



WORLD

Technology News and Commentary for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People



Meet the TDI Team

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TDI'S MISSION

“TDI provides leadership in achieving equal access to telecommunications, media, and information technologies for deaf and hard of hearing people.”

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Shaping An Accessible World

Board Views



JAN WITHERS

*TDI President and Board Member,
Southwest Region*

“TDI has succeeded beyond all expectations since its founding in 1968 simply because of the extraordinary passion of its members, staff, partners, stakeholders, and volunteers for its mission.”



People Power

For all the talk about the wonders of technology, what is behind such wonders invariably is the ingenuity of people seeking to make their lives better. The TTY is a classic example: as is well known, it was a Deaf physicist who simply wanted to be able to communicate with his friends and colleagues through the telecommunications system and invented the TTY as a solution. Dr. Robert H. Weitbrecht, the inventor, was one of many Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind individuals who translated their desire for accessible communication into actual

products, services, and policy.

TDI was founded primarily to distribute and install TTYs and to train individuals and businesses on how to use them. TDI has long since outgrown its original focus to reflect today's technological landscape which now includes media, communication and information technology, and the Internet of Things. The people intimately involved with TDI since its founding have come and gone, but what has been consistently present to this day is their passion for accessible communication.

It is this very passion that makes

BOARD VIEWS Continued from page 2

my involvement with TDI through my service as a member of its Board of Directors so rewarding. How wonderful it is to work with my fellow board members, Claude Stout, TDI's outgoing Executive Director, Eric Kaika, TDI's incoming CEO, and all the stakeholders who exemplify this passion through their engagement with TDI's activities. One major highlight reflecting this passion, of course, is TDI's 50th Anniversary Gala which took place in October 2018.

The Gala literally was a reunion of many of the individuals who contributed to TDI's mission in one way or another in the previous 50 years. So many of them flew in from other states just to attend this event. The collective talent, experience, and

energy gathered in that one large ballroom was extraordinary!

It is this same passion that also made possible TDI's numerous conferences, successful development and implementation of countless policies, regulations, and legislation promoting accessible communication, and publications such as the Blue Book and TDI World.

As you peruse this issue of TDI World, you will see running throughout all the articles a common theme – the people behind the many successes of TDI. These people include current members of TDI's Board of Directors, which is already proving to be a dynamic team of talented, experienced leaders. For this reason, I am profoundly honored and humbled to serve as the Board's President and

truly look forward to working closely with them to fulfil TDI's mission.

Before I close, I must thank Sheila Conlon-Mentkowski for her stellar work as TDI's President for six years and for helping to bring on board several members of the current Board of Directors. I can safely speak for Sheila as well as the Board in saying that if not for the power of people like all the individuals mentioned in this issue of TDI World, our members, partners and stakeholders, and you, our reader, we would not be where we are today and in such a good position to continue TDI's important work. Please know all the members of the Board and I welcome your ideas, time, and energy in support of TDI. Thank YOU for all you do in assuring accessible communication for all.



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Capitol Commentary



BY CLAUDE STOUT
TDI Executive Director

“TDI extends its deepest appreciation to ‘its fellow members on the team’ and asks that we stand united, working toward achieving a full inclusive world in the near future with everyone with or without a disability.”



Graphic courtesy of Adobe.com

TEAM: “Together Everyone Achieves More.”

As I will retire from TDI in six weeks, I am most grateful that in the last 23 years we have accumulated a team with a diverse, wide range of professionals, partners, and stakeholders to collaborate with TDI. While conducting a Google search, I came across a great resource, and it reflects the description of the organization of which TDI is today. Here it goes:

“Every organization, however, is created by people for people -- *its members, Board members, staff, and key stakeholders (sister consumer groups, academia, industry, and government)*, etc. Strictly speaking, organizations do not have souls -- only people have souls. A soul is an individual spirit -- the organization has a spirit as well created by the spirit of the individuals in it. It takes its individuality from the people in the organization, its goals, objectives, and purpose. An organization is formed when two or more entities come together for a common purpose. The enterprise is the pursuit of the purpose through the development of a shared vision, goals, objectives, and the development of plans and their implementation. It is the spirit that is embodied in each of these elements and, in particular, the interactions of those that are involved in the organization that will become the unique spirit or soul of

the organization.”¹

I am hoping that after you finish reading this column, you would agree that TDI fits the bill here.

