



Dept. Fair Empl. & Hous. v. Law School Admission Council

QUOTES

Nationally recognized expert in civil rights and systemic litigation, **Jocelyn Larkin, Executive Director of The Impact Fund**, stated:

"This nationwide settlement illustrates the important role that government enforcement agencies can play in helping to secure relief for students with disabilities. Given the difficulties that private plaintiffs can sometimes face in obtaining class certification in disability rights cases, DFEH's ability to pursue systemic litigation can help protect our significant civil rights principles for all Californians."

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Nationally recognized disability rights expert, **Claudia Center, Senior Staff Attorney with the ACLU Foundation's Disability Rights Program**, stated:

"For decades, civil rights lawyers representing individual prospective law students with disabilities have tried to reform the LSAC's testing accommodation policies -- without success. System-wide changes to bring the LSAC into compliance with state and federal laws could not be achieved without the broad enforcement powers of government. California's Department of Fair Employment and Housing envisioned and constructed this groundbreaking litigation. Together with the U.S. Department of Justice, the DFEH has achieved permanent remedies that promise to eliminate barriers to the legal profession for persons with disabilities."

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Paula Pearlman, Executive Director of the Disability Rights Legal Center, Loyola Law School, commented:

"Until now, receiving an accommodation on the LSAT has meant an uphill challenge. Thanks to the leadership of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, along with that of the U.S. Department of Justice, aspiring future lawyers with disabilities finally have a level playing field and can begin to reverse their underrepresentation in the legal profession."

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Erwin Chemerinsky, Founding Dean of the University of California, Irvine, stated:

“I am very proud of the work of University of California, Irvine law graduates and students, who assisted the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, to bring about this important settlement.”

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Kevin Collins, Real Party in Interest, said:

“This settlement is a landmark civil rights achievement for people with disabilities seeking equal access to a law school education. At the same time, this settlement should also remind us that there are countless other people with disabilities who are denied reasonable standardized testing accommodations. As such, I would hope this case would at the very least symbolically send a message arbitrarily denying people with disabilities reasonable accommodations will no longer be tolerated as there is now a precedent for governmental and judicial intervention.

For the legal profession, the settlement negotiated by the DFEH and the Justice Dept in the LSAC case is comparable to the passage of the Americans with Disability Act in 1992 as its impact for people with disabilities seeking equal access and equity for testing accommodations for standardized examinations will have far reaching consequences. This is true not only for entry to law school, but other professional fields which also require the passage of standardized exams.”

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