



# 2024 Annual Report

Protection & Advocacy in Utah





**Janet Deisley**  
*President*

## Dear DLC Stakeholders and Supporters,

As Board President of the Disability Law Center, I am proud to reflect on our organization's continued growth and impact over the past year. Through our tireless advocacy, we have successfully expanded access to legal protections for individuals with disabilities, ensuring their rights are upheld in all spaces, including housing, employment, education, and healthcare. Our dedicated legal team has taken on 1,924 cases, securing critical victories that strengthen protections against discrimination. Beyond individual advocacy, we also drove systemic reforms impacting thousands of Utahns with disabilities by working closely with lawmakers and community partners to improve public policies and increase resources. Additionally, we have ramped up our educational outreach, providing invaluable resources and training to both individuals and

organizations to better understand disability rights. The progress we've made is a testament to the dedication and passion of our staff, board, mental health advisory council and supporters who share our vision of a more inclusive and equitable society.

On a personal note, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the Board for nine years, the last two in the role of President, and work in partnership with Executive Director Adina Zahradnikova and her outstanding management team; namely, Laura Henrie (Legal Director) and Dan Anderson (Director of Finance and Administration). Special recognition goes to Jennifer Carver (Paralegal Team Coordinator) who effectively and patiently supports the management team and the board. Due to Adina's integrity and strong leadership along with the unflagging commitment of her entire staff, the DLC continues to be a beacon of disability rights advocacy in Utah.

Sincerely,

**Janet Deisley**  
*President*

## Board Of Trustees

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Attorney

## A few important facts and figures...



We provided **individualized**  
**legal advice and**  
**representation to**

**1,924**  
**individuals.**

In addition,  
our systemic work involved  
**202 projects impacting**

**672,147**  
**Utahns.**



In fiscal year 2024,  
DLC helped

**3,665**  
**individuals...**



We also provided  
**crucial information, resources,**  
**and self-advocacy help to**

**1,741**  
**callers.**



...of those  
individuals,

**14**

involved **litigation** with the potential  
to **impact any current and future**  
**Utahns with disabilities facing**  
**similar issues.**



# Transforming a System in Utah:

## Outcomes of the Christensen v. Miner Settlement for those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The five-year term of our settlement in *Christensen v. Miner* ended just before the close of 2024. The class action lawsuit was brought in early 2018, and it alleged the State's system administered services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) in private Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) in a way that amounted to segregation in violation of Title II of the Americans

with Disabilities Act and the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* The parties quickly agreed to negotiate a settlement, which came together over the course of the next year, including getting approval from the State Legislature. After months of notifying class members of the settlement, the settlement was approved by a federal judge in December of 2019.

When we began this project more than ten years ago, our aim was to ensure those residing in ICFs had access to community-based services if they wanted them. We hoped to improve the system for those with ID/DD in Utah, and, as we reflect on where the system is today, we could not be happier with the outcome of our settlement.

When we began, more than 600 people with ID/DD lived in one of 18 private ICFs in Utah, and they had no meaningful path to moving into community-based services. Over the past five years, more than 500 individuals chose to move from an ICF into community-based services. In fact, when one ICF closed due to licensing violations, every individual chose to move to the community rather than another ICF. Approximately 200 people continue to live in the 7 private ICFs that remain, as the settlement did not require their closure.



**...we will continue to monitor the system to ensure this population has meaningful access to the community moving forward...**

Even for those who continue to live in ICFs, conditions have improved, with fewer people in rooms and higher rates to ICFs for their staff to provide care. Also, the settlement ensured that children, those under 22, would no longer reside in rooms with adults. Finally, those who move into in ICF now, even after the settlement has expired, have meaningful choice on where they want to live, including a path to community-based services, if they want them.

We appreciate those who we worked with over the years at the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the support we received from Parsons Behle & Latimer, for their help improving the system. While we will continue to monitor the system to ensure this population has meaningful access to the community moving forward, we are extremely pleased with the outcome of this case.





## Advocating On Your Behalf

The Disability Law Center provides services to individuals with a broad range of disabilities, including but not limited to:

- Developmental disabilities
- Physical disabilities
- Mental illnesses
- Emotional impairments
- Learning disabilities
- Traumatic brain injuries
- Intellectual disabilities
- Sensory disabilities
- Chronic health conditions

## Revenue by Source

Protection & Advocacy for Developmental Disabilities	\$424,727	10.35%
Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness	\$574,331	14.00%
Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology	\$39,821	0.97%
Protection & Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury	\$53,098	1.29%
Protection & Advocacy for Voting Access	\$134,363	3.27%
Protection & Advocacy for COVID	\$7,683	0.19%
Protection & Advocacy for Individual Rights	\$216,772	5.28%
Client Assistance Program	\$142,551	3.47%
Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries with Representative Payees	\$100,898	2.46%
Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security	\$216,664	5.28%
Fair Housing Initiatives Program	\$425,000	10.36%
Non-Federal Funding	\$1,767,863	43.08%

**Total.....\$4,103,771**

## Expenses

Program Services	\$2,992,976	91.13%
Administrative	\$290,701	8.85%
Fundraising	\$717	0.02%

**Total Expenses .....\$3,284,394**

The DLC has a Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Council. Their role is to advise the DLC on the priorities and policies which guide its work to protect and advocate for the rights of Utahns with mental illness. Anyone interested in serving on the PAIMI Council, please review the information available at [disabilitylawcenter.org/about/paimi-advisory-council/](https://disabilitylawcenter.org/about/paimi-advisory-council/)

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# Questions?

We're always here to help!

☎ (800) 662-9080

💡 [disabilitylawcenter.org](https://disabilitylawcenter.org)

📺 Contact us via Sorenson  
Video Relay Services - 711

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