Like the nuts and bolts that hold a TTY together, in 1968 we started with our TTY agents. As the TTYs were back then distributed, they spent many hours installing them, and training individuals and businesses how to use them, and selling TDI memberships. When closed captioning began on television and the TeleCaption decoders came on the market in the 1980s, those dedicated individuals reprised their roles, installing them, and training individuals and businesses how to use them, and selling even more TDI memberships! Today, we have a great group of members and donors who identify themselves very much with TDI’s mission, and yearn to find out from our work on the latest we have in new, emerging technologies and the accessibility that comes with them. Our members and donors are now today, TDI’s nuts and bolts, without them, we won’t have a Board of Directors nor a list of mandates for our advocacy work in the nation’s capital.

TDI thanks those who are past and present Board members, now a total

CAPITOL COMMENTARY Continued on page 5

¹ “The Soul of the Organization,” quoted with permission from WellSpring International Educational Foundation, 1998.
<https://www.virtuesproject.com/Pdf/TheSoulOfTheOrganizationSlidesNotes.pdf>

CAPITOL COMMENTARY Continued from page 4

of over eighty of them, that have voluntarily contributed their talents, expertise, and resources to guide the Association via policies, procedures, and strategic planning during its 52 years. We also salute a total of fifteen Presidents who have led the Board in the last 50 years to make strategic and budgetary decisions for the staff at TDI to conduct the daily operations in the best manner possible.

TDI cannot forget the great work of its staff, around a total of a hundred, who have helped implement TDI's strategic goals. These individuals have been the face of TDI's office operations and advocacy activities. They have given the Executive Directors their full support to produce/deliver quality programs and services to its members and stakeholders.

TDI acknowledges the tremendous amount of work in public policy development for telecommunications, media, and information technology as a collaborative effort between consumers, researchers in academia, professionals from industry, and government regulators. Consumer advocacy groups express a need. Educational research confirms its feasibility. Industry professionals and engineers follow suit seeking to make their products and services more accessible and usable. Government regulators put their stamp of approval by building it into policy.

Although we are consumers and use technology every day, we do not always understand how they work. To gain a better understanding of the evolution to newer and emerging technologies, we turn to technical advisers and subject matter experts. With their unique support, we help Congress, the FCC, DOJ, and other agencies develop inclusive policies and regulations. They help fill in the gaps, and contribute significantly to the credibility of our joint filings with FCC and others. The barriers in analog technologies such as TTYs have given way to increased functionality and quicker access in newer digital counterparts such as Real

Time Text (RTT), the Internet of Things, and Automated Speech Recognition (ASR), etc.

Since 2000, TDI has been fortunate to have pro bono legal services to develop drafts, and to coordinate with our other sister consumer groups, two Rehabilitation Engineering Resource Centers, and a few national and state professional associations to file various documents with the Federal Communications Commission and a few other federal agencies. TDI has received services first from Morgan Lewis and Bockius, LLP since the year 2000, then second from the Institute for Public Representation, Georgetown University (IPR) since 2010, and third from the Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic, University of Colorado—Boulder (TLPC), since 2013. In 2019, we were fortunate to gain a fourth one in Hogan Lovells, who is working with us and our sister consumer groups on a petition with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to allow certification of qualified deaf and hard of hearing candidates to pilot commercial planes.

For fifty two years, TDI has built and maintained positive, working partnerships with sister consumer advocacy organizations, rehabilitation engineering research centers, and trade associations on a range of issues before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other federal agencies. By working with these contacts, TDI was able to submit hundreds and hundreds of filings, estimated to be over 1,300 in the last 23 years to express any one coalition's more inclusive position on a wide range of issues, and sometimes, to propose solutions for the FCC to consider as it makes final regulatory decisions, etc. TDI has been deeply grateful for the diverse input and expertise from our partners "in the trenches", and only with their support, could we possibly submit reliable information on deaf and hard of hearing constituents' needs and issues in telecommunications, media, and information services before the Commission and others.²

Last but not least, we must acknowledge the great work of the Federal Communications Commission for disability access. Since the 1980's, the Commission has had its paper (now electronic) comment filing system for anyone in the public to file comments, petitions, and ex partes on topics that are under its jurisdiction. TDI was fortunate, along with its sister consumer groups and others, to take part in this filing system, as well as to participate in face-to-face meetings individually with the five Commissioners and/or their legal staff on the eighth floor. In the last few years, the Commission has hosted a Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) process for the larger disability community. The DAC provides a means for stakeholders with interests in accessibility issues to exchange ideas, facilitates the participation of consumers with disabilities in proceedings before the Commission, and assists the Commission in educating the greater disability community and others on disability-related matters. With these open avenues of dialogue and information-sharing, we have achieved a greater understanding and rapport with the Commission to build for a better, accessible world for our deaf and hard of hearing Americans. Over the years, the Commission has responded favorably to some of our recommendations with regulatory actions such as in TV captioning, relay services, emergency communication, broadband access, and etc. Our deepest gratitude goes to the FCC!

