

## COMPETENCE: ANDREW U. D. STRAW

I make ADA (disability) complaints where I see discrimination and judges and courts have retaliated against me using several tactics, especially insinuating that I am either a **criminal** or **incompetent** as an insane person.

I do have bipolar disorder from Camp LeJeune toxic exposure as a child. It is ironic that I am **attacked for this poisoning** while at the same time **refused health insurance** and **compensation**.

**Criminal Background: NONE.** This puts to rest the sneaky comparisons to those lawyers who do have a criminal background when I do not.

**Seventh Circuit's Abusive Comparisons Via Citation to Paint Me Insane or Criminal:** *Lee v. Clinton*, [209 F.3d 1025](#) (7th Cir. 2000); *In Re City of Chicago*, [500 F.3d 582](#) (7th Cir. 2007), and *Support Systems Intern., Inc. v. Mack*, [45 F.3d 185](#) (7th Cir. 1995).

**Disciplinary Attack and Federal Court Cooperation:** *Straw v. Indiana Supreme Court, et. al.*, 1:16-cv-3483 (S.D. Ind. 2/16/2017) (**[PETITION & RETALIATION](#)**); *Straw v. Indiana Supreme Court, et. al.*, [17-1338](#) (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 7/6/2017); *In Re Andrew U. D. Straw*, [68 N.E.3d 1070](#) (Ind. 2/14/2017). [7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Hired my Indiana Hearing Officer](#) While He Was my APPELLEE.

**Health Care Denial:** *Straw v. McDonough*, [20-2090-ZZ](#) (Fed. Cir. 2021).

**Compensation Denial:** *Straw v. United States*, [16-17573-GG](#) (11<sup>th</sup> Cir.).

While I experienced [much suffering](#) in my life ([disabilities](#) and [crime](#)), the mental illness also increased my resilience and persistence and these traits served me well in my education and career. At least one author described how about [50% of American presidents had mental illness](#), including bipolar disorder. These are other books about bipolar disorder:

1. [Creativity from Mania](#): A Critical Look at the Stereotype of a 'Mad Genius' and an Analysis of its Potential Grounding in Bipolar Disorder
2. [Manic Depression and Creativity](#)
3. [Touched with Fire](#): Manic-Depressive Illness and the Artistic Temperament

I like the fact that James Madison, author of the U.S. Constitution, is on the [list of mentally ill presidents](#).

## SCHOOL

When I was 5 years old, Harley-Holben Elementary School conducted an IQ test and my score was at the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile. I was missing school quite often due to my illnesses and at home I had extra time for reading. This is true throughout my K-12 time.

In 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Heritage Elementary School conducted a Metropolitan Achievement Test and I scored at the post-high school level in all areas, with stanine scores of 9 out of 9 in every area.

Also in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, I earned medals in the Scholastic Olympiad and achieved a gold medal in science.

In high school, I took the ASFAB military aptitude test and scored above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in every area of the test and at the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile overall.

My SAT score was 1410 (680 Verbal and 730 Math, 99<sup>th</sup> percentile), which my high school informed me was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the 20-year history of the school.

My high school GPA was 3.9, putting me in the top 10 students in my class. The SAT score, my grades, and my activities first allowed me to be a National Merit Finalist, and then a [National Merit Scholar](#), a great honor and testament to my ability. My high school awarded me the Bausch & Lomb medal for being the top science student in my class.

Many of my achievements are documented in <http://all.andrewstraw.com>

I graduated from Indiana University with a BA in English & Philosophy and received an A grade for [Symbolic Logic](#). This simply proved my strong logical thinking ability even before I was diagnosed with bipolar.

GPA: 3.2

My GRE score to enter graduate school was 2220, 700 Verbal, 760 Analytical, and 760 Quantitative. This score combination is at the 99.9<sup>th</sup> percentile according to the Triple Nine Society.

I have been a member of the Triple Nine Society for over 10 years and it is open to those with an IQ at the 3<sup>rd</sup> standard deviation, approximately an IQ of 146.

I graduated from Indiana University with an MS in Language Education and ESL/EFL. GPA: 3.8

I took the LSAT to enter law school and earned a score of 165, which is at the 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile of those who took the test. This allowed me to attend the Indiana University-Maurer School of Law.

I was the dean's research assistant and provided research to 2 other law professors. I was on the Law School's Educational Policy Committee and was a member of the International Law Association. The student body president appointed me to be the Law School's representative in student government. My mother died of a Camp LeJeune cancer my final year and I was on the dean's list my last semester.

