

# 1990-2014

## SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TIMELINE OF THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

### 1990: THE CAPITOL CRAWL

On March 12, 1990, more than 1,000 disability rights protesters came to Washington, D.C., to urge Congress to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act. To demonstrate the barriers confronting people with disabilities, more than 60 activists abandoned their mobility devices and began crawling up the 83 stone steps to the Capitol. There was no accessible entrance to the Capitol building at the time.

### 1990: AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, into law. The ADA is considered the most important civil rights law since Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and provides civil rights protection for people with disabilities.

### 1999: OLMSTEAD DECISION

On June 22, 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court found in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that unjustified segregation of persons with disabilities constitutes discrimination. This landmark case ensured that people with disabilities would receive services in the most integrated and least restrictive environment possible.

### 2006: INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY ENFORCED

In 2006, the National Federation of the Blind sued Target Corporation for having an inaccessible website, which they deemed to violate the Americans with Disabilities Act. Courts ruled that Target's website must be accessible to people with disabilities because it is a public accommodation. This was the first legal case to challenge the accessibility of internet content.

### 2008: ADA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

On September 25, 2008, President George W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (or ADAAA). The ADAAA broadened the ADA's interpretation, making it easier for individuals seeking protection under the ADA to establish that they have a disability.

### 2010: ROSA'S LAW

September 22, 2010, Rosa's Law removes the terms "mentally retarded" and "mental retardation" from federal policy and replaces them with person-first language: "individual with an intellectual disability" and "intellectual disability." The law is named after Rosa Marcellino, a young activist with Down syndrome who advocated for the law.

### 2012: ONLINE CLOSED CAPTIONS ENFORCED

In 2012, in a lawsuit brought by the National Association of the Deaf against Netflix, a Federal judge ruled that Netflix, and all other online video providers, must offer closed captioning on all programming.

### 2014: RACE, DISABILITY AND POLICE BRUTALITY

Of those people that are killed by law enforcement officers, 30-50% are people with disabilities, according to a study by the Ruderman Family Foundation.

### 2018: DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Disability rights activists fought to protect social security, health care, accessibility rights and pushed for systemic change. While demonstrating against various proposed laws, people from outside the community recognized disability rights as a movement that extends beyond existing stigmas to encompass a broader political identity. Disability advocates are proud of their disabilities and view them as essential to their identities parallel to many view race, ethnicity and sexual orientation.