This session is scheduled to begin at 2:00pm Eastern Time.

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- If using your computer, please make sure your speakers are turned on or your headphones are plugged in:
  - You can control the audio broadcast via the Audio & Video panel.
  - You can adjust the sound by “sliding” the sound bar left or right.
  - If you are having sound quality problems check your audio controls by going through the Audio Wizard which is accessed by selecting the microphone icon on the Audio & Video panel.

Listening to the Webinar, continued

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- If you are listening by phone you will be instructed by the Operator on how to ask a question.
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Customize Your View

- Resize the Whiteboard where the Presentation slides are shown to make it smaller or larger by choosing from the drop down menu located above and to the left of the whiteboard. The default is “fit page”.
Customize Your View continued

- Resize/Reposition the Chat, Participant and Audio & Video panels by “detaching” and using your mouse to reposition or “stretch/shrink”. Each panel may be detached using the icon in the upper right corner of each panel.

Setting Preferences

- Depending on your system settings you may receive visual and audible notifications when individuals enter/leave the webinar room or when other actions are taken by participants. This can be distracting.
- To turn off notifications (audible/visual)
  - Select “Edit” from the tool bar at the top of your screen
  - From the drop down menu select “Preferences”
  - Scroll down to “General”
    - Select “Audible Notifications” Uncheck anything you don’t want to receive and “apply”
    - Select “Visual Notifications” Uncheck anything you don’t want to receive and “apply”
  - For Screen Reader User – Set preferences through the setting options within the Activity Window (Ctrl+ slash opens the activity window)

Technical Assistance

- If you experience any technical difficulties during today’s session:
  1. In webinar platform: Send a private chat message to the host by double clicking “Great Lakes ADA” in the participant list. A tab titled “Great Lakes ADA” will appear in the chat panel. Type your comment in the text box and “enter” (Keyboard - F6, Arrow up or down to locate “Great Lakes ADA” and select to send a message); or
  2. By Email webinars@ada-audio.org; or
  3. Call 877-232-1990 (V/TTY)
Electronic Information & Digital Access

Eugenia Esch and William Lynch
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Civil Rights Division
Disability Rights Section
U.S. Department of Justice
ADA National Network
ADA Audio Conference Series
May 20, 2014

Agenda

• Brief overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act, its regulatory provisions, and application to services migrated to digital technologies
• Department of Justice
  o Public Enforcement Actions
  o Technical Assistance
  o Regulatory Actions
• Just an FYI: Other Public Accessible Tech Matters
• Case Study: Consent Decree among the U.S., National Federation of the Blind, and HRB Digital LLC and HRB Tax Group, Inc. (H&R Block subsidiaries)

Digital Migration

• Digital migration of a service may include certain inherent features:
  o Convenience
  o Flexibility
  o Remoteness
  o Rapidity
  o Independence
  o Availability
  o Efficiency
  o Security
  o Ease of recordkeeping
  o Etc.
• Potential to substantially benefit all individuals, including individuals with disabilities; or significantly marginalize opportunities and participation if designed and implemented without accessibility
ADA Title I – Overview

“No covered entity shall discriminate against a qualified individual on the basis of disability in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement, or discharge of employees, employee compensation, job training, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment.”

42 U.S.C. § 12112(a).

State and Local Governments
Private Employers
Employment Agencies
Labor Unions

Employers with fewer than 15 employees
Executive Branch of the Federal Government: White House and Cabinet Offices
Private Membership Clubs
Native American Reservations
Religious Organizations may give a preference to people of their own religion or religious organization
“[N]o qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of services, programs or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.”

ADA Title II – Overview

- “Public Entity” includes any State or local government and any department, agency or other instrumentality of a State or local government.
- Covers the breadth of state and local government services, programs, and activities.
- Examples include:
  - Web information
  - Education (elementary, secondary, undergraduate, and beyond)
  - Benefit programs
  - Property tax payments
  - Registering a business
  - Obtaining a recycling bin
  - Paying a parking ticket
  - Applying for a job
  - Finding an emergency shelter
  - Engaging the court system
  - Etc.

“No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.”
42 U.S.C. § 12182(a)
Public Accommodations:
• Places of lodging;
• Food or drink establishments;
• Places of exhibition or entertainment;
• Places of public gathering;
• Sales or rental establishments;
• Service establishments;
• Specified public transportation;
• Places of public display or collection;
• Places of recreation;
• Places of education;
• Social service center establishments; and
• Places of exercise or recreation.

