

# The Honorable Tony Coelho



The Honorable Anthony “Tony” Coelho has spent his entire adult life helping advance the lives of people with disabilities. He calls this his “ministry” while those in the disability community call him their “voice” and “champion.”

Diagnosed with epilepsy when he was 22 years old, Mr. Coelho’s ministry is marked by significant milestones: primary author and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) — the most important piece of civil rights legislation in the last 30 years; advocating for the ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and convincing President Bill Clinton to establish the Office of Disability Employment Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor.

Mr. Coelho is a former six-term United States Congressman from California, elected in 1978 and serving until 1989. In 1986, Mr. Coelho was elected House Majority Whip, the third most powerful position in the House of Representatives.

After leaving Congress, Mr. Coelho joined Wertheim Schroder & Company, Inc., an investment-banking firm in New York, where he served as a Managing

Director and then as President and CEO of Wertheim Schroder Investment Services, a firm that he grew from \$400 million to \$4 billion in managed investments.

In 2018, Mr. Coelho founded The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation at Loyola Marymount University. The Coelho Center convenes thought leaders to pursue positive change on disability issues; leverages technology to advance the lives of people with disabilities; and creates a pipeline of lawyers with disabilities to populate the bench and hold elected office.

A native of California, Mr. Coelho earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1964 from Loyola University in Los Angeles (now Loyola Marymount University), where he served as Student Body President during his senior year. Mr. Coelho has served as a member of Loyola Marymount University’s Board of Trustees and received an Honorary Doctorate in 1987. Mr. Coelho currently serves on the Board of Directors of both the Epilepsy Foundation and the American Association of People with Disabilities.