

Andrew U. D. Straw Disability Page, v. 3/30/2020

My disabilities are both physical and mental in nature, both closely related to my public service. A reckless driver hit me head-on at ~55 mph as I drove to the Indiana Supreme Court to work, where I was hired by the Chief Justice of Indiana and the State Court Administrator to provide services to over 400 Indiana state courts. ([POLICE REPORT, 2/22/2001](#)). Officers of the U.S. Marine Corps ORDERED my father and mother to be present on bases that were EPA Superfund sites – toxic waste dumps with poisonous water, air, and soil. I was born on an EPA Superfund site called Camp LeJeune Naval Hospital in 1969. The photos below show my disabilities and list them.

[Here](#), I explain how the disabilities and discrimination were actually the result of other people making me into a crime victim. [Here](#), I suggest how legal reforms can be done to reverse the damage and prevent similar injuries to other people.

I consider discrimination to be part and parcel of having a disability and the law presumes that major discrimination is ongoing in society and that is why relief is part of the protections offered by Congress in the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, the ADA Amendments Act, and of course the Constitution itself. The Indiana Supreme Court has discriminated

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against me and these websites explain the massive attack they started and propagated. My case for Camp LeJeune justice is also here:

<http://po.andrewstraw.com> <http://uscourts.andrewstraw.com>

<http://justice.andrewstraw.com> <http://nc.andrewstraw.com>

<http://dueprocess.andrewstraw.com>

<http://ca7.andrewstraw.com> <http://discipline.andrewstraw.com>

<http://bipolar.andrewstraw.com> <http://law.andrewstraw.com>

<http://reform.andrewstraw.com>

RECKLESS DRIVER (2/22/2001)

BROKEN LEFT ANKLE (2001)

The reckless driver, Kristin D. Jones, broke my ankle. I have about 13 pins and a rod in my ankle holding it together. My natural reaction to the impending crash was bracing my foot against the floor. The power of the impact traveled through my foot and shattered my ankle in innumerable places:



ANKLE UPDATE

In 2016, I went to OSMC in Goshen, Indiana, to see why my foot hurt so much when I was walking and this prompted a new x-ray showing that I had a bone spur on the top of my foot related to the injuries. A new x-ray dated 3/28/2016 of my ankle with pins and rod still in place from that x-ray session can be seen here:



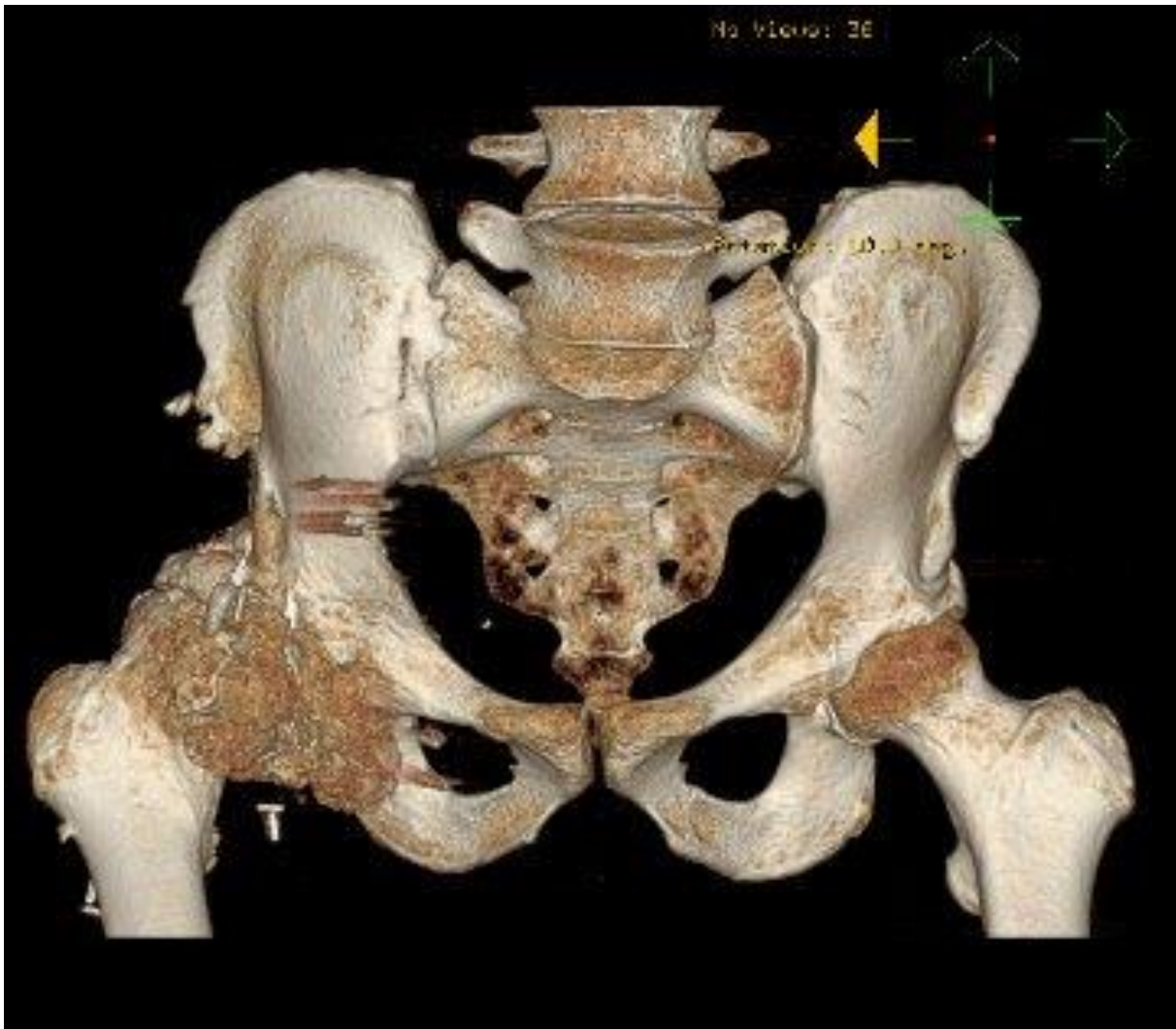
HIP/PELVIS CRUSHED AND RIGHT FEMUR SEVERELY INJURED

