Disability Rights in Today's World: Celebrating 34 Years of the ADA & 25 Years of Olmstead

Part 2 Of 3-Part 2024 Webinar Series Thursday, July 18, 2024





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Q&A Session:

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Apps

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Selected questions will be answered

3

Reactions





Disability Rights in Today's World: Celebrating 34 Years of ADA and 25 Years of Olmstead Agenda

- **1. Introductions:**
 - a. April Dawson Rawlings, Executive
 - **Director California Commission on**
 - **Disability Access**
 - b. Jan Garrett, Deputy Director of ADA
 - Programs, Pacific ADA Center

- **2.** History of Disability Rights Laws
 - a. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973)
 - b. ADA Anniversary July 26th, 1990





Agenda Continued

3. Disability Rights Laws Evolving Over the Years

- a. 25th Anniversary of Olmstead v.
 L.C. (1999)
- b. Acheson Hotels, LLC v. Laufer (2023)
- c. Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- d. DOJ Website Rule under Title II of ADA

- 4. ADA in the Future Panel Discussion
- 5. Question and Answer
- 6. Available Resources



What the Pacific ADA Center Offers

- Technical Assistance
- Trainings
- Webinars
- Materials
- Conferences





What the California Commission on Disability Access Offers

- Small Business Education and Outreach
- Technical Materials and Trainings
- Listening Forums and Webinars
- Disability Access Litigation Data Tracking
- Annual Report to State Legislature



Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973)

- One of the first federal civil rights protections for individuals with disabilities
- Ensures individuals with disabilities have equal access to education, employment, and public services
- Applies to businesses & organizations that receive federal funding or contracts
- Mandates accessible facilities and services for customers with disabilities



The 1977 504 Sit-In





San Francisco Examiner Archive. Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

- Individuals with disabilities demanded action to implement and enforce Section 504 protections
- Longest non-violent occupation of a federal building in U.S.
 - April 5 April 30, 1977, lasting 25 days
 - San Francisco, CA
- Set a precedent for future activism and legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990



ADA Anniversary July 26th, 1990



Americans with Disabilities Act July 26, 1990

- President George H.W. Bush signed the ADA into law
- Prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities
- Ensure equal opportunity and access to employment, education, transportation, and all public and private places open to the public



Americans with Disabilities Act Titles



Title I. Employment

Title II. Public Entities

Part A - State and Local Government

Part B - Public Transportation Title III. Public Accommodations Title IV. Telecommunications Title V. Miscellaneous







Disabilities Protected By the ADA

- ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 broadens the definition of disability
- Under the ADA, an individual with a disability is a person who either:
 - Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
 - Has a record of such an impairment; or
 - Is regarded as having such an impairment.





ADA Impact on Businesses

- Increased accessibility in retail stores, restaurants & other public businesses
- Legal requirements for modifying existing facilities & new compliant construction
- Process to Compliance
 - Implement necessary modifications (e.g. installing ramps, widening doorways, accessible restrooms)
 - Provide staff training on ADA compliance and disability awareness



25th Anniversary of Olmstead v. L.C. (1999)



- Landmark Supreme Court case addressing the rights of individuals with disabilities
- Ruled by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 22, 1999
- Held that the unjustified segregation of people with disabilities violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)





Acheson Hotels, LLC v. Laufer (2023)

- Addresses the rights of individuals with disabilities to access information about hotel accommodations
- Whether individuals with disabilities have standing to sue hotels for non-compliance with ADA website accessibility
- Whether "testers" who investigate compliance with ADA, can sue businesses for discrimination when their rights under the ADA are violated





Acheson Impact on Businesses

- Reinforces the need for businesses to provide accessible information online
- Ensures that customers with disabilities have equal access to information and services



Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)



- Prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in health programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance
- Promotes health equity and ensures equal access to healthcare services

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Section 1557 Impact

- Applies nondiscrimination protections to telehealth and patient care decision support tools
- Requires modifications to policies and practices to accommodate individuals with disabilities





DOJ Website Rule under Title II of ADA

- Attorney General Merrick B. Garland signed a final rule to ensure accessibility of digital content
- Web and mobile apps are crucial for accessing public services
- Inaccessible technologies can exclude individuals with disabilities from critical services



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Website Rule Impact

- Establishes accessibility standards to prevent discrimination against individuals with disabilities in accessing government services
- Mandates specific technical standards to ensure web and mobile app accessibility
- Implement necessary changes to meet ADA web accessibility standards (e.g., WCAG)





ADA in the Future – Panel Discussion

1. How has the ADA impacted your life?

2. What impact has the Olmstead decision had on your ability to live independently and participate in community activities?





Panel Discussion (cont.)

3. What are your favorite apps or tools for accessibility?

4. How can businesses, schools, and local governments better address barriers to support people with disabilities?





Panel Discussion (end)

5. What role do you think social media plays in the disability rights movement for your generation?

6. What will disability rights look like in 10 years?





Questions and Answers





Disability Rights Laws Resources

- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services https://www.hhs.gov/
- Olmstead Rights -

https://www.olmsteadrights.org/about-olmstead/

- California Civils Rights Office https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/accommodation/
- U.S. Department of Justice | Office of Public Affairs - <u>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-</u> <u>department-publish-final-rule-strengthen-web-</u> <u>and-mobile-app-access-people</u>
- ADA National Network <u>https://adata.org/</u>
 - (800) 949-4232





Business Resources



- ADA Requirements: Effective Communication https://www.ada.gov/resources/effectivecommunication/
- ADA Quick Tips: Tax Incentives https://adata.org/factsheet/quicktips-tax
- Certified Access Specialist (CASp) Inspection -<u>https://www.dgs.ca.gov/DSA/Resources/Page-</u> <u>Content/Resources-List-Folder/Certified-Access-</u> <u>Specialist-Property-Inspection</u>



Stay Connected with the California Commission on Disability Access

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