As the saying goes, "one cannot do the job alone." Only if we continue to function as a team, do we stand to contribute for equal access and opportunity in the future for Americans who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, deafblind, and deaf plus (those who are deaf/hard of hearing and having a second disability). TDI extends its deepest appreciation to "its fellow members on the team" and asks that we stand united, working toward achieving a full inclusive world in the near future with everyone with or without a disability.



Our Quest for Access



BY ERIC KAIKA
Managing Editor

“Please do share your personal stories with us about how TDI has helped you achieve greater access.”



A Community is Strengthened by the Relationships of its People

The deaf and hard of hearing community is fascinating. On the grand stage, it's small in number, yet we occupy all corners in the world. We're scattered across the hearing loss spectrum, yet closely in touch with one another. Our lifestyles, beliefs, and needs are greatly diverse from one another, but we are all connected by a common goal - to have full access in the hearing world.

There are many factors that make a strong community. For instance, promoting fairness and valuing heritage and traditions. Partnerships and economic prosperity is another. Perhaps the most important one is when the community works together towards a common goal, which we've

long been doing together -- equal access.

Another key parameter is having deep and meaningful connections. This is normally done through community activities, volunteer events, meetings, and other ways to meet and greet.

TDI is surrounded by a lot of great talent. The TDI Board, with its diverse backgrounds, education, and hearing loss; the TDI Staff, with its steadfast commitment to accessibility, quality, and resiliency; and the TDI attorney teams with their firm belief in having an accessible and inclusive world by supporting TDI with its endless filings

OUR QUEST FOR ACCESS Continued from page 6

with the FCC, FAA, and DOJ.

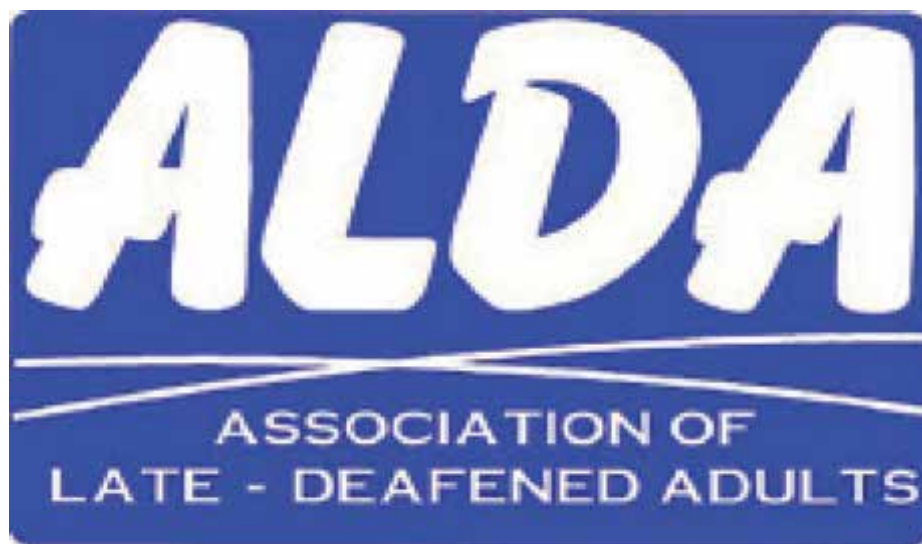
Because it's impossible for us all to come together in one place to meet the full TDI team, we thought of centering this issue around the TDI team. Who are the staff? The Board of Directors? The legal representatives that work for TDI on its filings? We have all that answered in this issue and more.

While we're all constantly trying to push forward policies to advance the interests of all people who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, deafblind and deaf+ (with other disabilities), we want our readers to connect and relate with the TDI board, staff, and attorneys on a personal level. To see who we are and what drives us.

The following articles were built on a list of questions in which each person chose to answer. We tried to

give you a little insight into our lives, and understand the dynamics within TDI. We hope you enjoy reading, and would love to hear from you. Please do share your personal stories with us

about how TDI has helped you achieve greater access. Send us your stories at: PubRel@TDIforAccess.org. Your anecdotes could help us push through more legislation for greater access!



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TDI Staff

The TDI staff is dedicated to shaping America's public policy in telecommunications, media, and information technology to advance the interests of all people who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, deafblind, and deaf+ (with other disabilities).

