

Accessibility

Federal and state anti-discrimination laws promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of public life, employment, and housing. Employers and commercial and institutional clients benefit from our creative and experienced advice to help them navigate successfully through these complicated and important issues. In addition, by increasing access to their businesses and services, clients improve employee morale, expand their customer bases, and foster a more inclusive and user-friendly environment.

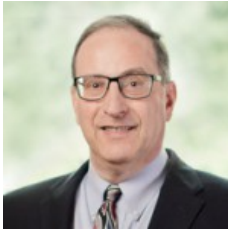
Property owners, landlords, tenants, management companies, businesses, and website owners face expansive liability under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which concentrates on the accessibility of the public accommodations and commercial facilities. The federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) and local regulations also govern accessibility in residential buildings. In addition, employers now defend more than 24,000 disability discrimination complaints filed under Title I of the ADA annually, making these complaints as common as sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination. Complaints about ADA violations may be brought individually or as class actions, in which clients could face significant legal and financial exposure, as well as negative publicity.

We are focused on helping our commercial and institutional clients avoid litigation and counseling them on minimizing legal risk. When there is litigation, our team knows how to address violations and craft realistic compliance and settlement plans, which minimize future exposure. If disputes cannot be settled fairly, we have the proven ability to advocate successfully on our clients' behalf in state and federal courts, as well as before administrative agencies.

The areas where we assist clients address ADA, FHA, and related issues include:

- Developing compliance programs and plans, including policies, procedures, training materials, and contract language
- Counseling on how to comply with ADA and FHA regulations and local accessibility requirements, including for residential and commercial buildings, websites, mobile apps, and transportation services.
- Defending against ADA and other discrimination claims in the workplace associated with hiring, termination, and requests for reasonable accommodations
- Defending against ADA, FHA, and other accessibility claims before courts and in administrative proceedings

To learn more about our ADA and FHA capabilities, please contact:



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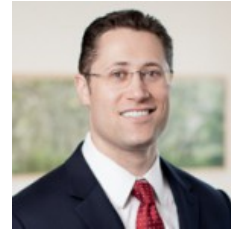
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Our Clients

Clients value not just our experience, but also our dedication to client service. Many of our core clients have been with us for decades, reflecting our collective dedication to their legal challenges and obtaining excellent results. Our clients know that we respond promptly to their inquiries and deliver practical useful and result-oriented advice.

Commercial and institutional clients entrust us to provide counsel on ADA and FHA obligations and defend against the growing number of discrimination claims. Our litigation team has successfully resolved all types of employment-related disability discrimination claims, as well as claims involving the accessibility of buildings, public spaces, digital content, and other types of public accommodations. Our real estate team is experienced with property-related accessibility regulations under the ADA, FHA, and local rules and regulations. We have counseled, assisted, and defended clients in a multitude of industries, including residential and commercial real estate, hotels, restaurants, retailers, hospitals, non-profit organizations, and health care providers.

Publications

October 21, 2019

How to ensure your company culture is as healthy as it looks

Crain's New York Business

January 22, 2019

"Regarded as Disabled" Employment Discrimination Claims Under the ADA

Stafford

Blog Posts

Our Retail Law Advisor blog keeps you connected to timely developments and emerging issues in retail law and covers a wide range of topics related to the retail, restaurant and consumer industry. Our lawyers have covered the topic of accessibility extensively in this blog as many businesses in these industries are focusing on their ability to provide accessible services to all of their consumers. [Click here to read blog posts on this subject.](#)