

# Great Lakes Chronicle

ILLINOIS \* INDIANA \* MICHIGAN  
MINNESOTA \* OHIO \* WISCONSIN



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Welcome to the Great Lakes ADA and Accessible IT Center's monthly Newsletter

## Trainings & Events

### ADA Transportation Training

This training program will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the ADA's Transportation requirements through a combination of presentations, question/answer sessions and smaller group settings. Participants will have an opportunity to explore for themselves in a hands-on way what solutions the ADA provides for common transportation difficulties experienced by people with disabilities across the United States.

July 11-13, 2006

Las Vegas, Nevada

[www.dlrp.org/html/forms/adtransportation.html](http://www.dlrp.org/html/forms/adtransportation.html)

### Universal Design and Visitability: From Accessibility to Zoning

Hosted by Ohio State University. The concepts of Universal Design and Visitability will be explored as they apply in a variety of areas, including design, public policy, zoning and advocacy.

July 13-14, 2006

[www.knowlton.osu.edu/ped/universaldesign.htm](http://www.knowlton.osu.edu/ped/universaldesign.htm)

## In the Headlines

The U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) announced that it was seeking to fund one Research Consortium. The mission would be to develop a standard design practice and to conduct case study research to identify ways in which an organization's structures, policies and day-to-day practices, facilitate the employment of people with disabilities. ODEP is making available up to \$500,000 for an 18-month period of research. Read more about the ODEP's Research Consortium announcement.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-7120.htm>

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has posted to its web site an 8 part video series for law enforcement officials. The Video titled, "Police Response to People with Disabilities", is designed for use during roll call. The video provides information for situations involving individuals with mobility impairments, mental illnesses, mental retardation, epilepsy or seizure disorders, speech disabilities, deafness or hard of hearing, and blindness or low vision. In addition to being able to view the material on-line videos may be ordered through the DOJ web site. Read more about 8 part video series, "Police Response to People with Disabilities".

[www.ada.gov/new.htm](http://www.ada.gov/new.htm)

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has issued a new fact sheet titled, Reasonable Accommodations for Attorneys with Disabilities. The document seeks to clarify the application of the reasonable accommodation provisions of the ADA to attorneys with disabilities and their employers. The document discusses the rights and responsibilities of employees and employers under the ADA and also provides many examples. Read more on EEOC's new fact sheet, "Reasonable Accommodations for Attorneys with Disabilities".

[www.eeoc.gov/facts/accommodations-attorneys.html](http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/accommodations-attorneys.html)

Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao has announced that the theme for the national 2006 October disability employment awareness month will be, "Americans with Disabilities: Ready for the Global Workforce". The announcement of the theme allows employers, disability organizations and governmental entities to plan activities during the month to promote awareness of issues surrounding the employment of people with disabilities. Read more about 2006 National disability employment awareness month theme.

[www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20060804.htm#content](http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20060804.htm#content)

The National Council on Disability (NCD) has called on the U.S. Department of Transportation to update its Air Carrier Access Act regulations to address the issue of individuals with disabilities being unable to access kiosks. Kiosks allow travelers to independently get boarding passes for flights. The current design of these machines doesn't allow individuals with visual and mobility impairments the ability to access this service. Read more about access to kiosks at airports.

### **ADA 16th Anniversary town hall meeting and seminar**

Hosted by the National Council on Disability (NCD).  
July 26, 2006  
9:00am-1:00pm  
National Press Club  
Washington, D.C.

For more information, please contact Mark Quigley at [ncd@ncd.gov](mailto:ncd@ncd.gov).

[www.ncd.gov/newsroom/news/2006/a06-508.htm](http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/news/2006/a06-508.htm)

### **2006 TASH Conference**

The conference entitled, "Living the Vision Together: Today, Tomorrow and Beyond", is the largest and most progressive gathering of individuals that focuses on strategies for achieving full inclusion for people with significant disabilities.  
November 8-11, 2006  
Baltimore, Maryland  
[www.tash.org/2006tash](http://www.tash.org/2006tash)

### **ADA Basic Building Blocks**

An introductory web course on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) that explores the legal requirements and spirit of the ADA.

[www.adabasics.org](http://www.adabasics.org)

**The Great Lakes Center offers technical assistance on a variety of issues under the ADA and Accessible Information Technology.**

### **Federal Agencies**

The **U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** is responsible for enforcing Title I's prohibition against discrimination against people with disabilities in employment.

[www.ncd.gov/newsroom/news/2006/r06-511.htm#skip](http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/news/2006/r06-511.htm#skip)

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) has produced The Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities. The material is designed to assist states in raising the achievement of students with disabilities. The tool kit is targeted for those in state-level leadership positions. Read more about Tool Kit for Teaching and Assessing students with disabilities.

