



Center for
Children's
Advocacy

Americans with Disabilities Act A Powerful Tool for Justice

NLADA

November 7, 2015

Bonnie Roswig, Senior Staff Attorney
Medical-Legal Partnership Project
Center for Children's Advocacy

Center for **Children's** Advocacy

- Medical-Legal Partnership Project
- Addressing social determinatives of health for enhanced health care outcomes
- Engaging medical professionals – training, advocacy



Camp for Susie

- Referral from Primary Care
- 7 years old – recent Type 1 diabetes diagnosis
- Refused admission to camp



Americans with Disabilities Act

ADA

Title II

No qualified individual shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any public entity.

Americans with Disabilities Act

ADA

Title III

No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodation of any place of public accommodation by any private entity.

Educational Opportunities Civil Rights Working Group

District of Connecticut, U.S. Department of Justice



Educational Opportunities

Civil Rights Working Group

“Civil rights violations in educational and camp settings undermine the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens – our children,” stated U.S. Attorney Deirdre Daly.

“Through aggressive outreach and enforcement initiatives, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and our working group partners strive to eliminate these violations to improve the health and welfare of all children and young adults.”

Addressing Legal Need

Pervasive ADA violations

- Camps, daycare centers, aftercare programs
- Schools
- Post secondary programs



Traditional Remedies

- Monetary settlements
- Mandated internal training
- Comprehensive institutional policy change



Educational Opportunities Civil Rights Working Group

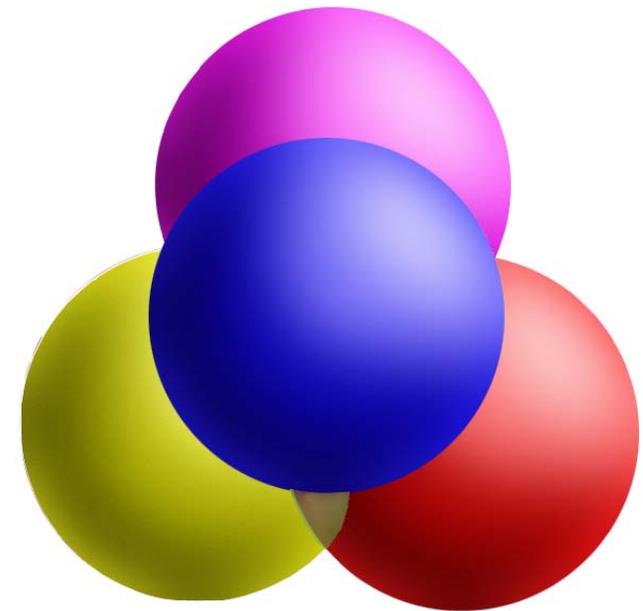
Unique vehicle to address ADA violations



Educational Opportunities

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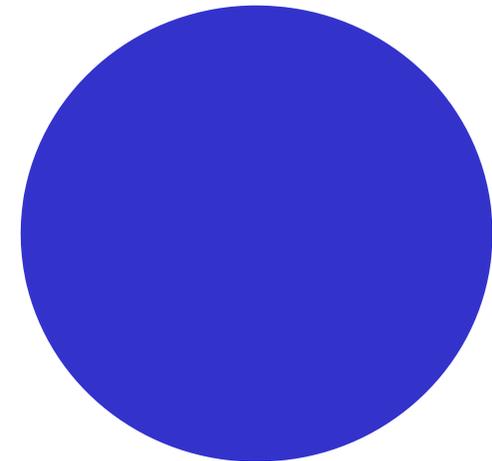
- **Federal Government**
- **Advocacy Organizations**
- **State Agencies**
- **Private Sector Partners**



Educational Opportunities Civil Rights Working Group

Federal Government

- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Human Services
- U.S. Department of Education

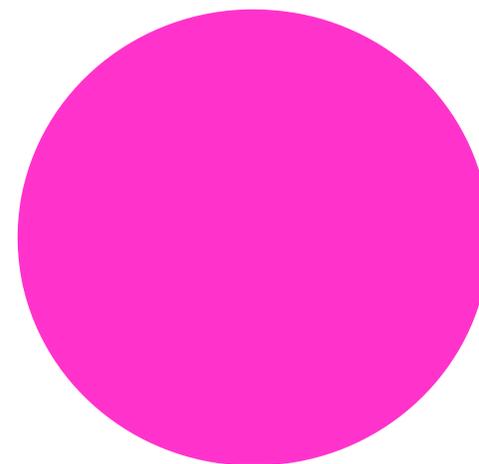


Educational Opportunities

Civil Rights Working Group

Advocacy Organizations

- Center for Children's Advocacy
- Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
- Office of Protection and Advocacy
- NAACP

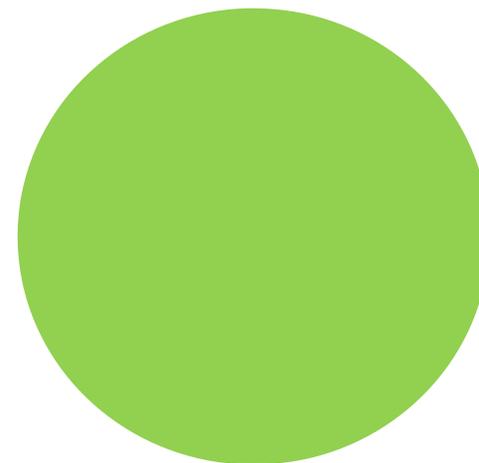


Educational Opportunities

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State Agencies

- Connecticut State Department of Education
- African American Affairs Commission
- Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
- Asian Pacific Affairs Commission

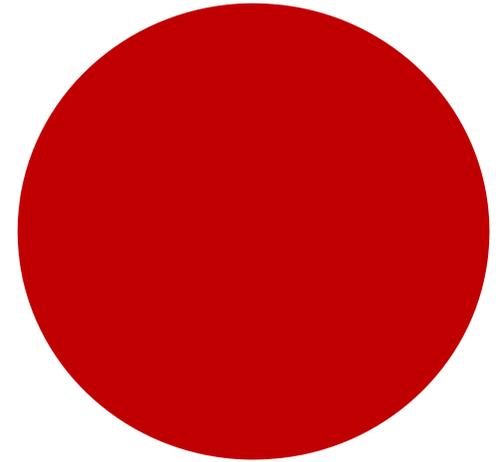


Educational Opportunities

Civil Rights Working Group

Private Sector Partners

- Connecticut After School Network
- Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association
- Connecticut Summer Camp Network



Training and Initiatives

Private

Staff development for camps, daycare, aftercare, private schools

Public Schools

School systems and ADA obligations

Community Organizations

Families

Training and Initiatives

Public Schools and ADA obligations

- 504 obligations
- Collaboration with U.S. Department of Education



Training and Initiatives

Community

- Outreach and training for community and parent groups



Training and Initiatives

Educating the Public

- Development and distribution of materials to parents, service providers and educators
- kidscounsel.org/publications



Training and Initiatives

Getting Youth Involved

- [New Haven Cooperative Arts High School PSA](#)

Camps, clubs, sports and after school programs can really enrich a child's life. But not enough counselors, coaches or program leaders work to assure their programs are accepting and accessible for all students.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B60mFoS3HvX5WV9IRzhXc0dVLW8/view>



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For questions or more information

Attorney Bonnie B. Roswig
Center for Children's Advocacy
Medical-Legal Partnership Project
broswig@connecticutchildrens.org
860-545-8581

