

Andrew Ulysses Dwight Straw
1900 E. Golf Rd., Suite 950A
Schaumburg, IL 60173
T 574-971-0131 F 877-310-9097
andrew@andrewstraw.com

SUMMARY:

- Experienced disability rights attorney and advocate. Worked on disability access cases before state and local civil rights agencies and state and federal courts. Obtained settlements.
- Civil rights advocate with 18 years of experience focusing on disability rights, free speech, immigration, personal injury, nonprofit law, sexual harassment, veteran rights, and corporate law.
- Advocated for poisoned family members of U.S. Marines stationed at NAS Jacksonville, FL. Pursued First Amendment federal lawsuit in Wisconsin for free speech national leader to protect right to wave a US flag on a public sidewalk. Lawsuit for handicap access: 5 N. Illinois local governments.
- ABA Commission on Disability Rights January 2014 “Spotlight” attorney with disabilities.
- Sued South Bend, Indiana, and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg under Americans with Disabilities Act. Settled January 2017. Achieved settlement and FHWA supervision for City.
- Served as Assistant Dean for International Programs at Indiana University-Maurer School of Law (2003).
- Former Corporate Counsel to famous transportation engineer and urban planner Alan Manners Voorhees (1998 - 2000).
- Earned J.D. from Indiana University - Maurer School of Law.
- National Merit Scholar.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Andrew U. D. Straw

Disability Rights Advocate (pro se)

8/2013-present

- Passionate advocate for disability rights: municipal sidewalks and handicap parking spaces during winter.
- Obtained village-wide audit of parking lots in Streamwood, Illinois, which found about 150 handicap parking spaces missing or not made according to legal standards. 2013-2014
- Obtained settlement with South Bend, Indiana, in a case about handicap parking and sidewalks. 2017
- Sued Streamwood, Elgin, Glendale Heights, Bloomingdale, and Kane County, Illinois, regarding snow piles in sidewalks, curb cuts, and handicap parking. Kane County settled. 2016-2017

Andrew U. D. Straw, Esq.

3/2010 – 11/2017

Disability Rights Lawyer and Advocate

- Passionate advocate for disability rights in state and federal agencies and courts.
- Negotiated settlements in employment law and disability rights cases.
- Opposed sexual harassment at South Bend Housing Authority and other civil rights claims.
- Sued Town of Campbell, Wisconsin, for arresting client who displayed a U.S. flag on a public sidewalk.

Indiana University-Maurer School of Law

2/2003 - 5/2003

Assistant Dean for International Programs

- Provided pastoral support and leadership to international graduate students in the Law School's international legal studies program. Managed program and student admissions. Hired by law school dean, Lauren Robel, then president of the Association of American Law Schools.

Alan M. Voorhees, Woodbridge, VA

8/1998 - 8/2000

Corporate Counsel to Famous Transportation Planner Alan Manners Voorhees

- Corporate work for Autometric (aerospace/satellite--protects all US air traffic), Micros, Lizardtech, Cinecom, International Land Systems, Sylvan Internet.
- Advocated to Virginia Supreme Court, state legislative committees and court clerks for records reform. Served on Virginia State Bar Task Force on Technology.
- Provided counsel on projects at the Library of Congress, the Library of Virginia, the Virginia Historical Society, Council for Excellence in Government in Washington, D.C., and Voorhees College.
- Clerked for Hon. Joseph E. Spruill, Jr., 1976 president of Virginia State Bar.

Italian Foreign Ministry, Bologna, Italy

12/1995 – 1/1996

Communications System Adviser

- Wrote educational software and instructions to teach Foreign Ministry telecommunications officers.

Options for Better Living, Bloomington, IN

9/1992 - 8/1993

Assistant Manager

- Planned and implemented daily activities and personal care for disabled adults in a group home.

EDUCATION:

- **University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.**
Graduate studies: Bioethics & Health Law, 2004. GPA Grade Equivalent: B+
- **Council for Excellence in Government, Washington, DC.**
Advanced training on federal government leadership. Cohort: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Colleagues: GS-15 and SES officers, U.S. government.
- **Indiana University-Maurer School of Law, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.**
J.D. - 12/1997. Dean's List, Fall 1997. GPA Grade Equivalent: B+
Concentrated on administrative and political law and worked as the Dean's research assistant.
- **Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.**
Master's Degree - 12/1995. GPA Grade Equivalent: A
Language Education (ESL/ EFL).
- **Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.**
Bachelor's Degree - 5/1992. GPA Grade Equivalent: B+
Majors: English and Philosophy. Minor: Political Science.

AFFILIATIONS:

- Member in Good Standing, **Virginia State Bar (1999)**
- Member, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit Bar (1999)
- Disability Party, Founder (2/5/2013)
- Life Member, Indiana University Alumni Association
- United States International Council of People with Disabilities (USICD)
- Member, American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
- Member, National Federation of the Blind (NFB), Member # 35346
- Member, National Association of the Deaf (NAD)

AWARDS/HONORS:

- National Merit Scholar
- National Science Olympiad, Gold Medal
- "Imagine E-government Award Competition National Finalist." Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and Council for Excellence in Government recognized my domestic violence real-time FBI protective order database invention as one of the top 8 e-government ideas in the USA. 2001.
- American Bar Association Commission on Disability Rights: "Spotlight" disabled attorney, January 2014.
- "Parker-Powell Student Leader Award," 1996 Indiana University Student Association Fellowship.
- Law School Representative to Indiana University Student Government, Bloomington. 1995-1996.
- Law School Educational Policy Committee member, Bloomington, IN. 1996-1997.

LANGUAGES:

- English (Native), Italian (Fluent), German (Studied 5 years), French (Studied 1 year), Spanish (Novice)

POLICY/ACADEMIC EDITING

- Edited books by University of Otago instructors: (1) Chinese folktales, and (2) Chinese human rights reform. Advised Ph.D. student and edited dissertation on Chinese administrative law and human rights reform in China. Edited Ph.D. dissertation on Chinese media culture and documentary film.
- Wrote legislation to address military base poisoning and suffering of dependents of U.S. Marines and others. Suggested public benefits and 100% health coverage.
- Wrote legislation to strengthen the ADA and to protect disability rights and health privacy.
- Wrote legislation to make intentionally blocking accessible features like handicap parking or sidewalks, curb ramps, and curb cuts into a criminal act.

CASES OF NOTE

Multiple private settlements from restaurants and local businesses and local governments for violating Illinois Human Rights Act.

Indiana personal injury case, grocery store slip & fall. \$31,000 settlement.

Straw v. Reposteria 7 Mieles Restaurant, 2015CP3541 (IL Hum. Rights Dept.) – default judgment obtained

Andrew Straw v. Village of Streamwood, et. al., 17-1867 (7th Cir.) – sidewalk snow discrimination
- Kane County settled.

Straw v. United States, 1:17-cv-01082 (COFC) – 5th Amendment Takings, ADA retaliation

Straw v. Indiana, 1:17-cv-1797-WTL-DML (S.D. Ind.) – democracy for disabled people seeking office

Straw v. Illinois, 1:17-cv-06231-RWG (N.D. Ill.) – defamation law must be available for disabled leaders

Straw v. Illinois State Board of Elections, 2016CP2378 (IL Human Rights Dept.) – discrimination in elections