[www.osepideasthatwork.org/toolkit/index.asp#nav](http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/toolkit/index.asp#nav)

The Department of Justice has posted to its web site, Enforcing the ADA, A Status Report. The 2 new Status Reports cover activities of the DOJ from July-September 2005 and October-December 2005. The reports include information about DOJ litigation, settlement agreements, mediation efforts and new technical assistance materials. Read more about Enforcing the ADA.

[www.ada.gov/statrpt.htm#Anchor-49575](http://www.ada.gov/statrpt.htm#Anchor-49575)

The web site [www.disabilityinfo.gov](http://www.disabilityinfo.gov) has been awarded the American Association of Webmasters Gold Award. The site is managed by the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), which is part of the U.S. Department of Labor. The web site serves as a one stop location for information on a wide range of disability topics. Twenty-one federal agencies contribute information to the site. Read more about DisabilityInfo.Gov receiving American Association of Webmasters Gold Award.

[www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20060860.htm](http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20060860.htm)

## **Great Lakes In Focus Guidelines vs. Standards**

The U.S. Access Board, an independent federal agency, is charged with creating guidelines under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). When the Access Board publishes guidelines they are not enforceable standards. The guidelines become enforceable standards when adopted by the Federal agency that enforces the law, i.e. U.S. Department of Justice for entities covered by the ADA.

The Access Board has published several guidelines that have not yet been adopted as enforceable standards by the enforcing agency. The most recent guidelines published by the Board were the ADA/ABA revisions. Several federal agencies have adopted the revised guidelines as the enforceable standards under the ABA. However, the DOJ is still going through the rule making process, which ultimately will result in these being the enforceable standards under the ADA. Until that happens the current standards, known as ADAAG, are the enforceable standards.

To locate a list of federal agencies that have adopted the revised standards under the ABA or to view the ADA/ABA revisions visit the Access Board site at [www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov).

For more information please call 800-949-4232 (V/TTY) or online at:

<http://www.adagreatlakes.org/WebForms/ContactUs/>

Great Lakes ADA and Accessible IT Center  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Department of Disability and Human Development (MC 728)  
1640 West Roosevelt Road, Room 405  
Chicago, Illinois 60608-6904

[www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)

The **U.S. Department of Justice** (DOJ) is responsible for enforcement of Title II and Title III of the ADA and adopts the Accessibility Standards for enforcement under the ADA. Visit the site to access a copy of the currently enforced accessibility standards under the ADA.

[www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)

The **Office of Civil Rights within the Federal Transit Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation** ensures full implementation of civil rights and equal opportunity initiatives by all recipients of FTA assistance.

[www.fta.dot.gov/17851\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://www.fta.dot.gov/17851_ENG_HTML.htm)

The **Office of Civil Rights within the U.S. Department of Education** ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation through vigorous enforcement of civil rights.

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

The **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** has rules requiring telecommunications manufacturers and service providers to make their products and services accessible to people with disabilities, if readily achievable.

[www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)

## Accessible Information Technology (AIT)

The Great Lakes Accessible Information Technology (AIT) Initiative provides individuals, educational institutions, advocacy groups and organizations with technical assistance, training, referrals, materials, and resources on information technology and its accessibility. The Center's trainings are customized to fit the specific needs of the organizations requesting the presentations. Visit the AIT section of the Great Lakes web site ([www.adagreatlakes.org/AIT](http://www.adagreatlakes.org/AIT)) for more information on the services provided by the Center.

To get additional information about AIT in K-12 settings visit the K-12 Bulletin ([www.adagreatlakes.org/Publications/AITBulletin](http://www.adagreatlakes.org/Publications/AITBulletin)). You may reach the Great Lakes Center by calling 800-949-4232 (V/TTY) or through our on-line contact form ([www.adagreatlakes.org/WebForms/ContactUs?attention=ait](http://www.adagreatlakes.org/WebForms/ContactUs?attention=ait)).

## The Docket

### Class action status for Williams v. Blagojevich

Equip for Equality, Illinois's Protection and Advocacy Service, along with other organizations have filed suit in federal court against the State of Illinois for alleged violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The suit charges that Illinois institutionalizes individuals with mental illnesses in nursing homes instead of establishing community based services that would allow individuals to remain in their communities. Equip for Equality asserts that this practice of institutionalization violates the Supreme Courts ruling in the Olmsted case, which requires services in the most integrated setting.

The suit requests that the case, Williams v. Blagojevich, be granted class action status. The original case was filed in August of 2005 by 2 individuals charging that they were forced into nursing homes by the state.

