



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Movie/Book Recommendations.....	1
Universal Design Primer.....	3
Winter Weather Preparedness.....	4
Rob Parker in Memoriam.....	5
WACDA Quarterly Case Update.....	5

## Depicting Disability During the Drab Days of December: Recommended Books and Movies About Disability

By Dustine Bowker, Associate Attorney

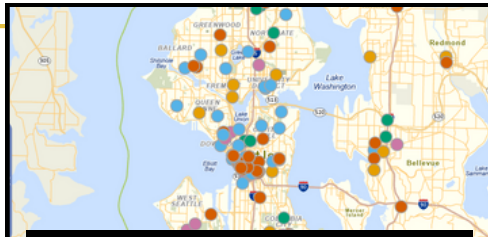
To help us get through these dark winter days, the team at WACDA compiled lists of our favorite disability related media. Let us know if you would add any others!

### Judith Heumann, *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist* (2020)

Heumann's memoir walks us through her journey as one of the most important activists in the Disability Rights movement. Most notably, Heumann was one of dozens of protesters at the 504 sit-in in San Francisco in April 1977.

### Joseph Shapiro, *No Pity: People with Disabilities Forging a New Civil Rights Movement* (1994)

No Pity recounts the longstanding struggles that many people with disabilities faced leading up to the Capitol Crawl. The Capitol Crawl was an important event in the history of the disability rights movement and is most remembered for protestors climbing up the stairs to the doors of the U.S. Capitol Building to protest the ongoing issues of inaccessibility at the time. Joseph Shapiro, a journalist, recounts his observations during such a crucial time in the fight for disability rights.



## Discounts for the Disability Community!

Age Friendly Seattle is a citywide initiative designed to benefit those growing up and old in Seattle. The organization now offers FLASH (Fun Leisure Savings and Health) cards. The cards provide discounts for adults (18-59) with disabilities. One can obtain a card by applying online, or visiting the Disability Empowerment Center, the Seattle VW Medical Clinic, or the Special Technology Access Resource Center. Applying only takes a few minutes and can unlock up to \$240 of savings a year. A full directory of the local businesses and organizations that offer discounts through the program can be found [here](#).

### **Annette Bay Pimentel, All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything (2021)**

This children's book presents the story of disability rights activist Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins, most known for climbing up the dozens of steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. during the Capitol Crawl on March 12, 1990. Keelan-Chaffins was only eight years old on the day of the Capitol Crawl, and she took it upon herself to represent her generation during the struggle for disability rights in the United States.

### **Jessica McCabe, How to ADHD: An Insider's Guide to Working with Your Brain (Not Against It) (2024)**

As someone diagnosed with ADHD at the age of 12, McCabe has learned over the years about her disorder. Her book, a New York Times Bestseller, combines her advice and lived personal experiences with those from her online community, many of whom also have ADHD, to show what it may look like to work with your brain, not against it.

### **Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution (2020)**

Crip Camp is a Netflix original documentary that highlights the hard work by activists to advance the rights of people with disabilities in recent decades. This including movements to deinstitutionalize individuals with disabilities and civil protests to urge the United States government to pass disability rights legislation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFS8SpwioZ4>



### **CODA (2021)**

CODA tells the story of Ruby Rossi, the only hearing member of a Deaf family. Ruby had originally planned to help with her family's fishing business after graduating from college. However, Ruby develops a passion for singing and must decide on whether to continue staying with the family business, or to pursue her dream of being a singer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QatdP6uHeU0&rco=1>

---

### **The Peanut Butter Falcon (2019)**

The Peanut Butter Falcon showcases the story of Zak, a person with Down Syndrome, who escapes from a state-run care facility to pursue his dream of being a professional wrestler. Zak encounters Tyler while escaping from a state facility. Tyler is another individual on the run. He becomes Zak's close friend and ally and helps Zak fulfill his dream.

