



# Access *New England*

A Publication of the New England ADA Center

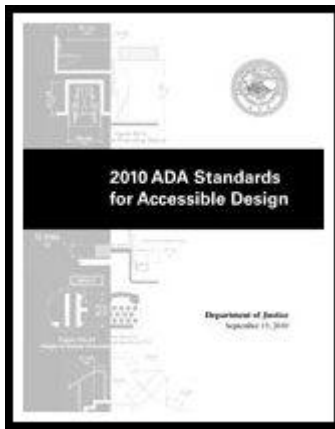
December 2010

Dear Subscribers,

As 2010 draws to a close, the December issue of *Access New England* online brings you some of the latest information related to the American's with Disabilities Act: there's a new publication on the 2010 ADA Standards that you can order; news about our staff receiving special training on these new regs; there is a new video of the ADA 20th anniversary event on Boston Common available for viewing; we introduce you to Boston's new Commissioner for Persons with disabilities; tell you about a new study we've published in the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*; and update you on the progress of the MBTA settlement case with the Dept. of Justice. All of these stories are available in detail below, plus you can find informative webinar and audio conference information.

As always, call us toll free at **1-800-949-4232** for technical assistance on all the very latest in ADA related news. As we prepare for 2011, we here at the New England ADA Center wish you the very best of the holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Karen Murray, Editor



## 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Publication Available to Order or to Download

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has compiled an official version of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (2010 Standards) to bring together the information in one easy-to-access location. The booklet provides the scoping and technical requirements for new construction and alterations resulting from the adoption of revised 2010

## Questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act?

Call  
**1-800-949-4232**  
(voice/tty)

The DBTAC-New England ADA Center provides information and guidance on the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## Webcourse on Employment Regs and ADA Amendments Act Changes Launched!



**Register!**



Standards in the final rules for Title II (28 CFR part 35) and Title III (28 CFR part 36).

We are selling print copies of the 2010 Standards, 256 pages, spiral bound. The cost is \$20.00 which includes shipping. Call 1-800-949-4232 or [order a print copy](#) from our website. You can also go to the Department of Justice's [official online version](#) of the 2010 standards in HTML and PDF.

At this time either the original 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design or the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design may be used.

Starting March 15, 2012 only the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design may be used.

Please call or email us if you have questions.

### **New England ADA Center Staff Trained on 2010 ADA Regulations at US Department of Justice**



for Department of Justice staff and two people from each of the ten regional ADA Centers were invited to participate.

Above: John Wodatch, Chief, Disability Rights Section, Department of Justice (left)

New England ADA Center Staff members staff members Kathy Gips and Ana Julian participated in a four-day training in Washington, DC held by the Department of Justice in late September. The training focused on the new 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Title II and III regulations. The training was held

### **Webinars and Audio Conferences on the New 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design**

**Next Session  
January 6**

**2:30-4:00 p.m. EST**

Topic: [Accessible Residential Facilities](#)

**No cost but  
[registration](#) is required**



**January 18, 2011**

**2-3:30 p.m. EST**

**Post Secondary  
Education & E-Readers  
[Register!](#)**

### **Transportation Webinar Series Beginning**



**"Topic Guides on ADA  
Transportation"**

**October 14, 2010  
through April 12, 2011**

## Video Highlights of Boston's ADA 20th Anniversary Celebration Now Available



Boston Common. The New England ADA Center led organizations from across the state to make this 20th anniversary celebration successful.

Watch the [YouTube](#) video, complete with open captioning!

Whether you were there, or wished you could have been, [YouTube](#) lets you experience video highlights of all the excitement and entertainment of Boston's 20th Anniversary celebration of the signing of the ADA on July 26, 2010 on

## Mayor Menino Appoints Kristen McCosh Boston's Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities



On November 5, 2010, Boston's newly appointed commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Kristen McCosh visited the Institute for Human Centered Design--the parent organization of the New England ADA Center to discuss her new role and the priorities for the city of Boston and

people with disabilities, Commissioner McCosh said, "The Commission office provides information and referral, training and technical assistance, and oversees the handicap parking program for the City of Boston. In addition, I will be working with the newly-formed volunteer Disability Commission comprised of nine residents as well as overseeing ADA Title II compliance."