Relevant Regulatory Provisions – Title I
29 C.F.R. pt. 1630
ALL employment practices:
Job Application Processes
Hiring
Firing
Compensation
Training
Recruitment
Advertising
Tenure
Layoff
Leave and Fringe Benefits
Other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment

Some Relevant Reg. Provisions – Titles II and III
• 28 C.F.R. pts. 35 and 36
• Discrimination directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements;
  • Denial of participation or benefit;
  • Unequal opportunity to participate or benefit;
  • Separate or different, but unnecessary opportunity to participate or benefit;
  • Ineffective aids, benefits, or services;
  • Aiding or perpetuating discrimination;
  • Otherwise limiting rights, privileges, advantages, or opportunities;
  • Utilizing standards or criteria that result in discrimination;
• Failing to take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication through the provision of appropriate auxiliary aids and service, unless fundamental alteration or undue burden;
• Failing to make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures, unless fundamental alteration.
Auxiliary Aids and Services, Relevant Examples

- "Qualified interpreters . . . through video remote interpreting (VRI) services; . . . written materials; . . . open and closed captioning, including real-time captioning; . . . voice, text, and video-based telecommunications products and systems; . . . vibration displays; . . . accessible electronic and information technology; or other effective methods of making aurally delivered information available to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; . . ."

- "audio recordings; Brailled materials and displays; screen reader software; magnification software; optical readers; secondary auditory programs (SAP); large print materials; accessible electronic and information technology; or other effective methods of making visually delivered materials available to individuals who are blind or have low vision;"

- "Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices; and

- "Other similar services and actions."

What are examples of accessibility barriers?

- Lack of text labels for forms, images, and buttons for screen reader navigation
- Keyboard accessibility for screen reader and voice dictation software navigation – e.g., Flash-based without appropriate code
- Lack of captions and audio descriptions of multimedia
- Lack of adequate contrast
- Timing or logging out – e.g., timeout for security reasons
- Notification of errors – e.g., incorrect credit card number or log-in
- Ability to change layout without losing context – e.g., remove Cascading Style Sheet
- Use of structure for navigation – e.g., lack of heading designations

Selected Department of Justice Enforcement Actions

- Intervention, Complaint, and Consent Decree, NFB et al. v. HRB Digital LLC et al.
  - Resolving accessibility of www.hrblock.com and mobile applications
- Statement of Interest of the U.S., New v. Lucky Brand
  - Discussing application of effective communication obligations to touch-screen point-of-sale devices used to independently transact debit and credit purchases
- Statements of Interest, National Association of the Deaf v. Netflix
  - Statement of interest concerning closed captioning of Netflix’s “Watch Instantly” Internet streamed content
  - Statement of interest concerning interplay between Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA) and the ADA
Recent Department of Justice Enforcement Actions

- **Settlement Agreement** with Newseum
  - Requiring appropriate auxiliary aids and services in all public programs, media, and exhibits, including its website

- **Project Civic Access Agreements**
  - Accessibility of state and local government websites

Recent Department of Justice Enforcement Actions

- **E-Reader Agreements**, concerning Kindles:
  - Case Western Reserve University Letter of Resolution
  - Pace University Letter of Resolution
  - Princeton University Letter of Resolution
  - Reed College Letter of Resolution
  - Arizona State University Settlement Agreement

- **Settlement Agreement** with the Sacramento Public Library Authority
  - Concerning the use of inaccessible Nook e-book readers in patron lending program

Recent Department of Justice Enforcement Actions

- **Settlement Agreement** with Louisiana Tech University
  - Use of an inaccessible web-based learning management system software

- **Settlement Agreement** with Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School
  - Requiring an application process that is usable by applicants who are blind
Technical Assistance

Dear Colleague Letter to College and University Presidents

Concerning the inaccessibility of course materials, technology, and equipment in the university setting

Rulemaking

On July 26, 2010, the Department issued Advanced Notices of Proposed Rulemaking in the following areas:

- Accessibility of Web Information and Services
- Movie Captioning and Audio Description
- Accessibility of Next Generation 9-1-1
- Equipment and Furniture

Just an FYI: Other Accessible Tech Matters

- Settlement Agreement between the U.S. Department of Education and University of Montana
  - Requiring policies and procedures to ensure all electronic and information technology procured or deployed by the University, including e-textbooks, course materials, online course registration, learning management systems, classroom technology (e.g., smart podiums and clickers), library services, office equipment, etc., can be used by students who are blind and have other disabilities.

- Settlement between Disability Rights Advocates and Berkley University
  - Requiring policies to ensure information access for students

- Accessibility Initiative Agreement between the National Federation of the Blind of Massachusetts and Square
  - Requiring accessibility of mobile payment application
Just an FYI: Other Accessible Tech Matters

  - Accessibility of software used in management positions

- **Settlement Agreement with CVS**
  - Regarding talking prescription labels

- **Settlement Agreement with Safeway**
  - Regarding accessibility of website for ordering groceries and delivery

A Case Study: [www.hrblock.com](http://www.hrblock.com) and Mobile Applications

**Timeline:**

- **April 8, 2013:** Class Action Complaint by National Federation of the Blind, Mika Pyyhkala, and Lindsay Yazzolino against HRB Digital LLC and HRB Tax Group, Inc., subsidiaries of H&R Block, Inc., alleging violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Massachusetts Equal Rights Act

- **November 25, 2013:** United States moves to intervene, asserting claim under Title III against HRB Digital LLC and HRB Tax Group, Inc., seeking injunctive relief for individuals with disabilities generally, damages for Mr. Pyyhkala and Ms. Yazzolino, and a civil penalty.

