

# Legal Resources for Disability Law

Within the United States and Michigan, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the state Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act (formerly the Michigan Handicappers' Civil Rights Act) are keystones for defining the rights of the disabled in employment and accommodations.

A good place to start researching disability law is the United States Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Americans with Disabilities Act home page at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm>. You can review a summary of the ADA and its provisions, including a user-friendly overview of the extent and purpose of the law, at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/cguide.htm>. The full text version of the act is available online through the DOJ's website at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pubs/ada.txt>.

Several federal agencies also maintain jurisdiction over enforcement of various laws governing the rights of the disabled. The Federal Department of Education's reference page on Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 is at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/idea2004.html>. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission provides a web page for employment-related aspects of federal law at <http://www.eeoc.gov/types/ada.html>.

Among universities, Cornell University Law School has a research page dedicated to disability law at [http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/Disability\\_law](http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/Disability_law). The university

also maintains a searchable database with text of recent United States Supreme Court decisions at <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/search/index.html?query=disability>. Georgetown University's Law School maintains an ADA resource center with links to key resources at [http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/find/resource\\_display\\_subject.cfm?topic\\_id=130](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/find/resource_display_subject.cfm?topic_id=130).

Nationally, there are several print publications that are available for purchase, including *How to Comply With the Americans With Disabilities Act*,<sup>1</sup> which provides a useful guide for employers and business people seeking information on compliance issues, and *Americans with Disabilities: Practice and Compliance Manual*.<sup>2</sup>

Westlaw also maintains several searchable databases for those interested in disability law, including Americans With Disabilities Technical Assistance Manuals (ADA-TAM), Public Accommodations Under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA-PUBACC), and the Americans With Disabilities Update Journal (ADAUP). LexisNexis subscribers can locate key publications through that site's search engine at <http://www.lexisnexis.com/search/Results1.asp?query=americans+with+disabilities+act>.

The Bureau of National Affairs publishes *Americans with Disabilities Cases*, containing the opinions of federal and state courts and federal agencies since 1993 with updates. Matthew Bender has two publications of note: *Americans with Disabilities Act: Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities*,<sup>3</sup>

with and in-depth explanation of what commercial facilities must do to comply with the ADA, and *Americans with Disabilities Act: Employee Rights and Employer Obligations*,<sup>4</sup> which addresses what employers must do to comply with ADA provisions.

Within Michigan, the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act controls this state's law with respect to legal requirements. Administrative enforcement of the state law is the concern of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights; see <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr/>. A PDF copy of the text can be found at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/act-220-of-1976\\_8771\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/act-220-of-1976_8771_7.pdf).

The Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth has jurisdiction over processing complaints relative to employment discrimination and available services; see <http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-28077-28545-28562---,00.html>. Additionally, the Michigan Department of Education has extensive information on special education programs at [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530\\_6598---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_6598---,00.html). ♦

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## FOOTNOTES

1. Bruce, S. D. and Atkinson, L., *How to Comply With the Americans With Disabilities Act* (Madison CT: Business and Legal Reports, 1991).
2. Thomas R. Trenkner, editorial director, *Americans with Disabilities: Practice and Compliance Manual*, printed by Lawyers Cooperative Publishing (1992). Updated on Westlaw in the library database (AMDISPCM).
3. Mook, Jonathan R., *Americans with Disabilities Act: Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities* (Matthew Bender, 1996).
4. Mook, Jonathan R., *Americans with Disabilities Act: Employee Rights and Employer Obligations* (Matthew Bender, 1992).

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