

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Delivered to the Membership of USICD at their Annual Meeting, June 12, 2012



The membership of USICD has a vision of a world where the civil and human rights of persons with disabilities are protected and advanced, where the capacities and talents of persons with disabilities are celebrated and elevated, and where people with disabilities come together across borders as a global disability community.



United States International Council on Disabilities

MESSAGE FROM USICD PRESIDENT MARCA BRISTO



We have arrived at an exciting moment in the expansion of disability rights around the world. Today, 153 countries have signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including the United States, which signed the treaty in 2009. USICD applauds the Obama Administration for now taking that next important step: completing a thorough review of the CRPD and sending to the U.S. Senate last month a proposal for the U.S. to ratify this important disability treaty. With the input of the disability community, the Administration has presented a package that adheres to U.S. disability law and protects U.S. sovereignty.

The work that our members make possible has enabled us to reach countless Americans to raise awareness of the CRPD and build support for ratification. This support is being heard, not only in the calls for ratification coming from the disability community, but also from our friends in the broader human rights field, the veterans' community, and others. We could not be prouder of the diverse movement that is now lifting its voice in support for ratification, which includes over 165 disability organizations and 21 veterans and military service organizations.

On May 25, 2012, seven bipartisan Senators announced their support for ratification. These Senators have reminded Americans that disability is a universal experience and knows no party. This support has put a new gust of wind in our sails, and we do not want to lose this momentum! USICD members and friends across the disability community are already calling for a hearing on the treaty in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—one of a few important steps that must be completed before the full Senate can vote on it. We will keep you informed of progress and we ask you to stand ready for more action as the effort to ratify the CRPD moves forward.

Upon ratification, we will join today's 112 other countries and the European Union that have ratified. U.S. ratification will bolster disability rights efforts in nations abroad that look to us in considering their own national policies. Some of these countries already have drawn upon pioneering legislation in the United States, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, as inspiration for building their laws to realize the vision of the CRPD. Ratification will also allow for the US to nominate a representative to a seat on the international Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the CRPD around the world. Through this mechanism, we can share our technical knowledge and create a more welcoming world for our students, veterans, and all Americans who study, work, and travel abroad. We can join our neighbors around the world in solidarity, and together pioneer new paths toward greater accessibility, inclusion, and equality for the world's one billion people with disabilities.

This key moment for the CRPD in the United States coincides with other recent achievements globally and for USICD, and in this annual report you will see why your continued support for USICD is truly making good things happen. The Global Disability Rights Library (GDRL) team has now begun to ship out eGranary Digital Libraries to over 60 locations in 12 countries, distributing a collection of 2.5 million documents on disability rights and related topics. Already, organizations have begun to use content from the GDRL to strengthen the training materials and workshops that they develop for use in their local communities as they build their own momentum toward inclusive societies.

The most important change agent in our work is the USICD membership. USICD members supply the perseverance, energy, and ideas that make all our efforts possible. If you are already a USICD member, thank you. If you have not yet joined the USICD family, we would be delighted to welcome you as a member of a pioneering organization working to build bridges between disability communities around the world.

Submitted by Marca Bristo, June 2012

United States International Council on Disabilities

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FROM DAVID MORRISSEY



The year 2011 has been a year for building strong relationships within both the American and international communities. Our CRPD education and advocacy efforts continued to gather steam during the year as we educated US Senators and the American public about the importance of US ratification of the CRPD. Now that the White House has transmitted the CRPD package to the Senate, we have sharp focus on striving to make history in achieving US ratification of the CRPD. Meanwhile, the Global Disability Rights Library transformed. At the start of 2011, it was a modest collection of resources still in development. By the end of 2011 it became an information giant that consists of 2.5 million documents organized into nine thematic portals now being shipped to host organizations in developing countries.

While CRPD education and outreach, and the Global Disability Rights Library project, are major on-going activities for USICD, we have also been active in other ways as well. Early in 2011, most readers will recall that the northeast region of Japan was struck with a major earthquake followed by a tsunami and a nuclear plant disaster. In the months that followed, the news section of USICD's website became a source of news and updates on events in Japan for the US community. Knowing that people with disabilities in Japan could face difficulty in accessing traditional sources of post-disaster assistance, USICD worked with our sister organization DPI-Japan its leader Shoji Nakanishi, and the USICD community contributed funds to be sent to disaster relief efforts focused on people with disabilities.