### **A Quiet Place (2018)**

A Quiet Place features a post-apocalyptic world dominated by deadly aliens who attack and kill anyone who makes sound. A family in this world has survived by using sign language they learned from having a Deaf daughter to safely communicate with each other.

### **Music Within (2007)**

Music Within is a movie based on the true story of Richard Pimentel, a disability rights advocate who was injured in the Vietnam War in the late 1960s. The film documents Pimentel's life, including his advocacy to

help pass the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **The Ringer (2005)**

The Ringer is a hilarious comedy about a plot to "fix" the Special Olympics to pay off a debt. Steve reluctantly accepts his uncle's plan to "fix" the Special Olympics by faking a disability. Steve befriends his teammates when he spends more time with fellow Special Olympics competitors. He learns to appreciate people with disabilities and the spirit of the Special Olympics.

### **Murderball (2005)**

Murderball showcases the journey of the wheelchair rugby team, representing the United States, as they prepare for the 2004 Paralympics games in Athens. Drama ensues when a former member of the wheelchair rugby team leaves the U.S. to coach the Canadian wheelchair rugby team. This sparks an intense, competitive battle for gold at the Paralympics.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwMSIZADCik>

---

# ..... Universal Design 101 .....

By Dustine Bowker, Associate Attorney

Universal Design (UD) is one of the fundamental principles of attaining accessibility for people with disabilities. Chances are that you have seen UD in everyday life without knowing about it. Yet, UD helps convey the important message that people with disabilities deserve to be included in everyday society like everyone else. This infographic provides examples of UD.

Image Description: Infographic defining Universal Design (UD) as "the practice of designing the environment, such as products, buildings, and programs, in a way that is accessible, without the need for individualized accommodations, to the greatest extent possible." Non-UD examples on the left include, from top to bottom, "Stairs," "Doors with knobs," "No or low contrast text," "Fully raised sidewalks," and "Narrow aisles or paths." Arrows in the center point to UD alternatives on the right, including, from top to bottom, "Ramps," "Automatic doors," "High contrast text," "Curb cuts," and "Wide aisles or paths."

---

# Universal Design (UD)

UD is the practice of designing the environment, such as products, buildings, and programs, in a way that is accessible, without the need for individualized accommodations, to the greatest extent possible.

## NOT UD

Stairs

Doors with  
knobs

No or low  
contrast text

Fully raised  
sidewalks

Narrow aisles  
or paths



## UD

Ramps

Automatic  
doors

High contrast  
text

Curb cuts

Wider aisles or  
paths



## How to Prepare for Winter Weather

By Hailey Silberfarb, Legal Intern

---

When winter weather strikes in Seattle, the beauty of a snow-covered city can quickly turn into a significant barrier for those who rely on sidewalks to get around. For individuals who are deaf, blind, or use power wheelchairs, even a few inches of snow or ice can create dangerous and frustrating obstacles. This is why it's so important for all of us to take responsibility for clearing our sidewalks after a snowstorm. By doing so, we ensure that our neighbors—especially those with disabilities—can navigate the city safely and independently.

Seattle has over 2,400 miles of sidewalks. The City of Seattle encourages residents to help make their neighborhoods safer by clearing sidewalks after a snowfall. According to city guidelines, property owners are responsible for maintaining the sidewalk adjacent to their property, whether that's outside their home or their business, which includes shoveling snow and ice as soon as possible after a storm. When snow accumulates and remains on sidewalks, it can force people to walk in the street, which is not only dangerous but

often impossible for those with mobility challenges.

The City of Seattle collaborated with Rooted in Rights to produce an impactful video. The individuals with disabilities in the video explain how the snowstorm trapped some of them in their homes for days and others even weeks. They encourage people to buy their salt and shovels now to be prepared for this winter. The video highlights why clearing sidewalks is crucial for people with disabilities and calls on Seattle residents to take action. The message is clear: by doing something as simple as shoveling snow, you are helping create a more inclusive and accessible city for everyone. Find the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SnWUXRqVS8>

The City of Seattle also provides resources for those who may need assistance with snow removal. People in need of help removing snow and ice from the sidewalks and walkways around their homes can request help from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors snow shoveling pilot program. This program helps connect residents who are elderly or disabled with volunteers who can help clear their sidewalks during winter storms. This service is an invaluable resource for many people who may not have the physical ability to shovel snow themselves.

