

Minutes
Advisory Board on the Americans with Disabilities Act

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Teleconference, Via Teams and Broadcast on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/@connecticutjudicialmeeting6042>

Members present: The Hon. Judge Elizabeth A. Bozzuto, Chief Court Administrator, Chair, Ms. Deanna Dorkins, Ms. Kathleen Gensheimer, Ms. Kristin Giantonio, Mr. Michael Hines, Ms. Laura Jovino, Ms. Sandra Lugo-Gines, Atty. Deirdre McPadden, Mr. Son Nguyen, and Atty. Lee Ross. Support staff Heather Collins.

Others present: Superior Court Operations Director Atty. Tais Ericson, Atty. Lori Petruzzelli, Atty. Viviana Livesay, Atty. Stephen N. Ment, Atty. Richard Loffredo, Mr. Matthew Cunningham, Mr. Christopher Pritchard.

I. Welcome: Chief Court Administrator Judge Elizabeth A. Bozzuto welcomed the members and thanked outgoing Judicial Marshal Services member Mr. Michael Knapp, and welcomed his successor Mr. Nguyen.

II. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the March 2023 Meeting: Ms. Lugo Gines made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Mr. Hines, motion passed.

III. Discussion and Approval of the Draft 2023 Report of the ADA Advisory

Report to the Chief Justice: The members offered Division report-outs:

- a) Ms. Lugo Gines, Centralized ADA Office Program Manager, reported out on the efforts of the Superior Court Operations Division in Calendar Year 2023, which included extensive involvement in the revision of how ADA accommodations are processed. This effort required the creation and implementation of training for all Judges and Family Support Magistrates, and for all Judicial Branch staff. The training, “The Nuts and Bolts of the ADA” was mandatory for all staff and must be repeated annually by all staff. Training has been a major component of the Branch’s ongoing compliance with Title II and Title I of the Act. Additionally, the Division worked with the Legal Services Unit to update extensive ADA information, including FAQs, brochures, and forms. [Additional information on those efforts can be found in the Report, which is posted online here.](#)
- b) Mr. Hines, Director of Operations in the Court Support Services Division, reported on a number of activities in 2023, which included 1,650 CSSD staff who completed ADA training. Trainings relevant to the ADA include courses on the intersection of Autism and the criminal justice system; service animals; and breaking down barriers for people in court.

- c) Ms. Jovino, Director of Facilities for the Branch's Administrative Services Division, said that in December 2023, the Unit completed its 18-month comprehensive architectural assessment of ADA building assessments of public, staff, and detention areas in 36 locations statewide. This was a large undertaking of almost 3 million square feet of space, with assessments of buildings from three centuries of construction ranging from 1784 to 2018. There are comprehensive plans that are being developed and implemented in these facilities, and Ms. Jovino noted that all construction is ADA compliant. She also reported that the Branch is modernizing its elevators across the state to install Braille signage and audio information for passengers, as well as to replace signage in all courthouse to ensure it is ADA compliant.
- d) Ms. Giantonio, a Program Manager in the Information Technology Division, noted that the Division worked with various units including the Appellate Court, the Official Reporter of Judicial Decisions, and the Centralized ADA Office (CAO) to convert the Practice Book to an accessible online document. It is expected to be completed in CY 2024.
- e) There was a discussion of future initiatives across the Branch for CY 2024 and beyond. Training will continue to play a role in all divisions, the members said, and various construction projects will be ongoing. The CAO also plans to develop a brochure for members of the Bar on how to request accommodations for their clients and themselves, based on the new procedures implemented after Sept. 1, 2023.
- f) Ms. Lugo Gines made a motion that the Board approve the Annual Report to the Chief Justice, which was seconded by Atty. Ross and unanimously approved by the members.

IV. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the CAO will email members in January 2025 with suggestions for a new date for the Annual Meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.