In June 2011, the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO) released a significant new publication, the World Report on Disability, which announced a new estimate that 15% of the world's population—or one billion people—live with some form of disability. The report is extensive and now an essential desk reference. In addition to data, it explores the barriers that people with disabilities confront in accessing education, employment, and health care. Librarians were quick to include the electronic version of this report in the Global Disability Rights Library:

In October, I participated in the 8th World Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) in South Africa. I presented on the GDRL and was surprised and honored when asked to serve as an election observer in DPI's process to elect a new executive committee. USICD congratulates Indian disability leader Javed Abidi for his success in seeking the chairmanship of DPI and we look forward to continued friendship and collaboration with him and our sister DPI assemblies around the world for many years to come. Already the new leadership is moving DPI forward, and recently announced the formation of two new networks: a Global Youth Network and a Global Women's Network. We also welcome the news from Rehabilitation International of its World Congress to be held in October 2012 in South Korea. USICD provides links to all of these activities on our website and we encourage our members to consider submitting papers or attending activities like these when possible for sharing knowledge and building solidarity!

In working to develop the Global Disability Rights Library, we have built connections with hundreds of organizations around the world dedicated to a range of issues related to disability, human rights, and international development. In the process, USICD is learning more about the 60 organizations that have agreed to receive an eGranary and share its content on disability rights with local communities. This is helping enhance our understanding of issues and needs that confront people with disabilities around the world and the action taken by local disability rights leaders and allies to address them. In November of last year, we were host to a sitting leader from the Pakistan Disabled Foundation, Dr. Shahid Memon—a visit covered by Voice of America radio.

USICD's CRPD education and outreach efforts expanded its reach in 2011, bringing awareness of the CRPD to advocates across the nation. In the past year, USICD has provided over fifty educational trainings at the local, national, and international level. The knowledge of the disability community has grown and the community has been eager to advance the ratification effort in the US. This also was an important year for strengthening our relationship with members of the Senate who are supportive of efforts to ratify the CRPD. Upon transmittal of the treaty package, seven of these senators voiced their strong support for the CRPD. USICD thanks Senators McCain, Durbin, Moran, Harkin, Barrasso, Coons, and Udall for their leadership and support. With this strong bipartisan support in place, we are enthusiastically awaiting a hearing and vote on the CRPD soon.

I look forward to working more closely than ever with USICD members, our rapidly growing network of international allies, and our staff this year. Please do reach out to the USICD office if you are interested in discussing opportunities to collaborate in promoting the CRPD or engaging with the global disability community. In coordination with our excellent allies around the nation and world, I know we will be able to advance the cause of disability rights everywhere.

