

*Jeanne A. Carpenter*



# Epilepsy Legal Defense Fund Newsletter

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## Network Spotlight: Cherree Sanders

*By Angela Ostrom*

The Legal Defense Fund recognizes Cherree Sanders for her advocacy on behalf of people with epilepsy.

Cherree Sanders serves as the Epilepsy Foundation Legal Defense Fund's paralegal and manager. Ms. Sanders has fifteen years experience in the legal community, and nine years with the Epilepsy Foundation Legal Defense Fund. Cherree has worked as a judicial intern, in small practices, and with a large university's legal counsel office. In 2005, she brought her expertise in legal research and case support to the Epilepsy Foundation. This was the start of a true commitment to serving people with epilepsy and their families.



However, Cherree's personal commitment and drive started much earlier with a family connection to epilepsy: "My aunt was diagnosed with epilepsy as a teenager, and I remember my mom sharing her concerns for her sister, who would get hired for jobs as a young adult, have a seizure, and then get fired. There were no laws in place at that time to protect her or other people with disabilities until the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990."

The Epilepsy Foundation Legal Defense Fund serves as a conduit for information and referral in legal advocacy issues. Our resources are often a starting point for those in need of guidance or advice on legal rights as well as an epilepsy resource for legal advocates. Many people and families whose lives we touch do not have a need to speak directly to someone at our legal advocacy network offices, or they may rely on their local affiliate contacts. However, we do have thousands of direct contacts every year via web, email, and phone. The voice that is frequently the first point of contact for epilepsy legal advocacy is Cherree. She is the heart and soul of the Epilepsy Legal Defense Fund, and a tireless advocate, consistently looking for resources, options, and ideas to help network attorneys and clients.

Cherree brings this dedication to individuals and their attorneys who navigate many challenges - from employment and social security systems to securing rights and protections in

Protecting the civil rights of people with epilepsy through education, advocacy and increased access to legal services

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The Epilepsy Legal Defense Fund (a program of the Epilepsy Foundation) provides legal guidance to individuals experiencing epilepsy-related discrimination and their families, along with referrals and legal support to a nationwide network of cooperating law offices. The Fund was established in memory of Jeanne A. Carpenter, an attorney, Epilepsy Foundation Board member, and a person with epilepsy. She was a tireless advocate for people with epilepsy from the time she was first diagnosed with the condition until her untimely passing in 2003.



Stronger Together

"My aunt was diagnosed with epilepsy as a teenager, and I remember my mom sharing her concerns for her sister, who would get hired for jobs as a young adult, have a seizure, and then get fired." -

Cherree Sanders

education and community settings. "I am passionate about legal advocacy because I like to see people treated fairly. When I see that I have helped a person navigate challenges faced because of employment discrimination or a person who is arrested for seizure related behavior is vindicated, it makes me feel good."

As our network knows, understanding one's legal rights and options can provide hope for resolution; Cherree is a wonderful navigator for the epilepsy community. Our staff is honored to have this dedicated advocate on our team. If you are an attorney that has volunteered to be a network member, I hope you will take some time to talk with Cherree about how we can best serve you. If you have been helped by the Epilepsy Foundation Legal Defense staff or resources, I hope you will take some time to share your story with Cherree. On behalf of our network, staff, and the people with epilepsy that we have served, we thank Cherree for her commitment and passion for advocacy!

## Epilepsy Foundation Supports Amicus Brief in Fair Housing Case

By Cherree Sanders

The Epilepsy Foundation signed on to an amicus brief with other disability rights organizations in the case of Heidi and Juan Rodriguez, as parents of minor child A. R. v. Village Green Realty, Inc. and Blanca Aponte. A.R., who was 11 years old at the time of the allegations, has epilepsy and a pervasive developmental disorder on the autism spectrum. A.R. has a history of absence seizures and grand mal seizures. She has sensory processing and communication problems and requires special education services (an Individualized Education Plan) to address her disabilities.

In 2002, a real estate broker, Blanca Aponte, owned and operated her own real estate brokerage agency under Casa Blanca Realty. In October 2008, Casa Blanca Realty entered into an asset and purchase agreement with Village Green Realty (VGR). Under the agreement, all active listings of Casa Blanca Realty were transferred to VGR. This included a listing for the property located at 48 Kate Yaeger Road, Saugerties, New York, which was being rented by the Rodriguez family at the time of the allegations. Aponte was the listing agent for the Yaeger property.

