

MINUTES
Americans with Disabilities Act Committee
Public Service and Trust Commission
February 6, 2009

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Committee met at 90 Washington Street, fourth-floor conference room, Hartford, Connecticut, on February 6, 2009.

In attendance: Sandra Lugo-Gines, Vice-Chair, Patrick Caron, Chair, Ann-Laurie Parent, Judicial Branch Administrative Services Division, and Steven Marhefsky, Court Operations Program Manager. Others in attendance: Steven Pelletier, Legal Services, Heather Nann Collins, Court Operations.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. The minutes from the January 9, 2009 were reviewed and approved. The committee co-chairs welcomed a new member to the Committee, Ms. Parent, who works in the Branch's Human Resources department.
2. Presentation on developing performance measures by Mr. Marhefsky: The ADA Committee's charge by the Public Service and Trust Commission is to assess how the Branch accommodates people with disabilities; developing more effective ways of telling the public how the Branch can make accommodations required under the ADA; and to develop training for Branch staff on ADA issues with input from focus groups that include people with disabilities. Performance measures, Mr. Marhefsky explained, will help ensure the goal of the committee is being met. The Committee agreed to hold a working meeting with Mr. Marhefsky, prior to the next publicly scheduled ADA Committee meeting, to outline for him what has occurred thus far towards meeting the goal. From there, the Committee will develop its performance measures.
3. Update on internet developments related to ADA: Co-chair Lugo-Gines showed the committee the new and initial ADA link that will be posted on the Branch's internet homepage. Although it continues to be under development, the link features hyperlinks to an overview of the ADA; a contact list of Branch-wide ADA coordinators; a description of currently available auxiliary aids; information about wheelchair access to courthouses; and a link to this committee's homepage.
4. Report on Committee visit to the New England Adaptive Technology (NEAT) Center at Oak Hill, Hartford, Connecticut: The committee reviewed its visit to the Center, including information it learned about current technologies for the blind and those with low vision; people with physical

limitations; adaptive computer technologies that could be used for Branch employees and in the Branch's public Court Service Center computers. Vice-Chair Lugo-Gines will pass on to the Branch's Information Technology Division the information that the group learned about adaptive computer technologies, which could make it easier for people with low-vision to access Branch computers.

5. Report on ADA Committee to the Public Service and Trust Commission: An update on the ADA committee's progress was presented on its behalf to the PSTC at its January 29 meeting.
6. The next public meeting will at 10 a.m. on March 20, 2009, in the fourth-floor conference room at 90 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut.
7. The Committee adjourned at 11:50 a.m.