Submitted by David Morrissey, June 2012

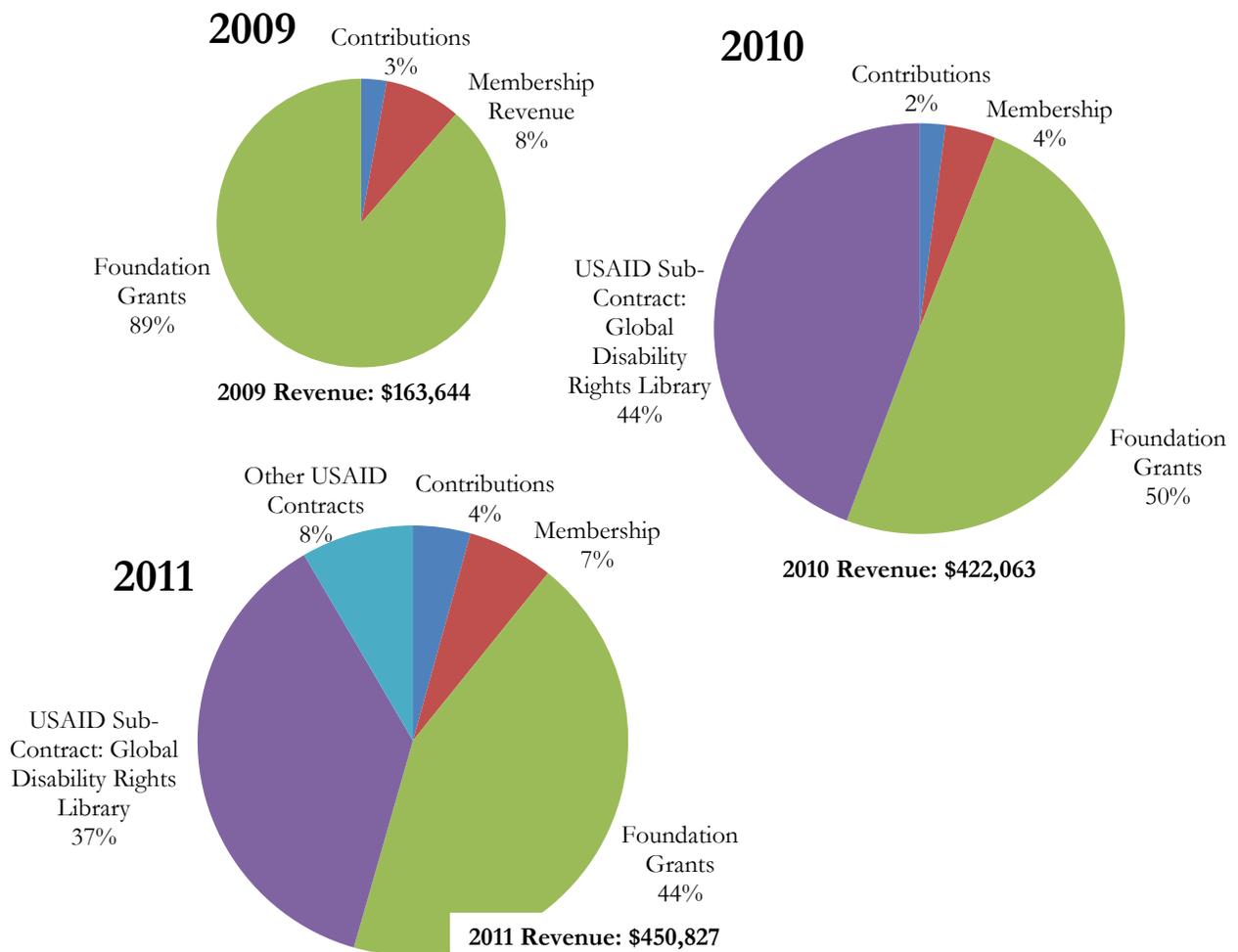
United States International Council on Disabilities

TREASURER'S REPORT

A community of funding and project partners has made it possible for USICD to grow significantly in the past 3 years. General operating support and program grants for USICD's education activities in support of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) have formed a core of USICD's grant funding. A USAID-funded 3-year contract with the University of Iowa (2010-12) has enabled USICD to create two staff positions devoted to developing the Global Disability Rights Library. In 2011, USICD initiated a new, 6-month contract with USAID to develop their internal Disability Inclusive Development eLearning course. A new Strategic Plan in development provides a comprehensive vision for mid- and long-term resource development and the priorities for managing this growth strategically.

An independent audit of USICD's 2011 financial statements conducted in March 2012 by AAL Certified Public Accountants found that all financial records were accurate and maintained in conformity with standard accounting principles accepted in the United States. A copy of this audit is available upon request.

Revenue Sources



Finance Committee: Jeff Rosen, Chair and Treasurer; Lee Schulz, David Hutt, and Barbara Leroy. Ex officio: Marca Bristo, Board President.

MEMBERSHIP

USICD has seen a steady growth in our membership over the past four years, due to expansion in both our organizational and individual member categories. Our membership has expanded to include individuals and organizations spanning 27 states and the District of Columbia, and includes centers for independent living, academic departments, protection and advocacy organizations, international development actors, and a breadth of others who are all committed to the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities.

