

Allegheny County Bar Association Committee on Law and Disability

The Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA) Committee on Law and Disability is committed to providing disability-related education, advocacy and professional services to members of the legal profession, consumers of legal services and the general public; promoting and supporting accessibility and fair and equal treatment of persons with disabilities; and furthering the inclusion and professional development of disabled attorneys and law students by creating programs and resources to support their professional needs.

Members of the Committee on Law and Disability have knowledge in many areas of the law, including, but not limited to:

- Accessibility and public accommodations
- Disability discrimination
- Disability policy issues
- Employment discrimination
- Housing and transportation
- Criminal justice
- Private disability benefits
- Public services and programs
- Social security disability and Medicaid benefits
- Special education
- Special needs planning and trusts
- Veterans benefits

Mentoring opportunities are also available for law students who may be interested in being mentored by members of the committee. Any law students seeking mentoring opportunities with committee members are invited to contact committee member and Pitt Law alumna Sarah Martin at smartin@fdpklaw.com.

The Committee on Law and Disability meets on the first Monday of the month from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. at the ACBA headquarters, James I. Smith, III Boardroom, Koppers Building, 4th Floor, 436 Seventh Ave. in downtown Pittsburgh. A call-in number is also available. Law student members are welcome. For more information or to join the committee, contact staff@acba.org.

Allegheny County Bar Association

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436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

412-261-6161

www.acba.org

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RESOURCES FOR LAW STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



Disability Defined

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12102, the term **"disability"** means, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of a person; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment. A person is regarded as having such an impairment if he/she establishes that he/she has been subjected to a prohibited action because of an actual or perceived physical or mental impairment whether or not the impairment limits or is perceived to limit a major life activity.

Major life activities include, but are not limited to:

- walking, standing, lifting and bending
- seeing, hearing, speaking, and communicating
- learning, reading, concentrating, and thinking
- caring for oneself and performing manual tasks
- eating, sleeping, and breathing
- working

Major bodily functions include, but are not limited to:

- functions of the immune system
- normal cell growth
- digestive, bowel, and bladder functions
- neurological and brain functions
- respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions

An impairment that is episodic or in remission is still a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active and the determination of whether an impairment is disabling is made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication or equipment. The ADA definition of disability will be construed in favor of broad coverage, to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of the law.

University of Pittsburgh School of Law

It is the policy of the University of Pittsburgh to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), including changes made by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in the provision of reasonable accommodations for individuals who voluntarily disclose and provide documentation of a disability. Under these laws, no qualified individual with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in services, programs or activities at the University of Pittsburgh.

Students who request accommodations, auxiliary aids and/or services on the basis of disability are responsible for disclosing their disability with the office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS). Students are required to meet with DRS and submit appropriate documentation of their disability. DRS will verify the students' status and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations to the Associate Dean of Students at the School of Law. The Associate Dean of Students, in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar, is responsible for the provision of accommodations throughout the school year.

Contact Information:

Disability Resources and Services
University of Pittsburgh
140 William Pitt Union
3959 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-648-7890

www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs

Kevin Deasy, Associate Dean of Students
University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Room 315
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-648-5642 | deasy@pitt.edu

Pitt Law students may also contact ACBA Committee on Law and Disability member and Pitt Law alumna Sarah Martin at smartin@fdpklaw.com with questions about the work of the committee.

Additional Law Student Resources

American Bar Association Commission on Disability Rights Resources

www.americanbar.org/groups/disabilityrights/resources.html

National Association of Law Students with Disabilities

www.nalswd.org

In particular, see the resource page: www.nalswd.org/resources.html

National Association of Blind Lawyers

www.blindlawyer.org

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bar Association

www.deafbar.org

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

www.lclpa.org | 1-888-999-1941

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers provides a caring peer assistance program to save the lives and restore the health and professional competence of Pennsylvania's judges and lawyers, members of their families and law students who are at risk as a result of alcohol and drug use, gambling, depression or other serious mental illness. They carry out this mission through a combination of confidential helpline services, volunteer support and education.

Information Relating to Bar Exam Accommodations

Pennsylvania Bar Exam

Law school graduates with physical or mental impairments can receive nonstandard testing accommodations (NTA) on the bar exam if they meet certain criteria. In order to request NTA, applicants must complete multiple forms and submit extensive documentation of their disabilities. Therefore, applicants should begin the process of requesting NTA early in their last semester of law school to ensure they do not miss any deadlines. More information on the Pennsylvania Bar Exam NTA can be found here: www.pabarexam.org/bar_exam_information/nta.htm.

Other Bar Exams and Additional Information

For more bar information for applicants with disabilities, see www.americanbar.org/groups/disabilityrights/resources/biad.html.