Lawyers from a collaborative of organizations interested in disability rights issues are representing the plaintiffs. The organizations include Access Living, the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Equip for Equality, the Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois and the Chicago office of the law firm Kirkland & Ellis. Read more on class action status for Williams vs. Blagojevich. [www.equipforequality.org/news/pressreleases/april\\_26\\_2006federal\\_court.php](http://www.equipforequality.org/news/pressreleases/april_26_2006federal_court.php)

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## Great Lakes Affiliates

### ADA Illinois

20 N Michigan, Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 877-232-3601  
[www.ada-il.org](http://www.ada-il.org)

### ADA Indiana

2853 East Tenth Street  
Bloomington, IN 47408-2696  
Phone: 812-855-6508  
[www.iidc.indiana.edu/cpps/ada/](http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cpps/ada/)

## Great Lakes Vine

### ADA Illinois

The Illinois ADA Project is moving forward in planning the 2006 Illinois ADA Project Conference scheduled for September 25th. The conference will again focus on employment and accessibility issues affecting businesses and other organizations. The four sessions planned for the conference are: Reaping the Rewards of Accessibility; Emergency Evacuation Procedures; Emerging Legal Issues; Practical Applications of the ADA.

In addition, the ADA Project is planning a workshop for the State of Illinois ADA Celebration on accessible voting issues. The workshop will discuss ADA and HAVA requirements and there will be accessible voting equipment for individuals to examine. It is anticipated that Deputy Registrars will be available to register people to vote.

### ADA Indiana

2006 Local Community ADA Implementation Projects Highlight Throughout the summer, the Fort Wayne Deaf Advocacy Coalition will be implementing their Restaurant Drive-Through Project funded by ADA-Indiana. The project will determine the accessibility of Fort Wayne drive-through restaurants for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Individual reports of findings, recommendations for improvement, and tax incentive information will be prepared and distributed to the restaurant owners. For more information about ADA-Indiana's Community ADA Implementation Projects, visit our website.

May 4th Video Conference on Title I and Reasonable Accommodation Last month, ADA-Indiana and East Central Opportunities, a workforce development organization, in Muncie, Indiana provided training on Title I of the ADA to more than 30 participants. The trainers for the event were Peter Berg, Great Lakes ADA and Accessible IT Center, and Erin Riehle, Project SEARCH at Project SEARCH, at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

The Built Environment and the ADA Audio Conference Series in Indiana In June, ADA-Indiana will be offering Great Lakes' audio conference on Accessible Signage featuring Mark Derry. The audio conference series will be offered in six Indiana locations: Bloomington, Evansville, Indianapolis (two locations), West Lafayette, and Westville. The audio conference is free (at the ADA-Indiana sponsored site locations) and open to the public and no pre-registration is required. The site locations and times are available on the ADA-Indiana website: <http://www.adaindiana.org>.

For more information please call 800-949-4232 (V/TTY) or online at:

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**Michigan ADA Steering Committee**

29200 Vassar Blvd.  
Suite 200  
Livonia, MI 48152-2116  
Phone: 248-473-2990  
[www.adamich.org](http://www.adamich.org)

**ADA Minnesota**

1600 University Avenue  
West, Suite 16  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
Phone: 888-630-9793  
[www.adaminnesota.org](http://www.adaminnesota.org)

**Michigan ADA Steering Committee**

The Michigan ADA Steering Committee will have a booth at the Disability Network's ADA 2006, which is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am until 2 pm at Kearsley Park in Flint, Michigan. Food and beverages will be provided to all who attend, and there will be a DJ to provide entertainment.

The Michigan ADA Steering Committee website at [www.adamich.org](http://www.adamich.org) is still being worked on but will be updated with a new look before long.

The Committee is working on funding a grant with the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America to advocate for civil rights and maximize the independence of its members. The next meeting will be held September 13<sup>th</sup>, in Marquette, as the Steering Committee will be taking part in the annual Upper Peninsula Action Day conference on disability issues

**ADA Minnesota**

**ADA CELEBRATION: 16 Years Later  
What Do Recent Supreme Court Decisions Mean for the ADA Today?**

An evening celebration has been planned in honor of the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The evening will include entertainment by locally known performers Kevin Kling and Michael Deutsch. The evening also includes a keynote address by Barry Taylor, legal advocacy director, Equip for Equality, Inc., the Illinois Protection and Advocacy system. Mr. Taylor will discuss current Supreme Court decisions and the state of the ADA today.

**Wednesday, July 26  
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

**Radisson University Hotel  
615 Washington Avenue SE, Minneapolis**

A cash bar will be available and light refreshments will be served. Admission is free! Accommodation requests must be received no later than July 12, 2006. Please RSVP for the celebration and/or make accommodation requests to Betty at [bettyc@mcil-mn.org](mailto:bettyc@mcil-mn.org), or call 651-646-8342, TTY 651-602-2001. For more information visit [www.adaminnesota.org](http://www.adaminnesota.org)

For more information please call 800-949-4232 (V/TTY) or online at:  
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**ADA Ohio**  
700 Morse Road, Suite 101  
Columbus, OH 43214  
Phone: 800-232-6446  
[www.ada-ohio.org](http://www.ada-ohio.org)

**ADA Wisconsin**  
1302 Mendota Street, Suite  
200  
Madison, WI 53714-1024  
Phone: 608-244-5310  
[www.adawipartnership.org](http://www.adawipartnership.org)

Sponsors of this event include: ADA Minnesota, Access Press, Minnesota State Council on Disability, Metro Center for Independent Living, UCP, Institute on Community Integration, DOER, VSA Arts of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Human Service/State Operated Services, Courage Center and ARC-Greater Twin Cities.

