FROM OUR CHAIR AND DIRECTOR

KEVIN MURPHY, President of the Board of Trustees

Why I Support the DLC

I am privileged to serve as president of the DLC Board of Trustees. I have been a supporter of “underdogs” since my childhood, having been a smaller, slower child usually picked last for any sporting team during school recess. My first professional career was nursing, primarily in psychiatric and mental health settings. That experience helped teach me patience and compassion for individuals with mental illness and their families. My second professional career has been in law, both public and private practice. I admire the legal staff of the DLC for their dedication to their work, including their problem-solving approach on behalf of individuals with physical, intellectual, and mental disabilities.

ADINA ZAHRADNIKOVA, DLC Executive Director

The Right Moment to Work Together

Since our inception 34 years ago, the Disability Law Center has been working to create a community that we can all be proud of—one where every Utahn, regardless of their abilities, is able to live, work and thrive without fear that they will be discriminated against, bullied in school, denied access to basic programs and services or be the victims of abuse or neglect.

While we feel privileged to serve Utah’s citizens with disabilities and their families, we recognize that now is the right moment to really look at our work and the needs of our constituents to ensure that we remain a true catalyst for social justice in our community. Over the past several months, DLC staff, board members and key community partners worked on an ambitious, dynamic strategic three year plan that will serve as a road map for the DLC’s future steps. I thank all of you for your unwavering support of our advocacy for those most often overlooked and unheard. If we continue to work together, we will one day eliminate all physical and attitudinal barriers that people with disabilities continue to encounter in their everyday lives.

Our Partners

“and Justice for All”

Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
Center for Persons with Disabilities, Utah State University
**BY THE NUMBERS**

**People Served By Disability Type**

- Physical Disability: 1677
- Mental Illness: 1637
- Intellectual Disability: 579
- Brain Injury: 242
- Health Impairments: 278

**Number of People Served and Method of Advocacy**

- Representation at Hearings: 87
- Representation at Meetings: 804
- Abuse & Neglect Allegation: 230
- Litigation: 13
- Technical Assistance: 212
- Total: 1346

**Public Information Activities**

- Education / Training Activities: 93
- Outreach: 54
- Educating Policy Makers: 46
- General Public Information: 31
After Ron broke his back and his wife survived a brain tumor, they decided to purchase a home in a Planned Unit Development.

The new home offered a simple lifestyle. It was one level and on a smaller lot. They wouldn’t have to worry about yard care or snow removal. They looked forward to a more manageable way of life.

Once settled into their new home, they discovered that instead of relieving their burden, the new neighborhood “turned out to be a nightmare”.

Ron and his neighbors couldn’t safely navigate their own streets because the sidewalks and driveways were not accessible. To make matters worse, the city refused to provide basic services such as trash and snow removal because the neighborhood wasn’t compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

When the DLC attorney filed a complaint and represented the homeowners with disabilities, the developer was held accountable. He agreed to make the changes at a cost of $144,000.

Now Ron, his wife and their neighbors can look forward to living the lifestyle they worked so hard for.

For more details about Ron’s story go to: http://www.disabilitylawcenter.org/successstories/#ron
ASHLEY’S TREATMENT PLAN HAD GONE STALE.
WE CAME IN TO HELP CLEAN HOUSE.

Ashley has multiple disabilities that make it difficult for her to cope with stress. As she grew older, she became more violent at home. Her parents were concerned about keeping her safe. They talked to health professionals who told them to admit her to Utah’s institutional facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The plan was that Ashley would get short-term specialized treatment to help her stabilize so that she could return to her family and resume her life. That was when she was fourteen. At age nineteen, she was still in the institution.

During her fifth year under institutional care, Ashley’s inappropriate behaviors increased. The facility responded by isolating her from her peers. She became even more shut down and withdrawn. Then the school refused to let her attend. Her educational services were cut from a full time schedule at school to two hours a week in her room.

Ashley’s mom called the DLC for help.

The DLC’s Abuse & Neglect and Education Advocates worked together. Months of persistent advocacy and negotiation paid off.

Ashley was moved from the institution into a home of her own. Now she is enjoying new experiences and learning to live in a world that affords her choices. She has also returned to a classroom where she gets an appropriate education.