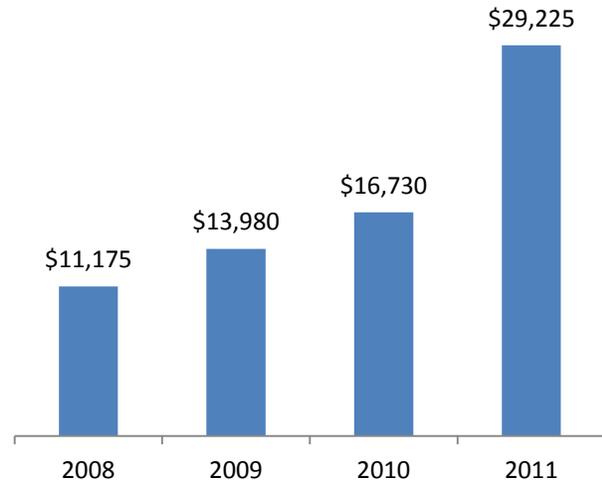
USICD continues to reach out to Federal agencies to expand representation in our non-voting Government Membership; in 2011, our Government Members included the National Council on Disability, the U.S. Access Board, the Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Programs, the Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Transportation.

Membership Committee: Joan Durocher, Chair; Pat Morrissey, Michael Winter, Eric Rosenthal.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

AAIDD • Access Living • Access to Independence • Advocating Change Together • American Association of People with Disabilities • American Samoa University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities • Association of University Centers on Disabilities • Association on Higher Education and Disability • Bender Consulting Services • BlazeSports America • CBM • Center for Independent Living For Western Wisconsin • Center for International Rehabilitation Research Information & Exchange • Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Southern University • Developmental Disabilities Institute-Wayne State University • Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund • Easter Seals • ED101 • Employment and Disability Institute-Cornell University • EquallyAble Foundation • Handicap International U.S. • Houston Center for Independent Living • HSC Foundation • Illinois/Iowa Center for Independent Living • Independence First • Institute for Community Inclusion • JBS International • Life Without Limits • Mobility International USA • Montana Independent Living Project • National Association of the Deaf • National Council on Independent Living • National Multiple Sclerosis Society • University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (OHSU) • Partners for Youth with Disabilities • Perkins International • Post-Polio Health International • Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America • Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago • Schwab Rehabilitation Center • The Arc of the United States • The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living • The Re-source Network • Tri County Patriots for Independent Living • Victor Pineda Foundation • VSA Arts • World Institute on Disability

Membership Revenue



United States International Council on Disabilities

CRPD STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES



On May 17, the White House transmitted its treaty package to the U.S. Senate requesting its advice and consent for ratification of the CRPD. Upon reviewing the treaty package, USICD confirmed that it reflected what was described by the White House in their preview of the package and its reservations, understandings, and a declaration to the disability community in January 2011.

On May 25 a group of seven bipartisan senators, with whom USICD has been working with, announced their support for ratification (Senators McCain, Durbin, Harkin, Barrasso, Coons, Moran and Udall). USICD issued a press release the same day applauding these seven senators for their leadership. The next step in the Senate following this showing of bipartisan support will be for Chairman Kerry and Ranking Member Lugar to hold a hearing in the Foreign Relations Committee.

Since transmittal, USICD has been hosting national teleconferences and local meetings to organize next steps towards ratification and provide information and materials about the treaty. American organizations from around the country are releasing their statements of support and joining the over 165 disability organizations and 21 veterans service organizations that support ratification. The USICD board and staff would like to thank Mayer Brown LLP for their pro bono support in this ratification campaign. Attorneys Carolyn Osolinik and Timothy Keeler in particular have provided vital expertise in this effort.

CRPD EDUCATION

The U.S. International Council on Disabilities began leading community education and advocacy trainings around the CRPD in July of 2009 following U.S. signature of the treaty. USICD offers presentations on the CRPD that provide information regarding the treaty's history, context, content and status, and explores aspects of the CRPD's successful implementation in countries seeking to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all areas of life. In addition to trainings, USICD offers materials and has created a logo, stickers and a CRPD principle poster (available on the USICD website) to share knowledge about the CRPD.

This year USICD has offered over 50 educational trainings at the local, national, and international level.