The Rodriguez family had been renting the home, owned by Donnie Morelli, since March 2009. The family maintained a good relationship with Morelli. In January 2011, Mansour Farhandian became a prospective buyer of the rental property. Morelli handled all negotiations with Farhandian.

At Morelli's request, Aponte wrote to the Rodriguezes advising them of the new prospective owner, Farhandian, was interested in purchasing the property and retaining them as tenants under certain modified terms. The modified terms included increased rent, removal of Plaintiffs' property from the common garage, a \$50.00 fee for storage of a trailer, removal of a trampoline or proof of adequate insurance coverage, a garbage disposal fee, and an agreement to permit periodic inspections of the premises. The letter informed the family that if the proposed terms were not agreeable, the family would need to vacate the property in 30 days (March 15, 2011). The Rodriguezes were asked to let Aponte know how they wished

### Other News

- The 8th Annual Epilepsy Foundation National Walk took place on March 22, 2014. The Advocacy Staff rose over \$3,000 that will go towards supporting epilepsy research, a cure, and advocacy. The staff also hosted its annual Teens Speak Up/Public Policy Institute, where 40 teens and their parents spent three days in Washington, DC learning about legislative issues affecting people with epilepsy and advocacy.

- On June 1, 2014, the Fund welcomed our Summer Law clerk, Janissa Rodriguez. Janissa is a rising third year law student at the University of Baltimore School of Law, where she is pursuing her interests in human rights law and government affairs. Post-graduation, Janissa hopes to build a career through which she can make a meaningful contribution in the effort to advance human rights by advocating for those whose rights have been infringed upon and reforming areas of law which fail to protect internationally recognized human rights.

- The Epilepsy Foundation has changed its website! To review the new site, go to [www.epilepsy.com](http://www.epilepsy.com).

- Considering joining us in Washington, DC on April 11, 2015 for the 9th Annual National Walk for Epilepsy.

to reply to the terms outlined in the letter or the date of their vacating the home. The Rodriguezes did not respond to Aponte's letter. Heidi Rodriguez spoke to Morelli, who allegedly responded that she should "not worry about it" and that he would "take care of it."

On January 23, 2011, Morelli and Farhandian entered into an offer to purchase agreement. A contract of sale was to be signed on or about February 15, 2011 with a closing in early March. Aponte continued to attempt to contact the Rodriguezes by leaving several telephone messages, but she received no response. Aponte then reached out to Heidi Rodriguez through text messaging on her cellular telephone. The two exchanged a series of text messages, in which Aponte requested verification of A.R.'s medical issues in order to reschedule an appointment to inspect the property. Aponte also suggested that the owner had concerns about leasing to the family because of the child's disability. However, Aponte had not spoken to Farhandian when she made this representation to the Rodriguezes.

The Rodriguezes filed a lawsuit against Defendants Blanca Aponte and VGR in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, alleging unlawful discrimination and interference, coercion and intimidation under the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3617. In 2012, the District Court issued a Decision and Order concluding that A.R. was not disabled under Fair Housing Amendments Act (FHAA) because she was not substantially limited in the major life activity of learning and that no reasonable juror could find that A.R. had a disability. As a result, the housing discrimination claims were dismissed. The case is currently on appeal in U.S. Court of Appeals for Second Circuit. In the amicus brief, disability rights organizations argued that the District Court erred in its reasoning on both issues and that the ruling undermines the purposes and goals of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988. A copy of the Court Decision and the amicus brief can be viewed on the Legal Defense Fund website: [www.epilepsylegal.org](http://www.epilepsylegal.org).

## The Legal Defense Funds Helps File & Resolve Discrimination Cases

*By Cherree Sanders*

The following are recent cases which the Fund is monitoring or has provided support to attorneys representing people with epilepsy. For more information about these and other cases handled by the Fund's cooperating attorneys, and for copies of briefs and other litigation documents, contact the Fund at [legalrights@efa.org](mailto:legalrights@efa.org).

### Employment Cases

- EEOC and Holden v. Pines of Clarkston, Inc. (filed

E.D. Michigan 2013): Holden applied for a Manager position. After completing the interviews, she was offered the position and began her employment. On the second day of employment, she was directed to report for a medical examination, where she disclosed her health condition. The employer's doctor cleared her to work without restriction. The employer expressed concern about her health condition and directed her to take off from work. She was later terminated because of epilepsy. An EEOC charge was filed. Upon completion of the investigation, EEOC found cause for discrimination and filed suit. The Legal Defense Fund network attorney also filed an Intervenor's complaint on behalf of Holden in November 2013. This case is in the discovery phase.