Like the power of the impact shattered my left ankle and leg, the power traveled up my leg on the right side and destroyed my pelvis, requiring the major reconstruction shown here and a 14-hour surgery. Note in the MRI the mass of arthritic material on the ball of my femur, requiring a later hip replacement:



ARTHRITIC HIP MRI (2001)

I suffered from this arthritis for 11 years from the damage to my right hip and femur, every step a gruesome extreme pain. I was unable to sleep without my right knee bent at 90 degrees for that entire 11 years. I went to sleep in pain and woke up in pain, every day:



TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT (2012)

In April of 2012, I could not take it anymore and my father went with me to admit to Rush Oak Park Hospital for a total hip replacement. This x-ray shows what Dr. Levine was able to accomplish, a total replacement of my joint by creating a new joint and removing a large part of my femur to be replaced with a titanium rod and an artificial femur ball. This improved my ability to walk, but not 100%:



BROKEN NOSE, BROKEN RIBS, BROKEN HAND (2/22/2001)

The above x-rays show only part of the injuries from the car accident on my way to the Indiana Supreme Court to work. My nose was crushed flat on my face as I hit my steering wheel, even when I had a seatbelt on. My nose needed to be reconstructed. Several of my ribs were broken, but there was no treatment for this, and I still feel pain when the weather changes or I bump the ribs. Similarly, my nose and upper lip have been numb from 2001 to present, a constant reminder of the damage.

My right hand was broken because the steering wheel moved so violently during the wreck. If I use my hands too much, these injuries begin to ache, such as when I am typing, which is involved in well over 90% of my work. Typing this document hurts, for instance.

CONCUSSIONS

My head has been injured several times in my life. The 2001 car accident was one occasion. Other times include in 1996 during martial arts training on how to fall. Also, I was injured in a car accident in 1979 during Hurricane David in North Carolina. A reckless driver hit my parents' car from behind. Also, my cousin and I ran into each other while

running through a cornfield on or about 1978, hitting each other in the forehead. I was completely knocked out and woke up in the hospital with a concussion diagnosis.

COPD (2006)

I received a diagnosis of COPD while in New Zealand because of chronic coughing and the doctor finding my lungs to be damaged from a lifetime of allergies and pneumonia and chronic infections.

I later found that taking zinc supplements at the beginning of an infection will often totally prevent it getting worse.

PNEUMONIA HOSPITALIZATION (12/1983)

After a cold, wet football workout, I became ill and it rapidly changed into pneumonia. I was hospitalized for this in 1983 and I vividly remember the doctor trying treatment after treatment when I was not improving but instead getting rapidly worse. I remember thinking I would die from suffocation. My family left me in that hospital alone for most of the time. I thought I would die alone there. I was 14.