Ms. McCosh outlined her priorities, "I want to work on developing policies that will make things more accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities, including the Boston Public Schools, Boston Housing Authority, and other City services. I also want to continue to work toward making sidewalks, polling places and emergency preparedness more accessible by providing information and training on what the Americans with Disabilities Act requires."

Mayor Thomas Menino gathered with members of the city's disability community on October 18 to announce McCosh's appointment saving

(Every second Tuesday)

2-3:30 p.m. EST

A new 7 session webinar series that brings together the requirements of the ADA and the Department of Transportation ADA regulations, FTA determinations, and best practices for ADA compliance.

No cost but [registration](#) is required.



## Top 10 ADA Legal Cases of 2010

2011 Legal Issues Webinar Series

January 19, 2011

2-3:30 p.m. EST

[Register!](#)

**Social Networking to your Advantage**

"This is great news for the City of Boston and I'm excited to work with Kristen on how to better provide access for our disabled citizens not only within the physical landscape of our city but also within the workings of City Hall," said Mayor Menino. "Kristen's strong background as a member of the disability community and long-time advocate gives us a unique perspective on how to best provide for our disabled residents."

For more details and information on the plan to improve access throughout the city of Boston or for background information on Ms McCosh, visit the city of Boston's [official website](#).

Above: IHCD staff with Kristen McCosh (front, right)



### New England ADA Center Publishes New Study

As part of our research, activities, we recently published

an article in the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*:  
THE Impact of the Great Recession upon the Unemployment of Americans with Disabilities

The abstract is below. To read the article in full, visit the [New England ADA Center website](#)

#### Abstract:

Recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics allows assessment of the impact of the Great Recession on working age persons with disabilities in America. Following an overview of the nature and scope of the Great Recession, the labor market experiences of persons with and without disability are compared for 16 of the 22 months of its duration. Differences which favor those without disabilities were detected in the labor market activity rate, the official unemployment rate, and in the desire for work among those who have quit the workforce. These differences persist among subgroups based upon age and educational attainment. The level of educational attainment appears to not provide the same level of insulation from the consequences of labor market downturns for persons with disabilities as it does for persons without disabilities. Finally, the reasons for unemployment are quite different for persons with and without disabilities.



### Accessible Technology Webinar Series

January 11, 2011  
2 p.m.

[Register](#)

THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### ADA Settlement Agreement Updates!

[Wolfboro, NH and Dept. of Justice](#)

[Newport, RI and Dept. of Justice under Project Civic Access](#)

DBTAC-- New England ADA Center is a project of the Institute for Human Centered Design



[Read more IHCD News](#)

## MBTA Earnes Mixed Reviews on Compliance Performance In ADA Settlement Agreement



The judge monitoring the settlement in a federal class-action lawsuit over the MBTA [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority--the public operator of most bus, subway, commuter rail, and ferry systems in the greater Boston area] accessibility said the T has

made considerable progress in the last four years, but riders with disabilities still face daily obstacles to using the public transit system.

"In some areas, a lot has been accomplished. In other areas, very little," said Patrick J. King, the retired state Superior Court judge appointed by a federal court to monitor the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's compliance. "But the momentum has been in the right direction, and gradually we're seeing some changes."

The 2002 lawsuit accused the T of moving too slowly to comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, citing inaccessible stations, subway cars, and buses; poor signage and unreliable announcements; and operators untrained or unwilling to assist riders with disabilities. In the 2006 settlement, the T pledged to reform its practices and to make its facilities more accessible

Read the **rest of the story**.

Source [www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com)

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The New England ADA Center is a part of the ADA National Network funded by the US Department of Education.



The ADA National Network is the leader in providing information, guidance, and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), tailored to meet the needs of business, government and individuals at local, regional and national levels.

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**Visit our ADA resource website at**  
**[www.NewEnglandADA.org](http://www.NewEnglandADA.org)**



Be sure to visit our sponsor's online store at **[www.IHCDstore.org](http://www.IHCDstore.org)** to check out these nifty products and many more!

DBTAC New England ADA Center is a project of the **Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD)**