USICD's education and outreach initiative is reaching diverse audiences around the country and abroad. Past presentations this year include audiences at: Columbia University, TASH, American University, Council for Exceptional Children, AUCD, NCIL, Meridian International, the UN Conference of States Parties, InterAction, AAIDD, BlazeSports, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

USICD has partnered with the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) to provide disability leaders in all fifty states with the most current information on the treaty's status in the United States. USICD is also a primary resource for U.S. Senators and their staffs who are seeking information on the treaty. Questions on hosting a training on the CRPD can be directed to USICD's Disability Program Manager Esmé Grant.

United States International Council on Disabilities

GLOBAL DISABILITY RIGHTS LIBRARY



What began as a concept in 2009 and a fledging but growing collection of resources in 2010 has now become a reality in 2011-12. The GDRL team spent most of 2011 building the digital library and recruiting and screening applications from organizations interested in deploying the library.

An overwhelming number of organizations around the world expressed interest in the library during 2011 and beyond. By the end of the selection process, 441 organizations in dozens of countries around the world had submitted completed applications for consideration. Another few hundred organizations have expressed interest in future deployment opportunities. From among the applicants, the GDRL team selected 60 recipients for an eGranary Digital Library containing the full GDRL collection. The first wave of 27 deployment sites were notified in 2011 and another wave of 33 deployment sites were notified in 2012.

In June 2011, a prototype version of the off-line Global Disability Rights Library collection with a few hundred thousand electronic documents was installed at four pilot organizations in Peru, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Zambia. The four pilot organizations reviewed the disability rights content in the eGranary and shared their feedback for improving the library. In late 2011, the GDRL team released the first edition of the completed GDRL collection, now organized into nine thematic information portals. A second edition of the GDRL was released in 2012, now with 2.5 million documents. Each eGranary contains a total of 30 million documents including the GDRL collection and other collections, all stored inside a 4 TB hard drive or server. Each eGranary also contains various types of free, open source accessibility software systems designed to make it easier for people with disabilities to access the eGranary and use computers. The current funding contract for the GDRL expires in October 2012. The GDRL team is continuing to explore ways to secure the funding support it needs to continue expanding the GDRL project beyond this point.



The colored pins in the map above show the locations of the 60 GDRL deployment sites across 12 countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Deployment sites include disabled people's organizations (DPOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, mainstream and disability-focused development organizations, government agencies, and public libraries. A full listing of all deployment sites, and a link to an interactive version of the map, is available at USICD's website.

United States International Council on Disabilities

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Marca Bristo

President

Eric Rosenthal

Vice President

John Lancaster

Past President

Barbara LeRoy

Secretary

Jeff Rosen

Treasurer

Directors

Ann Cody

Tony Coelho

Lex Frieden

David Hutt

Patricia Morrissey

David W. Oaks

Stephanie Ortoleva

Randy Rutta

Maria Veronica Reina

Diana Samarasan

Lee Schulz

Glen White

Government Representatives

David Baquis

U.S. Access Board

Joan Durocher

National Council on Disability

Kerry Lida

U.S. Department of Labor

Marcie Roth

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Michael Winter

U.S. Department of Transportation

Sue Swenson

U.S. Department of Education

USICD STAFF

David Morrissey

Executive Director

Esmé Grant

Disability Rights Program Manager

Ellis Ballard

Program Development Manager

Andrea Shettle

Global Disability Rights Library Program Manager

Suzanne Richard

Outreach Coordinator

Contact Us!

USICD • 1012 14th Street NW, Suite 105 • Washington, DC • 20005
Email: info@usidc.org • Telephone: 202-347-0102 • Fax: 202-347-0351
www.usidc.org • facebook.com/usidc • twitter.com/usidc

United States International Council on Disabilities

BOARD MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Marca Bristo – President

Marca Bristo is President of Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago, a leading disability rights organization. She has received numerous awards, including the Americans with Disabilities Act Award in recognition of her contribution to creating and passing the law.

Eric Rosenthal – Vice President

Eric Rosenthal is the founder and Executive Director of Disability Rights International, which has exposed—and ended—human rights atrocities inside institutions for people with mental disabilities internationally. The American Association of People with Disabilities credits his role with DRI as one influencing factor that led to the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

John Lancaster – Past President

John Lancaster is a former Executive Director of the National Council on Independent Living. He has played a significant role in developing disability laws and policies in the United States and has provided technical assistance to disability programs in Vietnam.

