Disability Rights in Colorado: Making Change Since … Long Before it was Legally Required

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Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center
www.creeclaw.org
Pre-History

Colorado has had a civil rights statute since 1895

CHAPTER 27.

CIVIL RIGHTS.

AN ACT to protect all citizens in their civil and legal rights, fixing a penalty for violation of the same, and to repeal an act entitled “An act to protect all citizens in their civil rights,” approved April 4, 1885. [Approved April 9, 1895. In force April 9, 1895. L. ’95, p. 139.

423 All persons entitled to equal enjoyment.

That all persons within the jurisdiction of said state shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, restaurants, eating houses, barber shops, public conveyances on land or water, theaters, and all other places of public accommodation and amusement, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all citizens. [L. ’95, p. 139, § 1.
1950s & 1960s: fighting for inclusive education

- ARCs of Colorado, Denver, other counties.
- Founded in the 1950s.
- Class action lawsuit challenging exclusion of students with disabilities.
1970s: Atlantis & Legal Center
1978: Bus Protest

On July 5, 1978, 19 people in wheelchairs stopped and held buses overnight at Colfax and Broadway, marking the first use of civil disobedience by disabled activists. This protest is now commemorated by a plaque at the site.
Now Marked with a Plaque

On Colfax Between Broadway & Lincoln
1983: ADAPT
1990: CCDC

Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition

NOTHING ABOUT US...WITHOUT US

CREEC CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT CENTER www.creeeclaw.org
2011: CRPD

The Center for Rights of Parents with Disabilities

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2013: CREEC

If a business was built after January 26, 1993, it has to be accessible to people with disabilities.
Lucas v. Kmart
Transit
Deaf Prisoners and Detainees
Sport

Rolling Rapids Power Soccer

Bolder Boulder wheelchair race: Josh George, Amanda McGrory claim victory

Paralympics

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Poetry and Theater

STAYING PROUD: THE LEGACY OF LAURA HERSHEY

Students digitally preserve the work of a local advocate for the disabled.

By Leslie Mac Seeley

LAURA HERSHEY WAS A LEGAL PRACTITIONER AND ADVOCATE WHO FOCUSED ON THE RIGHTS OF DISABLED PERSONS. SHE WAS A VITAL FIGURE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

She was a brave and tireless advocate for disability rights, fighting for equal rights and opportunities for all disabled individuals. She was a trailblazer in the field of disability law and advocacy, and her work continues to inspire new generations of advocates.

Her legacy lives on through the work of Phamaly Theatre Company, a group dedicated to bringing the voices of disabled artists to the forefront of the arts.

PHAMALY THEATRE COMPANY
theatre with possability

I AM A PERFORMER | I AM A DANCER
I AM A STORYTELLER | I AM A SINGER
I AM AN ENTERTAINER | I AM AN ACTOR

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Humor and Song

[To the tune of “Let It Be”]

When I find myself in times of trouble
The bathroom door is 2 foot 3
Speaking words of wisdom
Let us pee . . . let us pee!
THE END