- **December 11, 2013:** United States filed Complaint in Intervention.

- **March 25, 2014:** Court enters parties’ proposed Consent Decree to universally resolve litigation.

A Case Study: [www.hrblock.com](http://www.hrblock.com) and Mobile Applications

**Consent Decree Overview:**

- Website and Online Tax Preparation Product: WCAG 2.0 AA conforming by January 1, 2015

- Mobile Apps: WCAG 2.0 AA conforming by January 1, 2016

- Various Steps to bring [www.hrblock.com](http://www.hrblock.com) and the mobile apps into conformance, and keep them in conformance
A Case Study: www.hrblock.com and Mobile Applications

- General Nondiscrimination Requirements Injunction:
  - Prohibits denying individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations provided through www.hrblock.com, the mobile applications, and the Online Tax Preparation Product.
  - Prohibits unequal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations provided through www.hrblock.com, the mobile applications, and the Online Tax Preparation Product.
  - Must take the necessary steps to ensure individuals with disabilities are not excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services, through www.hrblock.com, the mobile applications, and the Online Tax Preparation Product.
  - Prohibits the use of standards or criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of discriminating on the basis of disability, or perpetuate discrimination of others who are subject to common administrative control.

A Case Study: www.hrblock.com and Mobile Applications

- Web Accessibility Policy – June 1, 2014
  - Distributed initially, on new hire, and annually to web content personnel, call center personnel, and contractors responsible for web content.
  - Publish a statement of commitment to accessibility, and the ability to submit questions.

- Web Accessibility Coordinator – June 15, 2014
  - Knowledgeable of the terms of the decree, including the legal requirements, WCAG 2.0, and web accessibility generally.
  - Responsible for overseeing, managing, and coordinating implementation of the decree.
  - Responsible for reporting and documenting quarterly, at minimum, to the Enterprise Chief Information Officer that all new releases have been made accessible pre-production; any post-production accessibility bugs have been remediated; and whether the requirements of the decree have been met, and, if not, which ones and why.

A Case Study: www.hrblock.com and Mobile Applications

- Web Accessibility Committee – July 15, 2014
  - Monitoring and maintaining conformance.

- Web Accessibility Feedback – July 15, 2014
  - Notice, prominently and directly linked from www.hrblock.com homepage, soliciting feedback from visitors on how the website, mobile apps, and Online Tax Preparation Product can be improved.
  - Must include several methods to provide feedback, including an accessible form to submit feedback or an email address, and a toll-free number (with TTY) to contact knowledgeable representatives about the Website Accessibility Policy.

- Customer Assistance for H&R Block Users with Disabilities – December 1, 2014
  - Train call service personnel to auto-escalate web access barriers – no less than 5% on staff at any given time.
  - December 1, 2015 for mobile apps.

- Web Accessibility Training – August 15, 2014 and when hired into such roles
  - For all employees who write or develop programs or code for, or who publish final content to, www.hrblock.com, its mobile applications, or the Online Tax Preparation Product conforming to WCAG 2.0 AA.
A Case Study: www.hrblock.com and Mobile Applications

- Performance Reviews of Web Accessibility Coordinator and H&R Block Employees
  - Performance reviews evaluate degree and effectiveness of incorporating accessibility considerations by coordinator, call-service operations personnel, and Web Content Personnel

- Automated Testing – October 1, 2014
  - Select tool acceptable to Private Plaintiffs and U.S. to evaluate conformance with WCAG 2.0 AA
  - Beginning December 1, 2014, and every three months for five years conduct automated tests of www.hrblock.com
  - June 1, 2015 and each year thereafter, and once per month, test Online Tax Preparation Product
  - October 1, 2014 – if one exists, select mobile app testing tool

- User Accessibility Testing Group – October 1, 2014, annually
  - Whenever a substantial proposed change will be made, individuals with different disabilities shall test the change

- Modification of Bug Fix Priority Policies – December 1, 2014
  - Modify existing policies to include accessibility bugs are remedied with same level of priority as any other equivalent loss of function

- Web Accessibility Consultant and Evaluation
  - July 15, 2014 - Retain consultant, approved by all parties
  - September 15, 2014, and annually, consultant provides written evaluation on whether website, mobile apps, and Online Tax Preparation Product are in conformance, whether there are recurring or significant deviations, and make recommendations.
  - Copies provided to all parties.
  - Block to incorporate recommendations.

- $22,500 to each individual Private Plaintiff, $55,000 civil penalty

- Reporting

Contact Information

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Thank you for participating in today’s ADA-Audio Conference Session

The next scheduled session is:

“Disclosure under the ADA and it’s relationship to Section 503 Regulations”

June 17, 2014

www.ada-audio.org 877-232-1990 (V/TTY)