- Fletcher v. New York Police Department, et al. (filed S.D.N.Y. 2011): Fletcher was a New York Police Department detective who was placed on restricted duty and later forced into retirement, after he revealed that he takes anti-seizure medication during a random drug test. The Medical Board of the Police Pension Fund terminated Fletcher's employment without conducting an individualized medical assessment. Fletcher, whose job performance had consistently been excellent, was terminated despite the fact that he had only experienced nocturnal seizures and had been cleared for full duty by his neurologist. The case settled this year. Unfortunately, the settlement did not include a return to his position.
- In re: M.T.: M.T. relocated for an executive position. After being seizure free for five years, he started having seizures again. He was not employed long enough to qualify for leave under the Family Medical Leave Act. A Legal Defense Fund network attorney assisted M.T. by negotiating a severance package.
- In re: T.G.: In this matter, the Epilepsy Foundation provided a letter of support for T.G. to the National Maritime Center. T.G. is employed as a Merchant Mariner; however, his credentials were revoked on the basis that he experienced two epileptic auras. He appealed the agency's decision. The agency granted T.G.'s appeal and his credentials were reinstated with certain restrictions and the requirement of an annual review.

### Arrest for Seizure Related Behavior

- In re: N.B.: N. B. experienced a seizure and wandered outside of his home into a neighbor's yard. While in a state of confusion, he attempted to enter his neighbor's shed. Officers allegedly shot him with a taser 31 times because he was unresponsive to commands and they assumed he was under the

influence of drugs and alcohol. Criminal charges against him include assaulting an officer, attempted burglary and resisting arrest. The case went to trial in March 2014. The judge acquitted N.B. of the charges based on a lack of evidence to support the charges. The Foundation provided technical resources to assist his attorney with the case.

- In re: T.C.: T.C. experienced a seizure and first responders were called. He was unresponsive and aggressive with officers as a result of the seizure. He was charged with two felony counts of resisting arrest and assaults on police officers and emergency medical technicians. The Foundation provided technical resources to assist with the case. The criminal charges were recently dismissed.

### Education

- In re: M.B.: M.B.'s child is diagnosed with epilepsy, mood disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. She was removed from school after an altercation with another student. M.B. asserted that the school failed to consider her anger management issue as a result of her disability and failed to provide a free, appropriate, public education to the student after removing her from the school by providing educational services as required by federal law. A Legal Defense Fund attorney assisted this family with requesting an administrative due process hearing. A confidential settlement agreement was reached and the student was provided an educational placement, with a behavior improvement plan, for the remainder of the school year.

### Insurance

- In re: P.R.: P.R.'s insurer, CVS Caremark, attempted to switch his Trileptal medication to the generic form. After receiving assistance with an appeal from a Legal Defense Fund attorney, the insurer agreed to an exception of coverage for three years.

### Other Cases of Interest:

- Samson v. Federal Exp. Corp., 746 F.3d 1196 (2014): In this matter, Samson was offered a position with FedEx, but failed his medical examination because he is a Type-1 insulin-dependent diabetic. FedEx then withdrew the offer of employment. In an email responding to the applicant's complaint that the failure to hire was discriminatory, a FedEx representative responded: "It was the company's decision to be governed by Federal Guidelines rather than the various state regulations so we would not have to try and manage 50 sets of state regulations. Unfortunately, Federal DOT Guidelines prohibit hiring anyone that is insulin dependent."

The district court granted summary judgment,

holding that Samson could not perform an essential function of the job (test-driving). On appeal, the Eleventh Circuit reversed the lower court's decision. The court of appeals held that FedEx possibly imposed an impermissible qualification standard on a job applicant with diabetes, by insisting that Samson pass a federal Department of Transportation medical certification for a mechanic's position that was not otherwise subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. Other employees at the same facility with commercial licenses could perform test-drives, and the need for test-drives was very sporadic (an average of 3 to 4 hours a year). Therefore, a jury could find that test-driving was not an essential function. See, <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/ops/201214145.pdf> to review the Court's Opinion.

## Telling the Rest of the Story\*

*By Adam Tebrugge, Esq.  
Contributing Author*

On July 1, 2011, the Anderson Sheriff's Office received a report that a white male was laying on the ground bleeding at a local condominium complex. When a deputy arrived, he met a woman who told him that the person was trying to break into cars. On the other side of the complex, the deputy discovered several people yelling at a man who was pulling on the locked door of a red Cadillac. The deputy could see that the man had skinned up knees and a red spot on the back of his head.

