



## CCD 2024 Rights Task Force Annual Report

### 1. Brief Task Force Description or Mission Statement

The Rights Task Force advocates on a wide variety of matters involving the human and civil rights of individuals with disabilities through an equity lens. The Task Force's vision is driven by a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice, as well as the four key goals for people with disabilities set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Through our work, we are committed to assuring that the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act, the ADA, and other civil rights protections set forth in law and court decisions are interpreted and enforced in a robust manner to secure the equal rights and opportunities of people with disabilities who are Black, Brown, Indigenous, , LGBTQ+, and all other individuals with disabilities. The Task Force is committed to advocating for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities with multiple statuses or who are multiply marginalized.

### 2. Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2024

- a. Advocated with agencies to strengthen regulatory and sub-regulatory guidance and resources, in collaboration with our constituents, to promote implementation and enforcement of rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act, Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, including in the contexts of accessible information and communication technology, effective communication, alternatives to guardianship, equal access to healthcare, community integration, parents with disabilities, voting, equal educational opportunities, AI and algorithmic bias, and agency transparency. Advanced public policy around increasing voter access and voting rights for people with disabilities.
- b. Mobilized and supported federal legislation that will improve the lives of disabled people, such as the bipartisan SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act, legislation eliminating Section 14(c) certificates and subminimum wages for people with disabilities, increased funding for home- and

community-based services and diversion from institutions and the criminal legal system, legislation expanding access to health insurance and public benefits for immigrants, tax credits to promote access, and other measures with a reasonable likelihood of success.

- c. Advanced public policy around people with disabilities and the criminal legal system, including in the areas of crisis response, home- and community-based services and supports, and diversion at each stage of the criminal process.
3. Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2025

Support federal legislation that will improve the integrated lives of disabled people and their families, such as legislation to mitigate or remove marriage penalties for people receiving federal and federally funded benefits, in collaboration with other Task Forces.

Defend and promote the enforcement of federal civil rights protections for people with disabilities in law, court decisions, administrative guidance, and regulation, as well as funding streams that require or allow people with disabilities to live in the community, in collaboration with other Task Forces.

Urge federal recognition that the impact of adult guardianship and conservatorship is a disability rights issue and promote less restrictive options, including Supported Decision-Making.

4. Task Force Meeting Day of the Month and Meeting Time (Eastern)

Third Thursday of the month, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Eastern

5. 2025 Task Force Co-Chairs

Claudia Center Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Stephen Lieberman, United Spinal Association  
Allison Nichol, Epilepsy Foundation  
Monica Porter Gilbert, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
R. Larkin Taylor-Parker, Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Morgan K. Whitlatch, Center for Public Representation