MYOPIA WITH ASTIGMATISM (1976-)

I have very poor vision without glasses or contacts. I remember being tested at roughly 20/1600, but correctible to 20/20. Without my

glasses (for instance, when they break or when a contact popped out), I was legally blind and could not work or drive a car or participate in class.

I often see auras around objects that remind me of other things, sometimes prompting me to remember something or make an unusual association. This happens more without my glasses on.

MENTAL DISABILITIES (CAMP LEJEUNE POISONING AND CONCEPTION WHILE MY FATHER WORKED AT ANOTHER EPA SUPERFUND SITE BASE, NAS JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA)

The VA has listed neurobehavioral effects as being a common illness from exposure at Camp LeJeune. 38 C.F.R. § 17.400(b)(xiv). I attribute all of the following to that U.S. Marine Corps poisoning and negligence and failure to inform me that I was exposed when the government and the military knew about it.

<https://www.cfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov/>

I have been fighting for compensation and health care. *Straw v. Wilkie*, [18-7129](#) (U.S. CAVC) (health care); <http://nc.andrewstraw.com> *Straw v. North Carolina*, 20-1295 (4th Cir.); *Straw v. USA*, [16-17573-GG](#) (11th Cir. 5/22/2019).

So, with my mother dead from the poisoning and the poverty and disabilities, I leaned a great deal on my younger brother, Jason. Jason understood the military culture and its difficult behavior at times, especially since he served himself. <http://jls.andrewstraw.com>

I don't have that experience, so dealing with the government and military, having his point of view as an enlisted and then officer (my brother retired as a captain in the U.S. Air Force) was golden.

BIPOLAR DISORDER (CAMP LEJEUNE)

<http://bipolar.andrewstraw.com>

This is one of the illnesses mentioned in scientific literature as associated with the industrial solvent exposure at Camp LeJeune.

Nevertheless, in keeping with the VA policy that "in cases where there is reasonable doubt as to the diagnosis or primary cause for the diagnosis, clinicians should resolve in favor of the Camp Lejeune veteran or family member," the committee recommends that VA consider including adolescent and adult illicit drug use and **bipolar disorder** as **neurobehavioral effects** in the Camp Lejeune clinical guidance and in algorithm B-1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK284982/>

The incidence of this mental illness in infants exposed to the Camp LeJeune poisons is 80% higher than normal, according to medical research. I was diagnosed in about 1999 with bipolar while in Virginia.

DEPRESSION (CAMP LEJEUNE)

I was diagnosed with depression multiple times in my life, the first time about 1988 while dealing with my parents' divorce and having a hard time my first year of college at IU [even though I was a National Merit Scholar](#). See, www.andrewstraw.com & <http://all.andrewstraw.com>

MIGRAINES (CAMP LEJEUNE)

I have had migraines since I was about 7 years old. These get so severe and painful and are accompanied by auras and loss of vision or blindness in one or both eyes. Sometimes I am totally blind. I self-treat by avoiding bright lights, fluorescent lights, loud sounds, strong smells, and stress of any kind, and sleep until it ends. School lights usually were fluorescent lights and on bad days I would end up with a migraine and have to leave class to vomit. This did not make me many friends. Often the pain will not stop until I vomit violently. Then I feel weak and need to sleep long hours.

SOCIAL ANXIETY (CAMP LEJEUNE)

As someone with constant physical and mental illness, I have often felt oppressed by family obligations, the smoking of others, and loud

sounds such as TV or music or shouting. Discrimination is common for my illnesses and courts (state and federal) are no exception to this rule. That makes justice practically impossible. www.andrewstraw.com

LIGHT, SOUND, AND SMELL SENSITIVITY (CAMP LEJEUNE)

Like the above mentions, light and sound are triggers for my migraines and my anxiety levels. I should add smells also because strong smells cause me symptoms. I don't like the smell of fish, onions, smoke, and other very strong smells. These can cause me anxiety and migraines.