When the deputy yelled at the man to stop trying to get into the car, he was ignored. The deputy then grabbed the person who started walking away. So the deputy took out his Taser and repeatedly shocked the man. Backup deputies arrived and also shot him full of electricity. Finally they were able to handcuff the man, who became compliant but acted confused. He was taken to the hospital, and subsequently charged with resisting arrest.

The man, whom I shall call "Ernie," was appointed a public defender. When he went to his appointment with the public defender, he explained that he suffered from epilepsy and had no recollection of the events surrounding his arrest. Ernie also made clear that he wanted to fight the charges against him because he didn't believe he had committed any crime.

Ernie and his public defender set the case for a jury trial. His attorney told the jury the basic outlines of the defense. Ernie testified about his history of epilepsy and lack of recollection. In rebuttal, the State Attorney recalled one of the deputies who had taken part in the arrest. This deputy testified that he also suffered from epilepsy and that Ernie's actions were not consistent with a seizure but instead seemed associated with drug use.

The jury was clearly troubled by what they heard. Twice they sent out questions requesting more information about epilepsy and whether the State needed to show that Ernie understood the deputies commands. After the judge told them he couldn't answer those questions, they returned a guilty verdict. At sentencing the judge said: "I don't know what happened out there. . . . I had no medical testimony whatsoever. I had no medical records, no medical notes." The judge placed Ernie on probation and an appeal was taken. After Ernie's conviction was affirmed by the appellate court, the Epilepsy Legal Defense Fund got in touch with me.

It is very difficult legally to overturn a conviction after an appeal has become final. Fortunately in this case I worked with a prosecutor who was open to the possibility that an injustice had happened in court. I went out and obtained Ernie's medical records from the past decade. These records not only corroborated Ernie's testimony, they showed that his previous seizures looked a lot like the one seen by the Anderson County deputies.

The Epilepsy Legal Defense Fund provided important assistance. Local experts were identified who could testify about the different types of seizures. Support staff was made available to answer questions and help with strategies. Also very helpful was a 2007 publication titled "Criminal Justice: Arrest for Seizure Related Behavior." Most notably, a well-done training video aimed at law enforcement was sent to me. As I watched the video I could see unmistakable similarities to Ernie's case.

After assembling the medical records and materials provided by the Epilepsy Foundation, I went back to the State Attorney's office. The prosecutor carefully reviewed everything and decided not to oppose our motion for post-conviction relief. After a judge signed the order overturning the judgment and sentence of guilt, the prosecutors announced that they would not prosecute the case further. Two and a half years after his arrest, Ernie's long criminal justice nightmare came to an end.

There are several important lessons to be learned from Ernie's ordeal. First, I am hopeful that the training video I saw can be disseminated to all law enforcement agencies in order to raise awareness. I truly believe none of the deputies who saw Ernie the day of his arrest even considered the possibility that he was having a seizure. Additionally, it is apparent that the criminal justice system needs to be provided with complete and accurate information in order to achieve a just resolution. Finally, this means it is not enough to tell the client's story in the courtroom. Rather, attorneys must tell the "rest of the story" by collecting the medical records, expert testimony and research materials that corroborate their client's account. Someone suffering from a medical condition that leads to their arrest should not become a convicted criminal because of the lack of due diligence on the part of their attorney.

\*Names of people and places have been changed to protect the identity of the parties involved.

## Settlement Orders LSAC to Lift Burden Off of LSAT Test Takers with Disabilities

*By Janissa Rodriguez*

Earlier this year, the Department of Justice ("DOJ") intervened in a class action suit in San Francisco brought by the Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH"), on behalf of 17 student test takers against the Law School Admissions Council, Inc. ("LSAC"), a non-profit group which administers the Law School Admissions Test ("LSAT"). The DOJ's motion for entry in this case resulted in nationwide relief and reforms for individuals with disabilities and led to a "landmark settlement" of \$7.73 million.

The allegations against LSAC consisted of "widespread and systemic discrimination" in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), which requires "any person that offers examinations or courses related to applications, licensing, certification, or credentialing for secondary or postsecondary education, professional, or trade purposes to offer such examinations or courses in a place and manner accessible to persons with disabilities or offer alternative accessible arrangements for such individuals." 42 U.S.C. § 12189. The DOJ contends that the LSAC "routinely" rejected testing accommodation requests although the applicants provided sufficient documentation to prove their disabilities and/or demonstrated a history of testing accommodations on standardized tests. Most notably, this consent decree prohibits LSAC from continuing the practice of annotating score reports of test takers who received the testing accommodation of extended time.