The staff works closely with its consumers, its attorney teams, and other advocacy organizations to advise industry and the government to ensure all products and services are accessible to all members of the deaf and hard of hearing community.



CLAUDE STOUT

Position with TDI: Executive Director

Company: Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI)

Job Title: Executive Director, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI)

Resident State: North Carolina



Why do you support TDI?

TDI effectively addresses our critical access needs in information and communication. This organization has a specific focus, and doesn't wrestle with a much broader agenda like some other organizations. TDI consistently builds on its partnerships with FCC (via 35 to 70 public policy filings a year and involving its sister consumer groups and academia) and industry that seeks to make its products and services as accessible for all Americans.

Name 3 people, living or deceased, that you would want to have as a dinner guest, briefly explain why.

Winston S. Churchill - he is widely acclaimed as one of the key historical figures in the 20th Century. A wonderful role model in leadership and administration in turbulent times. A great writer and orator. I do not drink whiskey but I will drink some brandy with him.

Frederick Schreiber - the first Executive Director of National Association of the Deaf. I met him a few times. I would give him a progress report on how his vision has worked well for us since he left us in the late 1970's. We are fulfilling one of his greatest dreams called the Mutual Alliance Plan with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network, and also the joint filings with the FCC which we coordinate

with other sister consumer groups and academia.

Dr. Robert H. Weitbrecht - the father of TTY technology. He would be so pleased to get a rundown of all the accomplishments TDI has made in 52 years as well as the emergent technologies that have built on the functionality and benefits with TTYs. He would be thrilled with how his protege Dr. Robert Engelke has continued his work, and lent support to TDI.

What is the greatest accessibility feat since 2000?

This is tough to answer. Three things come to mind - TV captions, 24 hour/7 day relay services, and the Communication and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA). I will have to say the CVAA. Otherwise, we would not experience progress having been made or in the pipeline for areas like access to the Internet, Smart Cities, device connectivity, and autonomous driving.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you'd like to see in the next 5 years?

Another CVAA-type legislation from US Congress to require captioning of all videos on the Internet to include those not previously shown on television, and to fund over 6,800 PSAPS to update their call centers with Next Generation 911 text, video, and/

voice capabilities.

If you were President of the country for an hour, what is the one thing you would change?

Sign an executive order authorizing a national task force/summit to address the immediate future of educational programs (K-12 and post-secondary) for the deaf and hard of hearing to meet the job opportunities in the market in 5, 10, 15, or 20 years from now.

What was the last book you read?

A book titled *John Adams Under Fire: The Founding Father's Fight for Justice in the Boston Massacre Murder Trial*. The book was about Adams as a young lawyer during a time before the American Revolution. He volunteered to represent the British captain and his squadron that took part in the Boston Massacre. He won the case, and his efforts created some foundations of what has been United States law.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Having served for 23 plus years with TDI and to collaborate with sister consumer groups, academia, industry, and government to create a better, accessible world for all (whether one has a disability or not.) Over the years, together we understand and embrace that access is more than accommodations.





ERIC KAIKA

Position with TDI: Staff

Company: TDI

Job Title: Director of Public Relations

Resident State: Maryland

If you have a “disability”, what is it and how did you own it?

I was actually born hearing and became deaf around the age of three for unknown reasons. I come from a deaf family and have a deaf uncle, thus making the migration from hearing to deaf of no significance.

What is the greatest accessibility feat since 2000?

While I have deep appreciation for VRS, and know this continually improves the quality of life for many deaf and hard of hearing people, I believe the current trend that is gaining momentum is access to emergency information.

I remember growing up and seeing signs on the highway saying “tune to 1610 AM for travel information / emergencies” and always felt like we were left out and unaware of any travel incidents ahead. Today we get emergency notifications on our smartphones, we see them on electronic highway signs, and we have interpreters standing next to governors. While we’re still lacking a wide-spread notification system in airports, train stations, and the like,

I’m sure we’ll be seeing these changes in the immediate future.

What’s your favorite accessibility product?

The smartphone. Not only does it allow me to keep in touch with everyone, but the number of apps and other features allows me to create accessibility in places where it wouldn’t be possible.

Having VRS, IP Relay, Speech to Text, GPS, all in the palm of our hand ready to convey information when we need it is truly empowering.

Thirteen years ago, before the smartphone, if our car broke down on the highway, we would be stranded and have to flag down passing drivers for assistance. We didn’t have access to Telephone Relay Service because it was stationary, requiring us to be at home to use it.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My daughter, Ria. With her, I teach her everything I’ve learned, acquired, and watch her learn from her own experiences as well. The ability to

guide an individual and make them a successful member of society, to contribute and elevate our community for lifetimes is truly an amazing experience.

