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Center for Public Representation

December 17, 2024

"Working with CPR has been a valuable experience. I have gained a wealth of knowledge from their professionalism and ethics, but most importantly, from their dedication to supporting and advocating for people with disabilities. I feel fortunate to collaborate with them."

Keila Torres, Director Conexiones Latinx-MA



Throughout 2024, CPR honored its 50-year commitment to enforce and advance equal opportunities for people with disabilities. Our creative and pioneering advocacy challenged legal barriers across the nation and facilitated the transition of individuals from institutional settings to community-based services and supports so they can lead fulfilling and meaningful lives.

I'm excited to share some key achievements CPR realized over the last 12 months.

- We settled our landmark cross-disability case, Marsters v. Healey, allowing thousands of people with disabilities to leave nursing facilities, return to their communities, and live in new homes with services.
- Together with Disability Rights Connecticut, we filed a voting rights complaint with the US Department of Justice, alleging that the State of Connecticut discriminated against residents of institutions and restricted their access to the ballot in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- We filed a class action lawsuit against the State of Georgia that challenged its failure to provide intensive homebased services to thousands of children with significant disabilities, resulting in their unnecessary institutionalization.
- We negotiated system transformation plans with three states to end their discriminatory employment practices for people with disabilities, and instead provide them with real jobs at competitive wages—work that is modeled after our groundbreaking 2015 ADA case in Oregon, Lane v. Brown.

- We partnered with organizations like the Black Autism Coalition, Conexiones Latinx-MA, and the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association to reach underrepresented and underserved populations and amplify their work and their voices.
- We provided training on Supported Decision-Making and related topics to over 3,000 people, including youth and adults with disabilities, family members, providers, educators, judges, attorneys, and advocates.
- We organized three national convenings of disability organizations to develop effective strategies to protect people with disabilities from police violence, to ensure full enforcement of federal regulations, and to realize the promise of the ADA's integration mandate.



With your support, we have made significant progress over the years. We need your help to translate these settlements and accomplishments into enduring reforms for people with disabilities, through engaged monitoring and ongoing advocacy.

We're not stopping now. There is important work still to be done, and your support is critical to making meaningful change for people with disabilities around the country. Given the uncertainty of what lies ahead, we ask you to stand with us and protect, uphold and advance the rights of all persons with disabilities by <u>donating today</u>. Every contribution—whatever the amount—empowers us to enforce existing rights, challenge injustices, and expand access to essential resources for those we serve.

With Gratitude,

Cathy Costanzo

Center for Public Representation

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