



CCD 2023 Task Force Annual Report

1. Brief Task Force Description or Mission Statement

The Rights Task Force advocates on a wide variety of matters involving the human and civil rights of individuals with disabilities through an equity lens. The Task Force's vision is driven by a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice, as well as the four key goals for people with disabilities set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Through our work, we are committed to assuring that the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the ADA, and other civil rights protections set forth in law and court decisions are interpreted and enforced in a robust manner to secure the equal rights and opportunities of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) disabled people, LGBTQ+ disabled people, people living with HIV, and all other individuals with disabilities. The Task Force is committed to advocating for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities with multiple statuses or who are multiply marginalized.

2. Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2023

- a. 2023 Priority One - Regulatory strengthening to promote implementation and enforcement of rights within the context of website accessibility, Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and ACA Section 1557, among others.
- b. 2023 Priority Two - Identification and confirmation of federal administration and judicial nominees that include representation of diverse candidates with disabilities.
- c. 2023 Priority Three - Promoting federal and rights-focused reforms in the area of adult guardianship and conservatorship, with a focus on advancing alternatives to overbroad or overly restrictive protective arrangements.

3. Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2024

- a. 2024 Priority One - Advocate with agencies to strengthen regulatory and sub-regulatory guidance and resources, in collaboration with our

constituents, to promote implementation and enforcement of rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act, Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, including in the contexts of accessible information and communication technology, effective communication, alternatives to guardianship, equal access to healthcare, community integration, parents with disabilities, voting, equal educational opportunities, and agency transparency. Advance public policy around increasing voter access and voting rights for people with disabilities.

- b. 2024 Priority Two – Mobilize and support federal legislation that will improve the lives of disabled people, such as the bipartisan SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act, legislation eliminating Section 14(c) certificates and subminimum wages for people with disabilities, increased funding for home- and community-based services and diversion from institutions and the criminal legal system, legislation expanding access to health insurance and public benefits for immigrants, tax credits to promote access, and other measures with a reasonable likelihood of success in 2024.
- c. 2024 Priority Three – Advance public policy around people with disabilities and the criminal legal system, including in the areas of crisis response, home- and community-based services and supports, and diversion at each stage of the criminal process.

4. 2023 Task Force Co-Chairs

Claudia Center
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
510-644-2555 ext. 5231
ccenter@dredf.org

Stephen Lieberman
United Spinal Association
202-556-2076 ext. 7104
slieberman@unitedspinal.org

Megan E. Schuller
Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
202-579-9240
megans@bazelon.org

Morgan K. Whitlatch
Center for Public Representation
202-596-6116
mwhitlatch@cpr-ma.org

5. Task Force Meeting Day of the Month and Meeting Time (Eastern)

Third Thursday of the month, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Eastern

6. Anti-Racism Efforts Assessment and Feedback.

Please answer the following question using this [online form](#) or in this document if the form is not accessible to you. Your response to this question will only be shared with CCD's Officers and the CCD Board Anti-Racism Committee.

What efforts have you undertaken within your Task Force to implement antiracism/equity policy in 2023? If you have not taken steps, what supports do you need? If you have, how can CCD further support your efforts?

Membership of the CCD Rights Task Force is in the process of leading an effort to update the CCD Task Forces' statement on reducing police responses to people with disabilities, including BIPOC communities. The working group plans to circulate the final draft by the end of 2023 for discussion at January 2024 Task Force meetings. This is a cross-task force effort, which will require CCD support in reaching consensus on this issue. In 2023, the CCD Rights Task Force also involved drafting commentary to proposed rules (e.g., the HHS 504 regulations) that included advocacy around the intersection of disability and anti-racism/equity policy.

Instructions: Please discuss priorities for the upcoming year with your Task Force and submit this form to Claire Stanley (claire.stanley@ndrn.org) and Carol Tyson (ctyson@dredf.org) no later than December 22, 2023. The reports will be posted to the [CCD website](#) and shared with all members during the CCD 2024 Annual Meeting on January 16th and 17th.