Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities

December 17, 2008
10 am to 12 pm
Cornell University Government Affairs Office
Hall of States, Room 333
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

The ADA Amendments Act: Implementation Issues and What’s Next?

A Public Policy Forum

December 17, 2008
10 am to 12 pm

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Contact Information
The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities is hosting a series of policy forums to explore policy alternatives to promote employment of individuals with disabilities. On September 25, 2008 President Bush signed into law the ADA Amendments Act, a critical civil rights law that attracted broad bipartisan support and restored protections under the ADA to millions of Americans who had been interpreted out of the ADA by a series of problematic Supreme Court and lower federal court decisions. This forum will focus on the key issues that will play out in the ADAAA regulatory process, as well as related civil rights issues that were not addressed in ADAAA, that will be priorities as the disability community works with the next Congress and the new Administration.

Funding Agency

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Program Topic

Speakers

Christine M. Griffin, Commissioner, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Jennifer Mathis, Esq., Deputy Legal Director, Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Jenifer Simpson, Sr. Director Telecommunications & Technology Policy, American Association of People with Disabilities

Day Al-Mohamed, Sr. Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer, American Psychological Association

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of Directors and serves as a co-chair on the CCD Civil Rights Task Force. She is an active member of several other Task Forces including Emergency Preparedness, Education and Health.

In her previous position, she served as Director for the American Council of the Blind’s Department of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs providing expertise and information in the form of technical assistance and support to both consumers and various advisory committees and governing bodies on legislative and regulatory issues relating to such varied subjects as: the Telecommunications Act, Voting System Guidelines, Broadband Technical Specifications, Pedestrian Rights of Way, Social Security Privatization concerns and Emergency Preparedness.

Before her legislative work here in Washington DC, Ms. Al-Mohamed’s career has included work in advocacy and legislative initiatives on behalf of many disenfranchised groups. She has worked on the planning committee for the Civil Rights Group of the Cambio de Colores conference; the largest conference that directly addresses the various issues faced by Latino immigrants to the Midwest. Prior to that, she was a representative of the ISC-ICC to the Preparatory Commission of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the United Nations, reporting on the activities of the Victim’s Trust Fund Working Group which addressed the needs of victims of genocide on a global scale.

**Agenda**

**The ADA Amendments Act: Implementation and What’s Next?**

Wednesday, December 17, 2008 - 10:00am-12:00pm  
Cornell University, Government Affairs Office  
Hall of States, Room 333  
444 North Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

**Welcome & Introduction**

Andrew J. Imparato, American Association of People with Disabilities  
Susanne M. Bruyère, Cornell University, Employment and Disability Institute

**Panel**

Commissioner Christine M. Griffin, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
Jennifer Mathis, Esq., Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Jenifer Simpson, American Association of People with Disabilities  
Day Al-Mohamed, American Psychological Association
**Biographies**

**Christine M. Griffin** was sworn in on January 3, 2006, as a Commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). She was nominated by President George W. Bush and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. As one of five members of the Commission, Ms. Griffin participates with other Commissioners on all matters which come before it, including the development and approval of enforcement policies, authorization of litigation, and issuance of Commissioners’ charges of discrimination.

Ms. Griffin’s work experience in labor and employment law includes positions in both the public and private sectors. Most recently, Ms. Griffin served as the Executive Director of the Disability Law Center in Boston from 1996 to 2005, providing leadership and conducting overall management.

Prior to that, Ms. Griffin served from 1995 to 1996 as an Attorney Advisor to the former Vice Chair of the EEOC, Paul M. Igasaki, advising him on legal matters and policy issues. Ms. Griffin’s other federal work experience includes serving in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Boston, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Army.

Ms. Griffin has served on many boards and task forces, including the national Social Security Administration Ticket to Work Advisory Panel, the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education.

**Jennifer Mathis, Esq.** is deputy legal director at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. The Bazelon Center is a national nonprofit legal advocacy organization that represents individuals with psychiatric disabilities. Jennifer practices primarily in the areas of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Medicaid law. She uses litigation, policy advocacy, education and training to promote the rights of individuals with psychiatric disabilities in all areas of life, including access to health care services, employment, voting, public benefits, parental rights, educational opportunities, housing, and community living. Jennifer served on the team of disability negotiators in the negotiations with the business community that became the basis for the ADA Amendments Act.

**Day Al-Mohamed** currently serves as a Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer with the American Psychological Association (APA). She manages APA’s legislative and regulatory activities related to public interest policy issues in the arenas of Disability and Ethnic Minorities. This involves influencing policy-making activity on Capitol Hill and regulatory activities in the federal agencies; developing and implementing strategies for enhancing the utilization of psychological research to advance public interest issues. She is a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Board.