I graduated with my law degree in 1997. GPA: 3.2

I received a certificate in Court Management from MAACM in 2000 and I studied Bioethics and Health Law in a master's program at University of Otago, a dual program with the School of Law and School of Medicine. 2004.

## PROFESSIONAL CAREER

**Alan M. Voorhees.** About 8 months after my graduation, I was very fortunate to be hired by billionaire transportation legend Alan M. Voorhees. July 1998. When I passed the Virginia bar and was admitted as a Virginia lawyer in April 1999, Mr. Voorhees became my first client. [www.andrewstraw.com](http://www.andrewstraw.com) While working as his lawyer, I helped Mr. Voorhees with court automation and document preservation projects, national security matters, and other duties of a corporate counsel. I advised Mr. Voorhees on projects concerning the Library of Congress, the Virginia Historical Society, and the Library of Virginia. I was trained on government leadership and excellence by the Council for Excellence in Government in Washington, D.C., because Mr. Voorhees provided their start-up funding in the 1980s. I clerked for the presiding judge in a triple murder arson trial and organized the file for the clerk, with an eye to how those records could be best automated and preserved. Judge Spruill was the former president of the Virginia State Bar.

**Indiana Supreme Court.** When I moved back to Indiana in August of 2000, I began work for the Indiana Supreme Court. I worked on statistics, court records, technology, and a host of other matters assigned to the position and delegated by the Court and its leadership. I was hired out of a pool of about 500 applicants, and I was recommended by the Law School dean in Bloomington, who happened also to be the president of the AALS. A reckless driver hit me and broke both of my legs and my pelvis on my way to the Court to work, where I served over 400 state courts. 2/22/2001. I invented the protective order database in a White House and Harvard contest and I did this on my own initiative. I also helped a blind judge get a grant for software so he could use his computer. I reached out to the Indiana Association for the Deaf for input on court technology that could have made courtrooms more accessible. I was the first officer of the Indiana Supreme Court to ever go to the IAD's executive meetings. The Indiana Supreme Court hired me at the salary of an attorney and encouraged me to take the bar exam. So, I took and passed the bar exam with both my legs and pelvis broken, but the Court added extra requirements when it found out I have bipolar disorder. I was forced to

talk about my illness in front of people with whom I worked, my colleagues. I was fired about 1 month later, just weeks after being sworn in by the same court that fired me.

The Chief Justice had the nerve to say I was never a good employee, but his own actions and mine proved otherwise. This was pure discrimination based on my mental illness from Camp LeJeune and the Court was wholly indifferent to the amount of suffering I endured because of that reckless driver. If I was anything less than stellar, it was because I drove to the Court to work that morning and my insides were turned into a mush of bone. The Court was in fact my second client.

My first client was a billionaire and WWII hero. My second client was a state supreme court and 400 lower courts for which I provided services.

**Indiana University-Maurer School of Law.** My third job after law school was as assistant dean for the IU-Maurer School of Law, in charge of the international programs. I helped the international students and fellows with a variety of issues, including medical, disability, academic advising, job searches, and so on.

## **POLITICS**

I was one of the 2 founders of Indiana University College Democrats and served as an officer while I was in Law School and before. I was the Indiana delegate to the Green Party of the United States National Convention in 2012 and gave a [short speech on CPAN](#).

My political background is here: <http://democrat.andrewstraw.com>

## **TNS**

I decided to join Triple Nine Society after passing the GRE with high enough scores to enter. I was elected by this 800+ member group of 146 or higher IQ to be one of the 4 at-large members of its executive committee. I wanted there to be no question that I am both competent and capable of interacting with others. I joined 1 year after being fired by the Indiana Supreme Court with a very hurtful and deliberate letter challenging my competence.

## CIVIL RIGHTS

In 2011, I fought the Indiana Democratic Party to make its South Bend HQ accessible to people with disabilities and this was covered on TV.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DebpmIA0oc>

The former Indiana Democratic Party county and district chair, also on the state committee, insulted me and said he would sue me for the criticism, but he was instead convicted of election fraud felonies.

[https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/butch-morgan-is-back-disgraced-former-democratic-party-leader-re-emerges-sparks-debate/article\\_455fb476-7df2-11eb-8427-af895c263753.html](https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/butch-morgan-is-back-disgraced-former-democratic-party-leader-re-emerges-sparks-debate/article_455fb476-7df2-11eb-8427-af895c263753.html)

I ran against Butch Morgan for his position as district chair and state committee member.

<https://www.in.gov/library/files/HPI110526.pdf> (page 14)

Morgan and former mayor Buttigieg were allied and connected through Joe Donnelly and shared staff members such as Mike Schmuhl, now the Indiana Democratic Party State Chair. The City of South Bend failed to provide records to me for an incredibly long time, 3 years, and it became a national news story.

