

Assisting Law Students with Disabilities in the 21st Century: A New Horizon?

Co-sponsored By:

American University Washington College of Law Office of Student Affairs &
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

March 12, 2009

8:15am– 5:00 pm, Reception to Follow

American University Washington College of Law, Room 603

8:45-10:00am: What the ADA Amendments and Higher Education Acts Mean for Law Schools

The approval of these Acts brings with it the prospect of change in what we provide to our students and how we accommodate them. Learn about potential ramifications from individuals who have been at the forefront of advocacy in this significant legislation.

Moderator: Alex Long, Associate Professor of Law, The University of Tennessee College of Law; **Andrew Imparato**, President, American Association of People with Disabilities; **Erica Moeser**, President, National Conference of Bar Examiners; **Peggy Mastroianni**, Associate Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; **Mike Shuttic**, President, Association on Higher Education and Disability

10:15-11:45am: Lost in Transition: The If/When/How of Disclosing to an Employer

How are accommodations viewed by employers (and are they viewed reasonably and correctly)? This panel explores how a student makes informed decisions when entering the workforce.

Moderator: Gihan Fernando, Assistant Dean, Career Services, Georgetown Law Center; **Carrie Griffin Basas**, Professor of Law, University of Tulsa College of Law; **Christine M. Griffin**, Commissioner, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; **Lawrence Lorber**, Partner, Proskauer Rose

Lunch – Noon-1:30pm [Keynote Speaker TBA]

1:30-2:30pm: “And Now a Word from Our Students...”

As we seek best practices in assisting and guiding our students we may overlook the very individuals who are truly at the forefront and at the heart of our concerns. Members of the National Association of Law Students with Disabilities (NALSWD) offer their perspectives.

Moderator: Stephanie Enyart, UCLA School of Law, December 2008; **Trevor Finneman**, Second-Year Student, UCLA School of Law; **Shayla Key Parker**, Second-Year Student, Georgetown University Law School; **Rebecca Williford**, Third-Year Student, University of North Carolina School of Law

2:30-3:30pm: Suffering in Silence: The Tension Between Self-Disclosure and a Law School’s Obligation to Report

Are admissions applications a help or hindrance for students in need of assistance with mental health and/or substance abuse issues? Do bar certification and conditional admissions affect a student seeking counseling support?

Moderator: David H. Baum, Assistant Dean and Senior Manager of Student Affairs, University of Michigan Law School; **Ira Burnim**, Legal Director, Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; **Alison Hillman**, Director, Mental Disability Rights International’s (MDRI) Americas Advocacy Initiative; **Laura Rothstein**, Professor of Law, University of Louisville Law School

3:45-5:00pm: Anticipating and Meeting Challenges in a Changing Landscape

Are you concerned about the prospect of an absolute ban on laptops in a classroom and what you will do for a student who arguably should receive use of a laptop as a reasonable accommodation? How will law schools reconcile the new ADA legislation classifying thinking as major life activity with the intellectual rigors of law school and the legal profession? Raise your questions in an open-ended, interactive dialogue among all attendees.

Moderator: Robert Dinerstein, Professor of Law and Director, Disability Rights Law Clinic, American University Washington College of Law

Please register by clicking on www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration

For further information, (including sponsorship opportunities) please contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, Phone: 202.274.4075; Fax: 202.274.4079; or secle@wcl.american.edu