LSAC's past practices burdened those with disabilities and led to unfair delays in processing requests for testing accommodations. For individuals with disabilities, testing accommodations help even the playing field on standardized tests. LSAC's policies and practices are referred to as systemic discrimination because of their broad impact on individuals with disabilities who took the LSAT. As a result of LSAC's practice of denying requests for accommodations, such as extended time, the individual's aptitude or achievement level were not accurately reflected on the LSAT. This is also not the first time that LSAC has been addressed for claims of discrimination. In 2002, LSAC agreed to a \$22,000 settlement with the DOJ involving the same concerns presented today.

Although the LSAC has denied all of the allegations presented in Department of Fair Employment and Housing v. LSAC, Inc., et al., the settlement will put in place mechanisms to prevent discrimination against future LSAT takers with disabilities. Jocelyn Samuels, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, believes that "this decree will impact tens of thousands of Americans with disabilities, opening doors to higher education that have been unjustly closed to them for far too long."

Other major components of the consent decree require the

People with epilepsy can face challenges related to housing, especially if they have a seizure in an apartment complex. Some people have even faced evictions because of seizure related behaviors. The Fair Housing Act provides protections from discrimination in housing on the basis of disability and requires landlords to consider providing reasonable accommodations.

- If person with epilepsy is facing an eviction due to seizure related behaviors, the following strategies should be considered:
- Ask the landlord to cease eviction proceedings and submit a request in writing for a reasonable accommodation. Be as specific as possible.
- If the person wandered into someone else's apartment during post-ictal confusion, explain to the landlord that this behavior is a result of seizure activity. The person should get a letter from his doctor explaining the types of behaviors associated his seizures.
- Be prepared to explain that the behavior does not present a "direct threat" to other tenants.
- Wear medical alert jewelry at all times. First responders should see this and recognize that the behavior is associated with a medical condition.

LSAC to streamline its evaluation of requests for testing accommodations include: (1) granting automatic testing accommodations where an applicant has shown a history of testing accommodations, (2) creating a panel of experts on ADA compliance, in order to implement additional best practices in regards to documentation requirements and review of testing accommodations, (3) paying \$7.73 million in penalties and damages. A portion of the settlement (\$6.73 million) has been allocated to a nationwide victim's compensation fund, from which individuals who applied for testing accommodations between January 1, 2009 and May 20, 2014 may be eligible to receive a monetary award. More information about this fund and how to submit a claim can be found on LSAC's website. <http://www.lsac.org>. The full consent decree can be found on the DOJ's website, <http://www.justice.gov>.

## New Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education

*By Griffin Varner*

**T**he rise of the public charter school as an educational option in the United States is one of the largest changes in our country's educational system over the past two decades. Charter schools, like public schools, receive some of their funding from the government. While they are partially funded by the government and are still held to the same educational standards of their district, they operate independently from their local school system, allowing them some amount of flexibility in the type of classes they offer their students.

With the new prevalence of charter schools in the United States, there

is some confusion about the applicability of federal civil rights laws to charter schools. For this reason, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education released new guidance to clarify that certain federal civil rights laws apply to charter schools just as they apply to all public schools. Their guidance specifically referenced Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibit discrimination by state and local government entities on the basis of disability. These federal laws go a long way to protect people living with epilepsy and other disabilities in the admissions process to public charter schools, to ensure that they are provided with a free appropriate public education and that they are not disciplined differentially from their fellow students.

Since students choose a charter school to attend, it is particularly important to make certain that the admissions process is fair to all so that a student applicant has an equal chance as any other to attend the school they desire. With this guidance, it is clear that charter schools cannot use certain characteristics, such as disability, race, color, or national origin, to deny admission to prospective students.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requires that every public school or public charter school must provide students with disabilities with a free and appropriate public education. This covers special education, related aids or services that students living with epilepsy or other disabilities may require within the classroom or throughout the school day. The guidance also clarifies that charter schools must give students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in non-academic and extracurricular activities.

Non-discrimination in discipline is another important consideration found in OCR's new guidance. OCR found disparities in how discipline was enacted against students of color and students with disabilities, specifically in exclusionary discipline such as expulsions and suspensions. This guidance seeks to protect individuals with disabilities from being unfairly disciplined, which is critical to ensuring that they do not miss important instructional time in the classroom.