What is your favorite activity? E.g. reading, gardening, travelling, etc -- and why?

Permaculture landscaping. I find that a lot of our questions can be answered in nature. For example, increasing sales revenue is akin to creating more flowers. While I can cultivate each seed, the amount of work to germinate, care and feed 50 seeds is tremendous and you will lose a percentage. Whereas if one cares for one plant, and is successful at it, they can cut back on the bloom thereby creating more blooms. Morale? Take your time cultivating a smaller pool of clients, if they’re happy, they’ll bring you more clients thus reducing the need to do cold calls.

This is just one small example. There are many issues constantly happening in nature, from rainwater flooding, erosion, invasive species, etc. and there’s always an innovative way to solve the problem. Plus it’s really, really therapeutic and relaxing.



TERRY BERRIGAN

Position with TDI: Business Manager

Company: Berrigan's Tax & Bookkeeping Service

Job Title: Owner

Resident State: Maryland



What is your favorite thing about your career?

It has always been my favorite to work in an accounting throughout my career. It is simply because it is fun getting all the numbers organized and posted to the right accounts for the decision makers to rely on to make right financial decisions. That is where my passion lies and that makes it easier for me to get up every morning with energy, looking forward to a productive day. Not only that but it also gives me gratification knowing that whatever I do, it makes a difference, one way or another. That's who I am.

When you were younger (approximate age), what did you want to be when you grew up?

I remembered that moment very well. When I entered fourth grade at the beginning of the new school year, I found myself excited when my teacher explained about the concept of mathematics. I did not realize at that time that this was what I wanted to be when I grew up. It was not until I entered high school, that was when I started to realize what I wanted to be -----either as a chemist or an accountant because it involved the use of numbers and problem solving but was not sure which is which until I enrolled at Gallaudet.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you'd like to see in the next 5 years?

What I would like to see in the next five years is an improvement or better yet, an access to full communication without any obstructions, an interaction amongst all Deaf / Hard Of Hearing and hearing population anywhere, may it be down the street, at the stores or venues using American Sign Language to express thoughts and in turn, receives voice translation into sign language via an application on iPhone.

What's your favorite accessibility product?

My favorite accessibility product, without a question, is Quickbooks, an accounting software. I use it often and it is on iCloud, thanks to the internet. Because of this, I can have full access to it 24/7 regardless of where I am, either at my home office or on the road traveling. That gives me a sense of control to keep up with my workload rather than having to deal with unnecessary stress trying to catch up later. That's what I love about it.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment was twofold: raised four deaf children

I rightfully can be proud of and secondly, after I was laid off from my full-time job, I immediately found a counselor job, working third shift which gave me more time on my hands to ponder what my next move was. With patience and persistence, I made a bold step and started my tax and bookkeeping business and the rest was history. I was in a way grateful that I was laid off because it leads me to where I am now. Otherwise, it probably would not have happened. During that journey, I had an opportunity to expand my accounting experience which I love doing and to meet/work with many wonderful people here and overseas I never thought possible. I will always be thankful for that.

What is your favorite activity? E.g. reading, gardening, travelling, etc -- and why?

My favorite activity is to paint the country red, driving on long trips simply because it gives me a sense of independence to roam around to see what's what out there. To meet interesting people and the challenge to "expect the unexpected" makes it more meaningful. Two of my favorite trip highlights were to travel solo on a backpack around Europe and road tripped there again with my whole family.



Attorney Teams

The TDI Attorney teams are representatives from four national law firms, Morgan Lewis, the University of Colorado: Samuelson-Gushko Law Clinic, Georgetown Law: Institute of Public Representation, and Hogan Lovells.

These firms and their representatives work with TDI on a pro-bono basis, assisting TDI on varying matters, with more focus on TDI's filings with the Federal Communications Commission.



TAMAR FINN

Position with TDI: Counsel for TDI

Company: Morgan Lewis

Job Title: Partner

Resident State: Washington, DC



Why do you support TDI?

