

# Helping Individuals with Disabilities Understand & Advocate for their Rights

*Learn how to effectively provide the knowledge, tools, and skills individuals with disabilities need to engage in effective self-advocacy in a variety of legal settings*

Individuals with disabilities must often advocate for themselves or their family members to ensure that they are protected by both federal and Massachusetts laws from discrimination or other forms of abuse in employment, housing, and education. The demand for legal assistance in these areas of law continues to increase, and attorneys who handle these matters often provide guidance or direction that does not rise to the level of full representation but is nonetheless important to help an individual understand their rights and advocate effectively in settings ranging from a workplace, school, or living environment to an administrative forum or court. The faculty provide strategies, tips, and information to help guide attorneys in providing such assistance based on their professional experiences and years of successful legal advocacy on behalf of individuals with disabilities.

## Agenda

- **Employment Discrimination**
  - Reasonable accommodation requests
  - Interactive process
  - MCAD/EEOC procedures
  - Federal employees
- **Housing Law**
  - Reasonable accommodation/Reasonable modification overview
  - Requests and interactive process (Public/subsidized housing grievance/conference and private housing)
  - Complaints: HUD & MCAD; Court (Damages; attorneys' fees; equitable relief and public interest relief before agency)
  - Evictions: RA defense/counterclaim; Right to jury; Equitable relief; Stay of execution
  - Limited assistance representation
- **Special Education**
  - Overview of special education rights
  - IEP process
  - 504 plans
  - PRS/BSEA process
- **“Ask the Experts” Q&A Session**

## Faculty

Thomas P. Murphy, Esq., *Supervising Attorney, Disability Law Center, Inc., Northampton, Chair*  
Stefanie A. Balandis, Esq., *Northeast Legal Aid, Lowell*  
Janine A. Solomon, Esq., *Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Boston*



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## Dates & Location

Register at [www.mcle.org](http://www.mcle.org)

### LIVE WEBCAST

Tuesday, December 5, 2023  
9:30 am–11:30 am  
Program # 2240290WBC

### REBROADCAST

Wednesday, December 20, 2023  
12:00 pm–2:00 pm  
Program # 2240290RB1

### REBROADCAST

Thursday, December 28, 2023  
3:00 pm–5:00 pm  
Program # 2240290RB2

### ON DEMAND WEBCAST

View after Thursday, December 28, 2023  
Program # 2240290WBA

## Tuition *(includes written materials)*

- **FREE**

## Materials

*Legal Rights of Individuals with Disabilities* ebook, plus speaker materials

- E-materials link emailed upon registration
- Transcript & videorecording emailed 2 weeks post-program

## CLE Credits

Earn up to 2 CLE credits