



For Immediate Release

August 13, 2026

Contact: Jennifer Jenkins, 312-882-4584

**Marsy's Law for Illinois Presents "Champion of Victims' Rights" Award to
Champaign County State's Attorney Julia Rietz and her victim advocacy team on
Monday, August 17 at 10:00AM**

URBANA – Champaign County Illinois State's Attorney Julia Rietz and her victim advocacy team will be presented with the Champion of Victims' Rights award from Marsy's Law for Illinois for their "tireless work helping survivors navigate the criminal justice system and recover from the trauma of being victimized," according to **Jennifer Bishop Jenkins, State Director for Marsy's Law for Illinois**.

Rietz, who has served as Champaign County State's Attorney since 2004, is one of the most "pro-victim prosecutors in the state of Illinois and perhaps the entire country," said **Jenkins**. Illinois' crime victims' rights constitutional amendment, known as Marsy's Law for Illinois, was adopted in 2014. Marsy's Law for Illinois expanded victims' rights and made them legally enforceable.

"State's Attorney Rietz has been particularly devoted to the enforcement of Marsy's Law rights," said **Jenkins**, whose grandfather, John J. Bresee, served as Champaign County State's Attorney from 1942-1956 and again from 1964-1968. "Julia and her wonderful staff work every day to make sure victims are informed, empowered and supported at every step of the criminal justice process. She and her team are truly champions of victims' rights."

Champaign County State's Attorney Julia Rietz said: "Helping crime victims navigate a system they never asked to be a part of in the first place is one of the most important things we do in our office. I am fortunate to have an amazing staff that works hard to ensure survivors know their rights and are connected to services to help them heal. I am honored to receive this award and we will continue to take a victim-centric approach to our work."

In addition to Rietz, the Champion of Victims' Rights Award is being presented to Champaign County victim advocacy staff: Lisette Lugo, Senior Victim Advocate; Jessica Cox, Kimberly Easton-Morris and Chantelle Jasper.

Here are the details for the award presentation:

WHAT: Marsy's Law for Illinois Champion of Victims Rights Award Presentation
WHEN: 10:00 a.m. – Monday, August 17, 2026
WHERE: State's Attorney Office;
Champaign County Courthouse 2nd Floor (101 East Main Street, Urbana)
WHO: Jennifer Bishop Jenkins, State Director, Marsy's Law for Illinois
Champaign County States Attorney Julia Rietz and her victim advocacy staff

###