I am proud to lead the team of Morgan Lewis lawyers providing pro bono legal services to TDI. The policy advocacy we do with TDI before the FCC is a perfect fit for the regulatory aspects of our Telecommunications, Media and Technology (TMT) practice. Since the late 1990s, the TMT team now at Morgan Lewis has used its unique expertise to work with TDI to shape communications policy and achieve regulatory results that benefit the community. TDI is a passionate advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing's civil right to have access to communications services. TDI is highly respected at the FCC and within the deaf community as a leading advocacy organization that drives consensus and offers sage advice on communications policy, its impact on the community, and how to achieve results. Morgan Lewis values our long relationship with TDI and is committed to providing legal services to nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations whose mission is to serve vulnerable individuals and

communities.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

I enjoy working with clients to apply law and policy to meet their business needs. My career gives me the opportunity to learn about new and emerging technology and communications networks, counsel clients on how law and regulations impact their operations, and advocate changes in law and policy to implement their strategic business goals in the rapidly converging communications, media, and technology fields.

When you were younger (approximate age), what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was in high school, I wanted to be a lawyer. I took a business law class at a nearby college during my senior year and was on my high school mock trial team. I made a good career choice because I love the work that I do and the clients and colleagues I work with at Morgan Lewis.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you'd like to see in the next five years?

I hope that Moore's Law will one day result in personal technology that enables every individual with accessibility challenges to communicate one-on-one, in person or remotely, directly with whomever they choose.

Editor's note: Moore's Law refers to Moore's perception that the number of transistors on a microchip doubles every two years, though the cost of computers is halved. Moore's Law states that we can expect the speed and capability of our computers to increase every couple of years, and we will pay less for them. Another tenet of Moore's Law asserts that this growth is exponential.

What is your favorite activity (e.g., reading, gardening, traveling) and why?

One of my favorite activities is yoga. Yoga clears my mind, erases the tension that builds up from working at a computer all day, and is good physical exercise.





BLAKE REID

Position with TDI: Counsel for TDI

Company: Colorado Law

Job Title: Associate Clinical Professor

Resident State: Colorado

Why do you support TDI?

I have been proud to support TDI as pro bono counsel for nearly a decade. TDI was my first client in my first lawyering job out of law school when I served as a teaching fellow for the Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown Law, and I have been lucky to be a part of TDI's leading advocacy efforts at the FCC for telecommunications access along with a variety of other organizations as I transitioned to leading the Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic at Georgetown Law. Being part of TDI's work has given my students and me the opportunity to help make a difference in the world.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

I am a clinical law school professor, which means that I get to teach student attorneys who are working on real cases for real clients, including TDI. Working with my students to understand the challenges facing telecommunications accessibility and work with TDI and other consumer organizations and accessibility researchers to brainstorm and implement solutions is incredibly challenging, rewarding, and interesting.

When you were younger (approximate age), what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was younger, I always swore I would never be either a computer

scientist (like my dad was) or a lawyer (like my mom was). Somehow, here I am 30-some years later with computer science and law degrees working on technology law and policy!

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you'd like to see in the next 5 years?

Answering these questions together: I think that the development of the Internet and the applications that ride atop it have both advanced accessibility in lots of amazing and profound ways, and created just as many new and additional accessibility challenges. Both the transformative potential for the Internet and the ability it possesses to impose new barriers to access for people with disabilities make it simultaneously the most profoundly important accessibility development and challenge, probably for the next several decades.

If you were President of the country for an hour, what is the one thing you would change?

If I only had an hour, I would order the Department of Justice to resume its rulemaking to establish standards for 911 public safety answering points to be able to answer calls via accessible means and urge Congress to appropriate funding to make sure states and other jurisdictions can upgrade their equipment to facilitate seamless receipt of video calling from signers and other multimodal communication.

The lack of access to 911 for people who are deaf or hard of hearing is one of the most serious shortcomings in our system and one that the DOJ has the unique ability to oversee.

What was the last book you read?

The last book I read for my clinic seminar with my students was *The Dark Net* by Jamie Bartlett, which chronicles some of the terrible and surprising things that occur in the underbelly of the Internet. It underscores both the tremendous potential for the Internet to connect people and to result in unchecked harm when people believe they can behave without consequence or oversight.

What's your favorite accessibility product?

My favorite accessibility technology is closed captions! Working on closed captioning law and policy has given me lots of reasons to experiment with the user interfaces for turning them on and observe how they work, but I have come to appreciate them personally over the years as I get older and my hearing declines and as I have older family members who use and appreciate them. The equal access to video programming they provide for viewers who are deaf or hard of hearing is also valuable for anyone else who watches video programming, and it's been amazing to see how they have expanded over the past decade as video has migrated to the Internet.