To learn more about Ashley’s story go to: http://www.disabilitylawcenter.org/successstories/#ashley
A stroke robbed Patty of her voice but it couldn’t take her ideas, her warmth or her sense of humor. Patty was determined to find a way to express herself. All she needed was technology like Stephen Hawking uses.

Unfortunately, Medicaid only covers speech devices for children.

The DLC spoke up for Patty. We filed suit arguing that Medicaid’s policy illegally treated people differently. The Utah Court of Appeals agreed and ordered Medicaid to provide Patty with the device.

As a result of the decision, many more devices and services that are available to children are now available for adults. From now on, Patty and other adults will be able to share their voice with all of us.

To learn more about how the DLC attorneys helped Patty, visit: http://www.disabilitylawcenter.org/successstories/#patty
As advocates, we periodically reflect on the people whose lives have influenced ours. We also consider who might be willing to let us share their story for the benefit of others. Sadly, this is not always possible because our clients are frequently unable to protect themselves.

They languish in nursing homes, jails and prisons, public and private institutions, and in regular homes in neighborhoods like yours and mine. They often go unnoticed – unable to express themselves in ways that are easily understood. Many depend on others to care for their most basic needs.

All too often, even basic needs go unmet. Many live in confined spaces, go hungry, and are ignored by those around them. Through our monitoring, investigation, legal advocacy, and collaboration with other advocates, we are able to uncover some of the most serious cases.

Telling their stories is difficult because many times, we only come to know them under unspeakable circumstances. However, to us they are more than the trauma that has been inflicted upon them. They are a brother or a sister, a parent, a friend. In an effort to protect them, we don’t share their name or face. We honor their lives each day by ensuring that their abuse, neglect and suffering is not ignored or forgotten.

To read about an advocate’s first experience with monitoring work, visit: [http://www.disabilitylawcenter.org/successstories/#nameless](http://www.disabilitylawcenter.org/successstories/#nameless)
ALL KINDS OF MINDS

What do an Emmy winning film director, a world-renown animal behavior specialist, an exquisite jewelry company, the Utah Film Center, a marketing firm, the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council and Utah State University have in common?

They all partnered with the DLC to illuminate people’s views of disability.

The message: diversity of minds and bodies enriches our community, while treating people differently hurts us all.

The DLC sponsored events promoting this message throughout the year.

The DLC honored Dr. Temple Grandin with the first annual “Peek Award for Disability in Media”. At ten venues over three days, Dr. Grandin shared the message that “all kinds of minds should work together.” More than 3,000 people heard her message in person.

See KSL’s coverage of this event at:
http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=17905546
The “Let’s Re-Think Mental Illness” campaign, initiated by the DLC was designed to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. The campaign ran for six weeks through the holiday season. This time period was chosen because research indicates that the general public tends to experience higher levels of mental stress and emotional turmoil at that time of year. An estimated 1.3 million people along the Wasatch Front, saw or heard our radio, television, web, billboard and cinema messages.

The widespread use of media to educate the general public was a new approach for the DLC with lasting positive outcomes.

The DLC’s Community Justice Awards, and first-ever gala event, were held at The Leonardo. “Stop Bullying Now” was the theme of the evening. Paralympian Muffy Davis was the keynote speaker.

The Community Justice Award recipients were chosen for their work to stem the tide of bullying. To learn more about the honorees, go to: http://disabilitylawcenter.org/2012-cja-honorees/
Financials

REVENUES
FEDERAL AWARDS
- US Dept of Education $351,647 $312,602
- US Dept of Health and Human Services $696,474 $853,503
- US Social Security Administration $108,858 $101,700
- US Dept of Housing and Urban Development - $143,548
OTHER GRANTS, FOUNDATIONS, DONATIONS AND REVENUES $215,551 $254,184
TOTAL REVENUES $1,372,530 $1,665,537

EXPENDITURES
PROGRAM SERVICES $1,193,035 $1,404,036
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COST $176,068 $158,834
FUND RAISING COST $9,462 $8,072
TOTAL EXPENDITURES $1,378,565 $1,570,942

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $(6,035) $94,595

The Disability Law Center thanks the members of the Board of Trustees and the PAIMI Advisory Council for their many contributions.
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Our Mission

To enforce and strengthen laws that protect the opportunities, choices and legal rights of people with disabilities in Utah.

205 North 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84103
1.800.662.9080 • 1.801.363.1347 • Fax: 1.801.363.1437
www.DisabilityLawCenter.org

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