ALLERGIES (CAMP LEJEUNE)

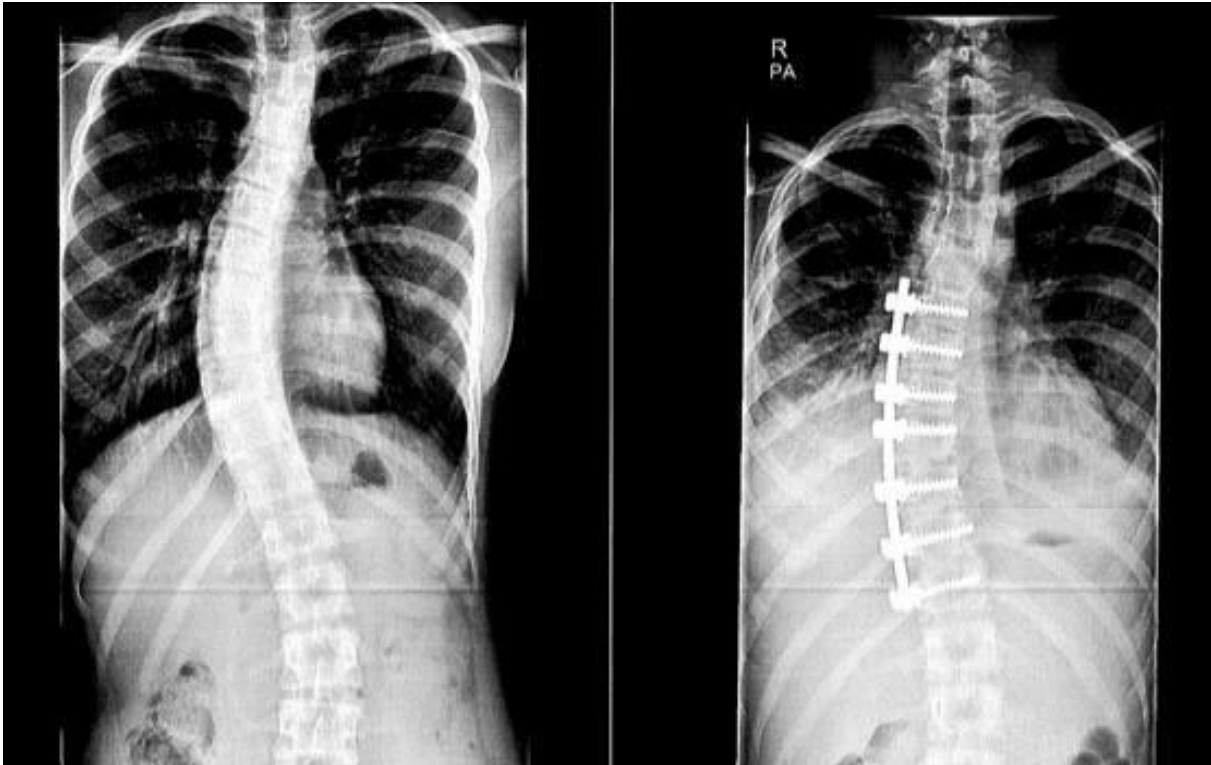
I had severe allergies and took desensitization shots for about 18 years of my life. I was first diagnosed with severe allergies when I was 4 years old and started taking shots then.

SLEEP DISTURBANCES

If my above symptoms are aggravated, I often will lose sleep and be highly energized and stay up, working. Sometimes it can take up to two days to get my sleep back in order, and I usually use 2 tablets of Seroquel instead of one for this purpose for one night. Some doctors consider bipolar and depression to be sleep disorders and I can see why. I often feel strong anxiety associated with the lack of sleep.

SCOLIOSIS (CAMP LEJEUNE)

I had moderate scoliosis that was not treated, but my daughter had severe scoliosis, I believe from my Camp LeJeune exposure and damage to my DNA, evidenced in the exhibits in my MDL cases in the Northern District of Georgia. This is an x-ray of my daughter's spine before and after her open-spine surgery as a young girl on or about 2011:



My daughter having this slowly worsening severe disease of her bones and spine was extremely upsetting and worrying for my whole family, not just her or myself. This illness is much more likely in people exposed to industrial solvents, including their children. Camp LeJeune.

The federal courts have been extremely hostile to my daughter and the rest of my family getting justice for this poisoning. *Straw v. USA*, 16-17573-GG (11th Cir. 5/22/2019); *Straw v. United States*, [15-2590](#) (7th Cir. 2015).

