyers from around the country on how to handle a diabetes discrimination case from start to finish. Held in 2005, 2007, and 2009, Fighting for Fairness trained more than 150 attorneys. He also helped launch the Association’s Advanced School Advocate Training program, which today numbers more than 150 school advocates.

As a person living with type 1 diabetes, Steve understands well how diabetes can interfere with important parts of daily life such as work, school, and travel. The award is called the “Keep on Trucking” award because of Steve’s desire to keep making progress on the road to fairness for people with diabetes. Steve is outraged when a person with diabetes is told “no” simply because he or she has diabetes – as used to be the case for commercial drivers who use insulin. Steve brought his incredible skills as an organizer, his great mind, and his passion to ending that discrimination and fighting for access to care for all people with diabetes. First in his role as State Advocacy Director for the western U.S. to his later role on Legal Advocacy staff growing volunteer networks, developing training courses, and in many other ways building the Association’s ability to combat discrimination, Steve kept on trucking. It is his indefatigable work on behalf of people with diabetes that we recognize with this award.

Selection Process

Individuals may be nominated by submitting an application online at diabetes.org/stevebieringeraward or by contacting Katie Hathaway, Managing Director, Legal Advocacy at khathaway@diabetes.org. The winner will be selected based on the following factors:

• Number of new attorney, health care professional, and school advocate volunteers added to networks; and
• Efforts to build volunteer capacity, to include training, outreach, and other work to integrate Legal Advocacy volunteers into the Association’s mission.

The chair of the American Diabetes Association Legal Advocacy Subcommittee, with input from the Managing Director, Legal Advocacy, will choose the winner.

Award Honor

The award will be granted annually. Award recipients will receive an individual award and will have their name added to a plaque bearing Steve’s name and photo and displayed at the American Diabetes Association’s Home Office.