

GEORGETOWN LAW

FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE CLINIC PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN PASSAGE OF ADA AMENDMENTS ACT

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The work of faculty, students and fellows of the Georgetown Law [Federal Legislation and Administrative Clinic](#) was instrumental to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008, signed into law by President Bush on September 25, 2008. The ADAAA, which becomes effective on January 1, 2009, restores the original intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by providing coverage to a broad range of individuals with physical and mental impairments.

For the past two years, the Federal Legislative and Administrative Clinic, under the leadership of Georgetown Law Professor [Chai Feldblum](#), has represented the Epilepsy Foundation, supporting the organization's key role in securing passage of the legislation. Faculty, students and fellows from the Clinic provided research and legal support in the development of the law, and Feldblum served as the principal negotiator on behalf of disabilities and civil rights groups in a complex negotiation with the business community that resulted in the compromise legislation.

“The development of the ADAAA was an intensive and exhilarating ride for students and faculty alike,” said Feldblum. “Clinic students not only learned at close range how legislation is formulated and enacted, their legal research and analysis contributed directly to the foundation of knowledge on which advocates on both sides and members of both Houses could base imaginative solutions to difficult problems. The result will be directly visible in a new world of protection for Americans with disabilities for years to come.”

“People with disabilities across the country, including people with epilepsy, are protected once again under the ADA the way Congress intended,” said Sandy Finucane, vice president for legal affairs of the Epilepsy Foundation. “We could not have achieved this victory without the intensive legal work provided by the Georgetown Federal Legislation and Administrative Clinic faculty and staff. We applaud their incredible work.”

The House of Representative passed the ADAAA by a vote of 402-17 in June 2008. A slightly revised ADAAA passed, by unanimous consent in both the Senate and the

House, in September.

Clinic students and faculty will continue to work on the ADAAA's administrative implementation in the months ahead.

About Georgetown University Law Center

[Georgetown University Law Center](#) is one of the world's premier law schools. It has the largest full-time faculty in the nation and is pre-eminent in several areas, including constitutional, international, tax and clinical law. Drawing on its Jesuit heritage, it has a strong tradition of public service and is dedicated to the principle that law is but a means, justice is the end. With this principle in mind, Georgetown Law has built an environment that cultivates an exchange of ideas and the pursuit of academic excellence. It brings together an extraordinarily varied group of teachers, scholars and practitioners, as well as an outstanding student body representing more than 60 countries.

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