<https://www.wndu.com/home/headlines/South-Bend-criticized-for-late-response-to-records-request-306027551.html>

Also in 2011, I fought for people who alleged they were sexually harassed at work at the South Bend Housing Authority. I discovered that the local executive director was embedded in the insurance company claims committee such that she was capable of interfering with investigations and payouts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJZyHJYCRMg>

This was one of the top news stories at ABC 57. Pete Buttigieg removed the entire Board after my work.

[https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/politics/south-bend-mayor-shakes-up-troubled-housing-authority/article\\_d4b05f95-cbdb-51b7-81dd-34515daa0520.html](https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/politics/south-bend-mayor-shakes-up-troubled-housing-authority/article_d4b05f95-cbdb-51b7-81dd-34515daa0520.html)

The FBI raided that board and ultimately, \$500,000 was found to be missing.

[https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/publicsafety/south-bend-housing-authority-offices-closed-as-fbi-agents-appear/article\\_c40a590b-04cd-5288-bc62-002299ee8f87.html](https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/publicsafety/south-bend-housing-authority-offices-closed-as-fbi-agents-appear/article_c40a590b-04cd-5288-bc62-002299ee8f87.html)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/31/us/fbi-south-bend-housing-authority-buttigieg.html>

I pressed for Camp LeJeune justice and was covered in Texas, KLTV.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKojwUm0qwk>

I pushed for handicap parking that was missing in about 150 spaces in Streamwood, Illinois, west of Chicago.

<https://www.dailyherald.com/article/20131004/news/710049933/>

The ABA Commission on Disability Rights honored me with a Spotlight in January of 2014.

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/disabilityrights/initiatives\\_awards/spotlight/straw\\_a/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/disabilityrights/initiatives_awards/spotlight/straw_a/)

The next year, the Illinois Court of Appeals called me a “public figure who works on disability rights.”

[https://courts.illinois.gov/R23\\_Orders/AppellateCourt/2015/1stDistrict/143094\\_R23.pdf](https://courts.illinois.gov/R23_Orders/AppellateCourt/2015/1stDistrict/143094_R23.pdf)

I worked to ban porn in the workplace as a sexual harassment matter.

<https://www.abc57.com/news/update-middlebury-employee-takes-porn-problem-to-town-council>



I am a columnist for Democracy Chronicles and most of the stories were regarding disability and democracy.

<https://democracychronicles.org/author/andrew-straw/>

There is a Ballotpedia page about me even though I have been stunted in both my political and legal work by opponents of civil rights.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Andrew\\_Straw](https://ballotpedia.org/Andrew_Straw)

## **INDIANA SUPREME COURT DISCRIMINATORY DISCIPLINE**

I made an ADA complaint in 2014, about 8 months after my ABA spotlight, concerning the discrimination of the Indiana Supreme Court. The Clerk absolutely refused to file it even though it had to do with my employment and that is the exclusive jurisdiction of that Court. The Clerk sent my complaint to the ADA coordinator and there was an immediate retaliatory action. The ADA coordinator did not respond to me until she had filed a disciplinary complaint calling me “incompetent” and attacking 4 lawsuits & appeals as nonsense and frivolous even when they were not yet final. She worked behind the scenes in at least one case to interfere. 3 years of harassment followed and then 5.5+ years of suspension.

## **CURTIS HILL**

[I made a disciplinary complaint about Curtis Hill](#), former lawyer for the Indiana Supreme Court and the former Attorney General of Indiana.

Curtis Hill was labeled as a criminal by the very court that used him to defend against me. He groped 4 women and then used the dignity of his office to inflict damage on the people he groped. He lashed out in every direction and then accepted his tiny 30 days of suspension, a major gift after the kind of unprofessional sexual behavior he exhibited. He should have been disbarred and I should have been rewarded for my work.

Instead, I was suspended in 2017, was suspended the entire time of the Curtis Hill investigation, and remain suspended in 2021. I am a former employee of the Court and I brought very necessary and needed complaints about the discrimination. This is why the Court will not treat



me with due respect and continues to suspend me even after I paid the costs to the Court and its Commission.

Republicans like these 5 Republican Indiana Supreme Court justices have no clue how hard it is to suffer them and their unrighteous, evil impositions, simply because I want my rights, my civil rights, my disability rights, my Camp LeJeune poisoning rights. They have interfered with everything and they should be punished. I want God to punish them in conformance with His words. Lev. 19:14, Luke 14:13.

