



Access New England

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In This Issue

[Celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act!](#)

[Connecticut ADA 21st Anniversary Events](#)

[Massachusetts ADA 21st Anniversary Events](#)

[New Hampshire ADA 21st Anniversary Events](#)

[Rhode Island ADA 21st Anniversary Events](#)

[Vermont ADA 21st Anniversary Events](#)

[Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities in New England](#)

[IHCD Conference: Products and Technology that Change People's Lives](#)

[Justice Department Issues](#)



Graphic courtesy of adaanniversary.org and the the ADA Anniversary Tool Kit

Celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act!

Celebrations are planned across New England in honor of the 21st anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Join an event in your area and help mark this historic day! Some of the activities that will be taking place in New England are listed below.

Connecticut ADA 21st Anniversary Events:

The ADA Coalition of Connecticut invites everyone to join Governor Dannel Malloy to commemorate the 21st Anniversary of the ADA, Tuesday, July 26, 2011 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Legislative Office Building in **Hartford, Connecticut**. Click [here](#) to see the event flyer.

[Technical Assistance Document on Enforcement of the Supreme Court Decision in Olmstead v. L.C.](#)

[2011 ADA Symposium](#)

[Department of Education Issues Guidance on Rights of Students with Disabilities When Educational Institutions Use Technology](#)

[President Obama Appoints New Members to the U.S. Access Board](#)

Quick Links

[Disability Rights Web Course](#)

[ADA Employment Web Course](#)

[ADA Audio Conferences](#)

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

Massachusetts ADA 21st Anniversary Events:

- ADA Day, Tuesday, July 26, 2011 on **Boston City Hall Plaza** from 12 noon to 3 PM. Click [here](#) to see the event flyer.
- Annual ADA Celebration and Picnic, July 22, 2011 from 11 AM to 3 PM at [Dunn Pond State Park](#) in **Gardner, MA**. Click [here](#) to see the event flyer.

New Hampshire ADA 21st Anniversary Events:

In recognition of the ADA's 21st anniversary, Governor Lynch will present 2011 Governor's Accessibility Awards on July 26, 2011 at 11 AM at the **New Hampshire State House**. Honorees will include outstanding individuals and representatives from New Hampshire's business, state agency and nonprofit organization communities. If you would like to attend please contact the Governor's Commission on Disability at (603) 271-2773 for additional information.

Rhode Island ADA 21st Anniversary Events:

- Rhythm, Rebellion & ADA Celebration with VSA Arts RI at Roots Cafe in **Providence, Rhode Island** on Thursday July 21 from 5 to 9 PM. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Providence Gallery Night** 21st Anniversary Celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Friday, July 22, 2011, 11:30 AM to 3 PM. Email programs@vsartsri.org or call 401.725.0247 for more information.
- During the week that includes July 26th (the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act) the **Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities** and over 20 other state and non-profit agencies will conduct a week long series of public forums to hear the concerns of people with disabilities and their families. The forums are open for anyone to come in and speak; representatives of the sponsoring agencies will be there to listen. Click [here](#) for more information.

Vermont ADA 21st Anniversary Events:

Vermont storyteller and comedian René Pellerin will be the keynote speaker for an ADA celebration on the Statehouse lawn in **Montpelier, Vermont**. Pellerin has been instrumental in the passage of laws supporting the needs of members of the Deaf community. The theme of this year's event is "We Are Vermont." The event will also include a free picnic lunch, the presentation of the 6th Annual Deborah Lisi-Baker Leader of Tomorrow Award, a community dance, VCIL's house band for inclusive dance tunes, The In-Accessibles, and other notable speakers

and activities. The celebration will take place rain or shine. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to see two event flyers. For more information please contact Ericka at ericka@vcil.org or 229-0501 or 1-800-639-1522.



Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities in New England

Often the key to successfully managing emergency situations such as those caused by severe weather or unanticipated events begins with planning and preparation. The New England ADA Center has posted links to useful emergency preparedness resources from the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Products & Technologies that Change People's Lives

Universal Design
Assistive Techn
in Massachuset

September 23, 2011 Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

Under the Leadership of Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, MD of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Secretary Gregory Bialecki of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and Secretary Paul Reville of the Department of Education, the Commonwealth is hosting a set of linked events on Friday, September 23rd at the Hynes Convention Center. The Institute for Human Centered Design is the convenor for all events that include a day-long Conference, an Expo and a Design Awards program. Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and UMMS Work Without Limits, the agenda for all events will have four thematic areas: Home, Work, Life-Long Learning, and Fitness/Recreation/Sport.

Click [here](#) for more information. If you have questions about the conference or suggestions about content, email info@ChangePeoplesLives.org or call 617.695 1225 v/tty ext. 235.



Justice Department Issues Technical Assistance Document on Enforcement of the Supreme Court Decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*

The Department of Justice released a new technical assistance document describing public entities' obligations and individuals' rights under the integration mandate of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 1999 landmark Supreme Court

decision, *Olmstead v. L.C.* The document also provides questions and answers on a variety of ADA enforcement issues related to *Olmstead*. Click [here](#) to see the Justice Department press release and click [here](#) to see the technical assistance document.



2011 ADA Symposium

IHCD staff member Kathy Gips presented a workshop on disability rights and housing discrimination at the 2011 ADA Symposium in Las Vegas in May. Kathy is shown (top, far right) at the luncheon honoring John Wodatch with a Lifetime Achievement Award. John was Chief of the Disability Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice. Other participants from New England included Kim Brittenham, Mike Charron and Harold Nadeau from the Vermont Center for Independent Living; Allan Fraser from the National Fire Protection Association in Quincy, Massachusetts; Mark Jackson from Steven Winter Associates in Norwalk, Connecticut; Sandra Lugo Gines from the Connecticut Judicial Branch; Joanna Berton Martinez from the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Thomas McArdle from the City of Montpelier, Montpelier, Vermont; Jill Simpson, Alpha One Independent Living Center, South Portland, Maine; and Frankie Mazzei, Agawam Disability Commission, Agawam, Massachusetts.



Department of Education Issues Guidance on Rights of Students with Disabilities When Educational Institutions Use Technology

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued guidance through Dear Colleague Letters to elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education along with a Frequently Asked Questions document on the legal obligation to provide students with disabilities an equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits of

technology. This guidance is a critical step in the Department's ongoing efforts to ensure that students with disabilities receive equal access to the educational benefits and services provided by their schools, colleges and universities. All students, including those with disabilities, must have the tools needed to obtain a world-class education that prepares them for success in college and careers.

- Click [here](#) to read the Dear Colleague Letter to elementary and secondary schools.
- Click [here](#) to read the Dear Colleague Letter to institutions of higher education.
- Click [here](#) to see the FAQ.



President Obama Appoints New Members to the U.S. Access Board

We are very pleased to announce that Bostonian Deborah A. Ryan, Esq., formerly Director of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board, has been appointed to the U.S. Access Board by President Barack Obama as well as Mathew McCollough, M.P.A. of Washington, D.C.. Click [here](#) to read more.



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