### **ADA Ohio**

ADA-OHIO participated in the following special events in May:

1. ENABLEOHIO – “Removing Barriers for People with Disabilities, Rights & Responsibilities Under Ohio State Laws.” This one-day conference was co-hosted by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. Presentations were made by the United States Department of Labor. The business sponsor for this conference was the OCLC Online Computer Library Center. OCLC is a membership computer library service and research organization dedicated to furthering access to the world’s information while at the same time reducing information costs.
2. The Third Annual Young Soloists Celebration presented by VSA arts of Ohio. The program included performances by this year’s award winners. Finalists included a pianist, a vocalist, and a drummer. Since 1986, VSAO has provided an inclusive environment in which children and adults with disabilities are given the opportunity to celebrate life through the arts, education, and creative expression. VSAO also serves as an advocate for artists with disabilities, people with disabilities, and accessibility issues.

### **ADA Wisconsin**

The Wisconsin ADA Partnership was pleased to be a co-sponsor of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth celebration held in Madison, Wisconsin on Saturday, June 17, 2006. Juneteenth commemorates the freeing of the last African American slaves in 1865 and the Madison event annually draws over 8,000 participants. One focus of the event is to provide education on health and social issues. The Wisconsin ADA Partnership, in cooperation with Disability Rights Wisconsin offered an afternoon presentation on the topic of Voting Rights and Accessibility. The Partnership staffed an exhibit booth and shared information and resources to a great number of attendees on employment, disability rights and accessibility issues. ADA Wisconsin has also been involved revising and marketing a popular publication: *Voting in Wisconsin: A Guide for Citizens with Disabilities*. This will be disseminated statewide as a collaborative effort of the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Rights Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Elections Board, Rehabilitation For Wisconsin, Inc. and the Wisconsin Coalition for Independent Living Centers.

For more information please call 800-949-4232 (V/TTY) or online at:

<http://www.adagreatlakes.org/WebForms/ContactUs/>

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The Great Lakes offers resource materials on a variety of issues under the ADA and Accessible Information Technology.

#### Resources from the Technical Assistance Desk

Individuals may contact the Great Lakes Center to get materials on the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability laws by calling 800-949-4232 (V/TTY) or via our [on-line contact form](#).

#### [ADAAG Requirements for Detectable Warnings](#)

[www.access-board.gov/adaag/dws/update.htm](http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/dws/update.htm)

#### [ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#)

[www.ada.gov/reg3a.html#Anchor-42424](http://www.ada.gov/reg3a.html#Anchor-42424)

#### [Guide to ADAAG Standards](#)

[www.access-board.gov/adaag/about/guide.htm](http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/about/guide.htm)

## Technical Assistance Desk

### Question of the Month

**Q.** I had heard that at one point the requirement for detectable warnings had been suspended under the ADA. The other day I was speaking with a local building code official and was told that detectable warnings were now required under the ADA. Are detectable warnings required by the ADA accessibility standards?

**A.** The current enforceable standards under the ADA require the installation of detectable warnings. The Access Board requested a suspension of the requirement from 1994 to 2001 except at boarding platforms in transit stations. The U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Transportation, with enforcement responsibility under the ADA, also suspended the requirement. The suspension lapsed on July 26, 2001. The Board had initially sought the suspension because of questions regarding the technical design standards, availability of compliant material and products, issues of maintenance, usefulness and safety concerns.

Currently the accessible design standards require detectable warnings on the surface of curb ramps and at other areas where pedestrian ways blend with hazardous vehicular ways. They are also required along the edges of boarding platforms in transit facilities and the perimeter of reflecting pools.

The Access Board published revisions to the standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Architectural Barriers Act in July of 2004. These revisions don't have requirements for detectable warnings other than at boarding platforms at transit stations. The Access Board felt that the requirements fit better in the public rights-of-way guideline it is currently developing since this guideline deals with sidewalk accessibility. The revisions to the accessibility standards under the ADA are currently going through the rule making process and won't become enforceable until adopted by the DOJ and DOT.

For questions regarding the ADA and detectable warnings you may contact the Great Lakes Center by calling 800-949-4232 (V/TTY) or by visiting our on-line contact form.

[www.adagreatlakes.org/WebForms/ContactUs](http://www.adagreatlakes.org/WebForms/ContactUs)

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