SIDE EFFECTS OF TREATMENT

I take Lithium Carbonate, Seroquel, and Propanolol every single day for my mental health. These cause dehydration, nausea, back and muscle pain, and twitching muscles in my face and neck if I miss even one dose of any of them. I am very careful not to miss doses and I avoid alcohol. The drug interactions with any alcohol makes me feel sick for several days after drinking, making alcohol not worth consuming. I cannot eat any citrus due to the interaction with my lithium. From 1998 to 2010, I voluntarily admitted for mental health treatment about 10 times. I have not been admitted since 2010. I celebrate not needing hospitalization due to my drugs and personal regime and habits. This will be 10 years in June 2020.

DEATH

My mother died of breast cancer that spread to her brain. Breast cancer is one of the listed illnesses on the Camp LeJeune Family Member

Program list. <https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov/> See: [38 C.F.R. § 17.400\(b\)\(iii\)](#).

My mother also clearly had mood problems when I was a child and this resulted in my brother and myself living with her mood swings instead of having a normal mother. She was never provided any notice by the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps even when the base was designated an [EPA Superfund site in 1989](#), 6 years before her breast cancer diagnosis. Death may have been avoided with [early diagnosis](#). She never met her 5 grandchildren, including my son and daughter:



In 1992, Mom was celebrating my Indiana University undergraduate graduation ceremony:



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My mother deteriorated and died from the Camp LeJeune cancer in the same year I graduated from Law School, 1997. I did not celebrate completing this degree even though I am the first lawyer in my family.



DISCRIMINATION

I have an extremely low tolerance for people who discriminate against me or my family members and I do not tolerate harassment of any kind when I see it. My resume shows this: www.andrewstraw.com When the Indiana Supreme Court attacked me in retaliation for my own ADA complaint and used its ADA coordinator to make the disciplinary attack, I was incensed and committed myself to justice. [Verified Complaint \(Indiana\)](#); my [Answer](#) refuting it; my [35-page Affidavit](#) refuting it. I was also cheated. The Virginia State Bar said using an ADA coordinator that way, [“has all the grace and charm of a drive-by shooting.”](#) As of February 14, 2020, I have been suspended by Indiana and 4 U.S. District Courts reciprocally for **3 years each** on a supposed 180-day Indiana suspension. **6x the original suspension with *no bona fide hearing*** and a total disregard for my pleadings. The suspension beyond 180 days involved [no hearing](#) and the Court ignores all of my pleadings, which have piled up to about 2 dozen in the past 2.5 years.

The Indiana Supreme Court lies about its own discrimination when its State Board of Law Examiners backtracked and removed harassing

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conditions from my license in 2006 after *Tennessee v. Lane* was handed down in 2004, showing state courts are subject to the ADA Title II.

The Indiana lies: *In Re Straw*, [68 N.E.3d 1070](#) (Ind. 2/14/2017)

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

I will not explain it again, but the discrimination propagated and showed the truly wide expanse of discrimination in the federal courts.

<http://po.andrewstraw.com>

<http://justice.andrewstraw.com>

<http://crime.andrewstraw.com>

<http://discipline.andrewstraw.com>

<http://dueprocess.andrewstraw.com>

<http://bipolar.andrewstraw.com>

<http://curtishill.andrewstraw.com>

<http://reform.andrewstraw.com>

PROOF OF PHYSICAL DISABILITY: STATE OF ILLINOIS 2013



PROOF OF PUBLIC FIGURE STATUS ON DISABILITY

ABA still says I am an asset to the profession on its webpage giving [“Spotlight”](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/disabilityrights/initiatives_awards/spotlight/straw_a/) status to certain lawyers with disabilities:
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/disabilityrights/initiatives_awards/spotlight/straw_a/

The Illinois Court of Appeals has described me as a “public figure who works on disability rights issues.”
https://courts.illinois.gov/R23_Orders/AppellateCourt/2015/1stDistrict/143094_R23.pdf (*2)

The U.S. Access Board found me to be so competent on disability law issues that it found me to be competent enough to be its General Counsel in 2014. The U.S. Marine Corps found me to be among the most highly competent applicants to be Attorney Advisor to HQ at Quantico and referred me to the hiring officer. Please see my resume for other examples: www.andrewstraw.com & <http://all.andrewstraw.com>

COMPETENCE

Far from being incompetent in fact (as opposed to *de jure*), I have an IQ of about 150 as proven by standardized testing, and I am a member of the Triple Nine Society, the qualification for which is an IQ at that

level. The Triple Nine Society membership elected me to its governing board several years ago, and this means a majority of about 800 people with 150 IQ or greater voted for me. My CV shows my competence also. www.andrewstraw.com However, if courts demand that I be considered incompetent, I want all advantages that flow from such disability.

