



*New York State
Unified Court System
25 Beaver Street
New York, New York 10004*

*A. Gail Prudenti
Chief Administrative Judge*

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July 23, 2015

TO: All Court Users
FROM: Hon. A. Gail Prudenti
Chief Administrative Judge
RE: Americans with Disabilities Act

Twenty five years ago this week, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into federal law, recognizing that individuals with disabilities are entitled to civil rights protections similar to those afforded on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age and religion.

On this historic anniversary, I would like to reaffirm the Unified Court System's commitment to the letter and spirit of the ADA—not only because it is the law, but because it is the right thing to do. In fact, I can't think of *anything* that we do that is more important than ensuring that everyone who relies on the protections provided through the judicial branch of government has equal access to the courts.

Over the past quarter century, we as a court system have made significant progress in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities. But there is more to be done. As part of this ongoing effort, I would like to take the occasion of this special 25th anniversary to bring to your attention the recently updated ADA information on the court system's website – <http://www.nycourts.gov/accessibility/index.shtml>! These materials explain what types of accommodations are available, and how persons with disabilities can obtain the accommodations they need. The website also provides court users with a list of key employees – ADA liaisons – assigned to help facilitate access to each courthouse in the State.

Of course, we are always looking for ways to do better. If you have a suggestion, proposal, concern or problem relating to access for persons with disabilities, I encourage you to communicate with us via ADA@nycourts.gov - our ADA dedicated email address. The Chief Judge and I are fully committed to making sure that no person is denied access to justice for any reason. This auspicious anniversary is a great time for us all to realize that, together, we can make that happen.

AGP:RY/bw