LAURA MOY

Position with TDI: Counsel for TDI

Company: Georgetown Law's Communications & Technology Law Clinic

Job Title: Associate Director

Resident State: Washington, DC



Professor Laura Moy is the Director of Georgetown Law's Communications & Technology Law Clinic, where she and a team of staff attorneys and law students represent nonprofit organizations in a range of technology policy matters before federal agencies. She is also Associate Director of the Center on Privacy & Technology, a small think tank at the law school that conducts research and advocacy on issues at the intersection of technology and civil rights.

As a policy expert, Professor Moy has written, spoken, and advocated before agencies and Congress on consumer privacy, law enforcement surveillance, data security, device

portability, copyright, and net neutrality. Her current research interests include how technology tools are used in the criminal legal system, and how consumer privacy protections may be leveraged to ensure private information is not used in ways that perpetuate and exacerbate discrimination and other societal ills.

Prior to coming to Georgetown, Professor Moy worked on technology policy issues at New America and Public Knowledge. She completed her B.A. at the University of Maryland, her J.D. at New York University School of Law, and her LL.M. at Georgetown.

Editor's note: New America is a kind

of think tank: one dedicated to public problem solving. It has a team of visionary researchers, changemakers, technologists, and storytellers who study and seize the opportunities presented by dramatic social and technological change. They search for powerful ideas, and collaborate with civic innovators around the country to develop evidence-based solutions.

Public Knowledge promotes freedom of expression, an open internet, and access to affordable communications tools and creative works. With attention to copyright, telecommunications, and internet law, they work to shape policy on behalf of the public interest.



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MATTHEW CLARK

Position with TDI: Counsel for TDI

Company: Hogan Lovells US LLP

Job Title: Senior Associate

Resident State: Virginia

What is your favorite thing about your career?

As an attorney in our firm's aviation practice group, I have the opportunity to work with a lot of very talented clients that are developing innovative technologies that will help shape the future of aviation in the U.S. and around the world. In particular, a large part of my practice involves working with unmanned aircraft systems (UAS or drones), manufacturers and commercial operators. I believe that UAS are the new jet age and that they will fundamentally transform our National Airspace System in a way that brings significant safety and economic benefits to the American people.

While my practice is technically regulatory (FAA, DOT, etc.) in nature, I often feel like a policy lawyer. A lot of the companies that I work with are doing new and innovative things that have never been done before. My job is to help innovative companies collaborate with regulators to enable new ways to safely deploy new technology. The existing regulatory framework never contemplated a lot of the new technology we are seeing today and this requires industry and regulators (like the FAA) to collaborate on policy and procedures to enable the

safe deployment of new technology. With rapid advancements in new technology, we are living in exciting and dynamic times, and I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work with a lot of amazing clients that are shaping the future of aviation in our country and around the world.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you'd like to see in the next 5 years?

The FAA is currently in the process of rolling out its Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) initiative to modernize our National Airspace System. Part of this NextGen initiative involves the deployment of Data Communications (Data Comm) technology. Data Comm will provide a digital link between ground automation and flight deck avionics for safety-of-flight air traffic control clearances, instructions, traffic flow management, flight crew requests and reports. By moving away from traditional verbal communications between pilots and air traffic control (ATC), Data Comm has the potential to significantly benefit pilots who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Pilots who are deaf and hard of hearing are allowed to fly aircraft if

they possess a second- or third-class airman medical certificate and have successfully taken a Special Medical Flight Test, however an operational restriction is placed on his/her pilot's license that restricts the pilot from flying into airspace requiring radio communication. This radio use restriction significantly limits the commercial flying opportunities for pilots who are deaf and hard of hearing. Data Comm has the potential to reopen the career field of commercial piloting for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, by allowing them to communicate with ATC on commercial flights without needing to use the radio.

What is your favorite activity? E.g. reading, gardening, travelling, etc -- and why?

I enjoy woodworking. As an attorney, you can spend a lot of time working on an activity, and in the end, the work product is typically a document. With woodworking, the end product is something physical that reflects the time and energy that went into making it. To me there is something satisfying about having a tangible end product that you can hold and touch, rather than simply an electronic document.





Individual Membership Application Form

As a TDI Member, you will automatically receive a copy of the Blue Book, our quarterly TDI World, and e-Notes. You can opt-out of any of these subscriptions at anytime, just let us know by emailing: PubRel@TDIforAccess.org

Save time and postage! Renew online: TDIforAccess.org/eMembership

Bold indicates *required* information.