I am a National Merit Scholar, putting me at the very top of all students who took the SAT in 1987. Top ½ of 1%. I was the research assistant for the dean of the Law School in 1996 & 1997. I represented the Law School in Student Government and was one of the top 5 most active student leaders on the Bloomington campus, receiving a **Parker-Powell Award** from IUSA for precisely this fact. My first client after I passed the bar in Virginia in 1999 was billionaire transportation legend [Alan M. Voorhees](#). While working in Virginia, I clerked for the 1976 president of the Virginia State Bar, [Judge Spruill](#), and worked on a notorious triple murder-arson case for him, doing the legal research the judge asked. After Virginia, I worked for the Indiana Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of Indiana, who chose me out of a distinguished group of over 500 highly qualified applicants, and after being discriminated against and fired days after my FMLA leave, [Lauren Robel](#) (then IU-Law

dean) hired me at the Law School. Judge Spruill has passed away, but before he did, he offered to sponsor me for bar membership in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. He knew about the Indiana Supreme Court discipline.

Then-dean Robel hired me to be the assistant dean in charge of the International Programs at the Law School. Robel, now the IU Provost, was the president of the AALS (www.AALS.org) when she hired me.

The Indiana Supreme Court used illegal tactics to falsely claim that I am incompetent that violate civil rights and the Constitution in a *frantic and unreasonable effort to punish me* for being a leader on disability rights issues after I complained about the Indiana Supreme Court discrimination directly and to the state legislature in August 2014. That state supreme court bans all disabled people from being lawyers, so my position is easily proven, while they are simply abusing me and my work. *Straw v. Indiana*, 20-1352 (4th Cir.). My work was valid and wrongly denied by the federal bench in the Midwest.

Organizations that agreed with my positions have included:

1. The Indiana Supreme Court ADA coordinator in 2017
2. Medicare
3. The National Council on Disability
4. The American Bar Association
5. National Federation of the Blind
6. State legislatures
7. When I asked hundreds of ADA coordinators if they agreed that the retaliatory attack was OK on the part of the Indiana Supreme Court, *not a single one* anywhere in the United States would agree with Indiana's Rodeheffer, but I remained suspended.
8. I have been [suspended](#) since 2/14/2017. Over **3 years of suspension on a 180-day suspension** that was [bogus](#) from day #1. The Indiana Supreme Court has been refusing to address my pleadings in violation of [due process](#) since the 180 days expired in August 2017. I have about 2 dozen pleadings sitting unaddressed.

9. I don't deny that I have disabilities and that is why I created this page, to document them and the effects they have on me. But what I find difficult to accept is official institutions pointing to my disabilities and telling me I am not capable of being a lawyer or that my filings and cases are frivolous. One of my ABA Spotlight colleagues, [Haben Girma](#), is both deaf and blind and another, [Andy Imparato](#), has bipolar disorder just like me. Just because someone says that a case is frivolous **does not make it true** and there is a proven proclivity in the Midwest for courts to collude with one another so their *biases and prejudices* remain "the law." <http://frivolous.andrewstraw.com>
10. For purposes of getting relief for my disabilities from those who injured me, I accept that I am disabled and have been adjudicated as incompetent, even though I had no realistic chance at having that reviewed anywhere outside of the Indiana Supreme Court so that I could have it overturned as abusive.
11. Luckily, Indiana tried to expand the damage and have my license in Virginia suspended, but Virginia has given me due process and refused to impose *any* discipline.

LANGUAGE OF DISCRIMINATION
INDIANA SUPREME COURT

Indiana Admission and Discipline Rule 23, Sections 2(c) & 3(b)

prevent any disabled person from being a lawyer. Just read them:

Section 2. Grounds for Discipline or Suspension

(c) **Disability.** Any attorney who becomes disabled by reason of physical or mental illness or infirmity or because of the use of or addiction to intoxicants or drugs **shall be subject to suspension by reason of the disability.**

Section 3. Types of Discipline and Suspension; Notice of Orders and Opinions

(b) **Disability suspension.** Any attorney found disabled by reason of physical or mental illness or infirmity or by use of or addiction to any intoxicants **shall be suspended indefinitely** for the duration of the disability.

Always nice when your civil rights category is excluded from practicing law and lumped together with **alcoholism and drug addiction.** Such a rule and its application to me is *official crime* in Indiana, the crime of civil rights violation. [IC 35-46-2-1](#)