Overall, this guidance is an important step in ensuring that charter schools are held to the same standards as the rest of the educational system in

## How the Fund Can Help

providing quality education to individuals living with epilepsy. Additionally, the letter referenced future guidance to be released regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA is a critical piece of legislation that protects students with disabilities, including epilepsy, as they progress through the educational system. It allows for certain accommodations and services to be provided for students living with disabilities to help maximize the student's educational performance. In conjunction with the Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, OCR intends to release further guidance for charter schools regarding their obligations under federal law.

To view the letter from the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights in regards to the new guidance, visit <http://1.usa.gov/1rxCl6w>. A more comprehensive list of charter school's obligations can be found at <http://1.usa.gov/WiQTgn>.

**Consumers:** People experiencing discrimination related to epilepsy or their representatives are invited to request legal guidance or a referral to an attorney through the Fund's Website, [www.epilepsylegal.org](http://www.epilepsylegal.org). An online application is available. Individuals without internet access may call us at 1-800-332-1000 and select #2.

**Attorneys:** Those representing people experiencing epilepsy-related discrimination may contact the Fund via email ([legalrights@efa.org](mailto:legalrights@efa.org)) or by calling 1-800-332-1000 (and select #2). The Fund provides a variety of resources such as legal research, briefs, case lists, expert referrals, and medical information. In cases of national significance, we may consider filing an amicus brief and/or providing a grant to help defray litigation costs.

**Accepting Case Referrals:** Individual attorneys and law offices that wish to assist the Fund by accepting case referrals can complete the online application to join our network through our website [www.epilepsylegal.org](http://www.epilepsylegal.org). In response to your application, the Fund will send you welcome materials with epilepsy resources.

## Fund Seeks to Increase Its Advocacy Network

Every day someone faces discrimination because of epilepsy or seizures, and too often competent legal assistance is unavailable. The Fund is always seeking to expand its growing network of cooperating attorneys (both those with or without experience in disability law are welcome) to provide critically needed help to fight discrimination against people with epilepsy. Each network attorney is asked to commit to providing each client referred with free services to a maximum of three hours (including an initial consultation). We also ask attorneys to consider, as appropriate, continuing representation on a pro bono, sliding fee scale or contingency fee basis (many referrals will involve only short-term assistance such as providing oral advice or making a call to resolve a dispute). In return, the Fund's staff offers technical assistance and variety of resources.

Interested attorneys may register on-line directly from the Fund's website to start receiving case referrals. Simply go to [www.epilepsylegal.org](http://www.epilepsylegal.org), click on "Join Our Network" and provide the requested information. Soon after a registration is completed, the Fund sends out a welcome package, with resources and background information.

## Resources for Attorneys

The Fund has added new cases to its resources for attorneys. In particular we have updated our employment case resources. To access the brief bank, go to [www.epilepsylegal.org](http://www.epilepsylegal.org) and click on "Attorney Resources." We would appreciate receiving your briefs and other litigation documents (e.g., complaints, discovery documents, jury instructions, etc.) on epilepsy-related discrimination cases so we can add them to the brief bank for the benefit of all. These materials can be sent to [legalrights@efa.org](mailto:legalrights@efa.org). Also, if you know of interesting cases that you would like to share with the network, you can post this information on the Legal Defense Fund's Yahoogroups list serv or send an email to [legalrights@efa.org](mailto:legalrights@efa.org) and the information will be disseminated.

## Legal Defense Fund Listserv

The Fund has established a listserv through Yahoogroups for its network attorneys and other attorneys handling epilepsy discrimination cases. The listserv provides a forum for participants to share information and resources to help fight discrimination against people with epilepsy in employment, education, the criminal justice system, public services and other areas. The listserv will also be used to provide updates on developments in related areas of the law and policy. Moreover, participants can let their colleagues know about epilepsy-related case developments (including victories and defeats), share useful case strategies and pose questions that arise as cases are pursued. Attorneys who are interested in joining the listserv should contact [legalrights@efa.org](mailto:legalrights@efa.org).

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## Donating to the Fund

Please consider making a contribution to help support the Jeanne A. Carpenter Epilepsy Legal Defense Fund. Your donation will expand our capacity to provide legal assistance to the many people around the country who experience epilepsy-related discrimination. To make a tax deductible contribution, use our donation envelope (provided in the print version of the newsletter); go to our website, [epilepsylegal.org](http://epilepsylegal.org), and click on “Make a Donation”; or scan this QR code with your smart phone to instantly go to the Fund’s donation page.



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