The Indiana Supreme Court protects and defends criminals so long as they are the right political party and the right political ideology. The Court attacks its opponents, rallies other courts to assist, and refuses to issue justice, taking property that I earned through extraordinary sacrifice. *Straw v. United States*, 21-1596, 21-1597, 21-1598, 21-1600, 21-1602 (Fed. Cir.).

## COMPETENCE

My history does show disability. However, I deal with it (doctor and medicines) and I do my best to increase civil rights protections based on gender, race, age, nationality, disability, and other grounds. I even attempted to protect the civil rights of someone with a diametrically opposed political view, pushing for the [First Amendment right to wave a U.S. flag on a public sidewalk](#). The First Amendment is not a plaything, but all civil rights are at risk once courts go down that “I’m smarter than you” path which inevitably results in abuse of the word frivolous.

Incompetence is the best the Indiana Supreme Court can come up with and the conspiracy of like-minded judges in the Midwest explains my situation and destruction as a lawyer in that part of the world.

The Virginia State Bar called that Indiana mess a **“drive-by shooting.”** My former employer, the Indiana Supreme Court, provided **no citations to authority** for [retaliating against me](#), and simply left the suspension in place longer than anyone thought possible, ignoring over 25 requests I made to stop it. Longer than I thought possible since the ABA limits a suspension to 3 years in its [Rule 10](#). It is now nearly **68 months** in length.

<https://www.vsb.org/docs/Straw-062217.pdf>

Am I incompetent or is the Court hurting me in revenge for its own disability violations which I exposed?

Answer: it is hurting the messenger.

From ancient pharaohs to Alexander the Great, some of history's greatest rulers are infamous for killing those who brought unwelcome news.

<https://www.hbs.edu/ris/Publication%20Files/John%20et%20al%202019%20-%20Shooting%20the%20Messenger%20bed9332f-ac03-4f35-a4dc-3da322cfa112.pdf>

It's not my fault that the Court and the State of Indiana have a long and nefarious history of oppressing and hurting disabled people, including the **Eugenics Law of 1907** and the Indiana Supreme Court ban on disabled people being lawyers. It's not my fault that when I was 9 years old, the U.S. Supreme Court set the standard of judge immunity on the back of a disabled Indiana girl. *Stump v. Sparkman*, [435 U.S. 349](#) (1978).

The Indiana Supreme Court bans all disabled people, physically or mentally, from the practice of law. I don't think I need to show anything else, because this ban explains everything. <http://ban.andrewstraw.com>

I am smart enough to see conspiratorial actions that violate civil rights. The Midwest at every level acts the same way as the discriminating South did during the Jim Crow Era, but with the focus now on disability. Indiana has the most blatant and heinous ban on disabled lawyers that I have ever seen. Their attitudes explain my suffering.

Their nasty attitudes explain why I am *so competent* but still am labeled *incompetent* by people like them. So competent that the Chief Justice of Indiana himself hired me to provide services to over 400 Indiana courts. If anything, that was *res judicata* that I am competent and it behooves that same court to give me the respect my former position commanded.

How anyone can take seriously 5 Republican justices who were overturned unanimously on the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment (the BILL OF RIGHTS, of all things) is hard to fathom.

*Timbs v. Indiana*, [139 S. Ct. 682](#) (2019).

All 5 Indiana justices are less competent than me and this unanimous rejection on the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment shows this to be true.

They are nasty individuals who violate civil rights, state and federal, and hide behind the black robe, defiling it. They are nasty judges who have no respect for the Constitution, state or federal, or rights that people like me have. They need to go, and until they do, Indiana will remain rock bottom as far as civil rights for disabled people and certainly, disabled lawyers. Anyone associated with them or who defends the discrimination belongs right at the bottom with Indiana.

I have objected to the abusive use of the term “frivolous” to suppress civil rights, as many judges do.

[https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/andrew\\_u.\\_d.\\_straw\\_public\\_comment\\_proposed\\_changes\\_code\\_rules\\_0.pdf](https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/andrew_u._d._straw_public_comment_proposed_changes_code_rules_0.pdf)

It takes the strong heart and persistence of a U.S. Marine to oppose such organized evil, and as the son of such a person, I do this not only for myself, but the other disabled veterans and disabled children of veterans **who cannot be lawyers** precisely because of their great sacrifices for us, their disabilities. I was found among the most qualified to advise the U.S. Marine Corps HQ at Quantico in the same year the Indiana Supreme Court attacked my competence. See pages 16 & 18.

<http://all.andrewstraw.com>

This is my Vietnam War. I was drafted and hardened by this experience and I will keep fighting in whatever manner available to me all the way to the end. *Viva Victory.*