In conclusion, clearing snow from sidewalks isn't just about keeping your property neat—it's about ensuring that Seattle remains a city that works for everyone. For those who are deaf, blind, or use mobility devices, accessible sidewalks are not a luxury; they are a necessity. By taking the time to clear your sidewalk this winter, you contribute to a safer, more inclusive community for all.

---

---

# Robert Barker

It is with profound sadness that we remember Robert Barker, a valued client and friend who passed away this past summer. Robert was a remarkable individual who left a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

We wish to remember Robert and celebrate the life he lived and the legacy he left behind. He taught us the importance of connection, compassion, and community. His passing reminds us to cherish each moment and to support one another as Robert so often did.

We extend our deepest condolences to Robert's family and friends. Your loss is immeasurable, and we stand with you in memory of a truly extraordinary person. May his spirit continue to inspire us, and may we carry forward the values he embodied.

Rest in peace, Robert. You will be dearly missed.

## **WACDA Quarterly Case Update**

**By Isabelle Spence, Legal Assistant**

---

As 2024 comes to an end, we have a chance to reflect on yet another successful quarter. Please see below for some of the highlights:

### **Case Progress**

*Picciano vs. Clark County:* WACDA is representing Gaven Picciano. Mr. Picciano is an individual with celiac who became profoundly ill due to lack of safe food during a 22-day stay in jail. Litigation is ongoing, and we are currently scheduled for an October 2025 trial.

*University District Parking Lots:* In our demand letters, we alleged to have

found violations in seven parking lots across the University District, all owned by one parking management company. We have reached settlement agreements for several of the lots and continue to near settlement for the remaining lots.

*Bellevue Strip Mall:* We found numerous ADA violations across a multi-parcel parking lot for a Bellevue strip mall. We are finalizing settlement agreements with all the managers of each parcel.

*PCA Admission Cases:* We have three personal care assistant (PCA) admission cases with two local music venues and one major movie theatre chain. WACDA represents individuals with disabilities who use PCAs. In our demand letters and complaint, we

---

alleged that requiring these individuals to buy an additional event ticket for their PCA, when the assistant was only attending an event to care for the client, violated the ADA and acted as a “disability surcharge.”

### **Inside the Firm**

*Good Luck Hailey:* We were sad to say goodbye to our legal intern, Hailey Silberfarb! Hailey is a current 2L at Gonzaga University School of Law and worked at WACDA from June through November. She contributed in countless ways behind the scenes, often taking the lead in the firm’s social media presence. We wish you the best of luck in the rest of law school and during your future career as an attorney!

*Welcome to our new Attorney:* We send huge congratulations to Dustine Bowker. This December, he was sworn in as an attorney and will practice law full-time in the new year. Dustine is passionate about disability advocacy and law and is a strong asset to the firm’s mission.

### **To the New Year!**

Going forward, expect plenty of exciting things from WACDA! January marks the beginning of a new legislative session, and an opportunity for WACDA to continue to advocate for increased accessibility and inclusion throughout Washington state.

We will continue to advocate for free PCA admission in small and large businesses across Washington, to ensure that no one is forced to pay a disability surcharge. We will continue to ensure that parking management companies follow the accessibility requirements of the ADA, and no longer prevent valuable parts of our community from easily accessing businesses and venues. Finally, we will continue to make sure every part of our community is accessible. From gas stations to coffee shops!

To keep up to date with WACDA outside of the quarterly newsletter, please follow our social media accounts:

Twitter: @wacda\_law

Facebook: @WACDA.Law

YT: @washingtoncivildisability3048



*Happy  
Holidays*

from all of us here at WACDA!