Barbara LeRoy – Secretary

Barbara LeRoy is a professor at the Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University in Detroit. She is a disability consultant to the Ministries of Education in New Zealand, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.

Jeff Rosen – Treasurer

Jeff Rosen is General Counsel and Vice President of Government Affairs at Snap!VRS. For seven years, he also was a presidential appointee as the General Counsel and Director of Policy for the National Council on Disability.

Ann Cody

Ann Cody is Director of Policy and Outreach for Blaze Sports. She brings more than a decade of experience working with the non-profit sector on disability issues, including serving as venue director and sports planning manager for the Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee, the organization responsible for staging the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games.

Tony Coelho

Tony Coelho is Chair of Life without Limits. A former congressman, Coelho authored the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Lex Frieden

Lex Frieden is a professor at the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research. He has been a leader in the independent living movement since the 1970s and has received two Presidential Citations for his work in the disability field.

David Hutt

David Hutt is senior staff attorney at the National Disability Rights Network, which promotes equality of opportunity for people with disabilities. He has provided training in employment law and rehabilitation issues and works on issues related to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

United States International Council on Disabilities

Pat Morrissey

Patricia Morrissey was a member of the U.S. Delegation to a United Nations Committee that drafted the CRPD. She was Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) from August 2001 till January 2009.

David Oaks

David Oaks is the Executive Director of MindFreedom International. For the past quarter century, he has advocated for improvements in the mental health system, including better human rights protections for psychiatric survivors.

Stephanie Ortoleva Stephanie Ortoleva is Senior Human Rights Legal Advisor at BlueLaw, International, LLP, where she focuses on disability rights and human rights programming in developing countries. She is an Associate of the American University Center for Global Peace.

Maria Veronica Reina

Maria Veronica Reina is Executive Director of the Global Partnership on Disability and Development. She participated in negotiations for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Randy Rutta

Randy Rutta is Executive Vice President of Public Affairs at Easter Seals, Inc. He has been a key leader in advocating for making transportation systems more accessible to people with disabilities.

Diana Samarasan

Diana Samarasan is the director of the Disability Rights Fund, which gives grants to disabled people's organizations in developing countries that are advocating for improved implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She has been active for 12 years in the fields of disability, international health, and human rights.

Lee Schulz

Lee Schulz is Executive Director of Independence First and the co-founder of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers. He has given regional presentations on organizational management for disability organizations.

Glen White

Glen White is Director of the Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas and has worked in the field of rehabilitation and independent living for more than 30 years. Most recently, has conducted research and training in supportive entrepreneurship in Peru.

United States International Council on Disabilities

Government Representatives (Non-voting)

David Baquis

David Baquis is an Accessibility Specialist in the Access Board's Office of Technical and Information Services. David comes to the Access Board from SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing People) where he served as Director of the National Center on Assistive Technology.

Joan Durocher

Joan Durocher is General Counsel and Director of Policy to the National Council on Disability. She has served NCD for over eight years, including as Senior Attorney Advisor for the last several years.

Kerry Lida

Dr. Kerry Lida is a Social Science Researcher. She has worked within the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services on initiatives relating to disability employment policy and health care financing.

Marcie Roth

Marcie Roth is the Director of the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) leading the national transformation towards integrating the access and functional needs of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of whole community emergency and disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. She is known for her 30 years of leadership in developing and managing effective coalitions to advance disability inclusive policy initiatives.

Sue Swenson - Sue Swenson is deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the US Department of Education. She is the mother of three adult sons, one of whom has disabilities.

Michael Winter

Michael Winter serves as a Senior Program Analyst in the International Research Office of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). His area of expertise is international transportation accessibility issues and their role in facilitating independent living. He served as Director of FTA's Office of Civil Rights from November 5, 2001 to January 9, 2008.



If it relates to the human rights of people with disabilities, you can find it in here.

INSIDE

The
**Global
Disability
Rights
Library**

LEARN ABOUT

- Promoting Disability Rights
- Marginalized Populations
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

You will also find a wide array of specialized topics related to disability rights, from accessibility through independent living through violence and more.

Ask your librarian

<http://www.gdrl.org>