Name (first, middle, last): _____

Mailing Address:

(street) (city) (state) (zip code)

Email Address: _____ **Fax:** _____

Home Phone: Web:

Mobile Phone: Birthdate:

Alternate Phone: _____

Check items you permit to be listed in the TDI Blue Book

- ☐ Name
 ☐ Home Phone
 ☐ Fax
☐ Mailing Address
 ☐ Mobile Phone
 ☐ Website
☐ Email Address
 ☐ Alt. Phone
☐ *Unlisted (Name, Address, etc. will not be published)*



Membership fees	1-Year	2-Year	Lifetime
Regular:	\$40	\$75	\$1000
Senior Citizen (60+) birthdate field required	\$30	\$55	\$1000

Membership fee: \$

Donation (optional) \$

TOTAL	\$	
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Donations to TDI are Tax-Deductible Contributions (#35-1146784). You will receive a formal letter at the end of the year totaling your contributions.

Credit card number: _____ Expiration: _____

If paying by check, make payable to: **TDI** (bounced checks will incur \$35 fee)

Mail form & payment to: **TDI, P.O. Box 8009, Silver Spring, MD, 20907**

Thank you for supporting TDI !

TDI Board of Directors

The Board is responsible for oversight of TDI's Staff and its daily operations, ensuring sound governance and fiscal management. The Board meets at least twice a year to review TDI's yearly performance, advise TDI staff on critical matters, and support TDI's biennial conference and TDI Awards.

The Board is made up of two types of representations. One being those elected by their regional members (Northeast, Southeast, Central, Midwest, and West). The other being At-Large members, which are appointed by the elected board members and do not need to be from a specific region.



JAN WITHERS

Position with TDI: President and Southeast Region Representative, Board of Directors

Company: North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Job Title: Director

Resident State: North Carolina



Why do you support TDI?

I support TDI because when D/HH/DB/D+ individuals have the right knowledge and tools and our society is structured to be free of barriers, boy, see us go! The sky is the limit! And the world can truly see us for the amazing community we are. This ultimately is what TDI strives for.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

My career with the North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has given me a wealth of opportunities to meet and work with so many extraordinary, talented, and passionate individuals who share with me the vision for a fully accessible world.

If you have a “disability”, what is it and how did you own it?

I was born profoundly deaf and raised orally. I did not learn to sign until after college. When I finally entered the Deaf world, I learned what it means to be “at home” and truly connected with

others. There is no greater power than to recognize and celebrate who you really are. From that point on in my career and life, I’ve made it a focus to serve others so that they could achieve the same sense of groundedness and connectedness in their lives as D/HH/DB/D+ individuals.

What is the greatest accessibility feat since 2000?

The passage of the 21st Century Communication and Video Accessibility Act.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you’d like to see in the next 5 years?

Two things: 1) I would like corporations, entrepreneurs, government, politicians, as well as everyday folks to “get” what full accessibility looks like and how to ensure it as a matter of routine in all aspects of society, and 2) I would like all D/HH/DB/D+ individuals to possess the in-depth understanding of what it means to have full access and

the skills and confidence to achieve it in all aspects of their daily lives.

What was the last book you read?

Educated by Tara Westover

What’s your favorite accessibility product?

I don’t have any one favorite accessibility product because they are constantly evolving. I would say my favorite “product” is the ideas coming out of the inventive minds of our community.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

The fruitful and rewarding relationships I have developed with numerous amazing partners in the quest for full accessibility and in the celebration of who we are as D/HH/DB/Deaf+ people.

What is your favorite activity?

Hiking in nature - because it never fails to inspire, revive, calm, and strengthen me.





JOHN KINSTLER

Position with TDI: Vice President and Central Region Representative

Company: CapTel

Job Title: Outreach Marketing Manager

Resident State: Wisconsin

Why do you support TDI?

Having worked in the telecommunication industry for over 25 years, I've seen how rapidly technology has boomed. TDI has been instrumental in ensuring that technology is accessible for deaf and hard of hearing consumers. So all my life, having a hearing loss and going through the obstacles of not having equal access to communication and various technologies has affected me. With that being said, I am glad to support TDI so together we can tackle these issues.

If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be, why?

Teleportation. Because it would cut down on my travel time and I could travel a lot. I could accomplish my mission faster.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

I am fortunate to witness and work for a company that provides cutting-edge telecommunication technology for people with hearing loss and seeing how it changed their lives. Also to serve for an organization that ensures policy in telecommunications, media and information technology, both would be the best part of my job.

If you have a "disability", what is it and how did you own it?

I was born profoundly deaf, raised orally and learned ASL at the age of eighteen. Having been mainstreamed in hearing classes and interacted with hearing peers most of my life there

were some pros and some cons. The pros would be that I've learned how to interact and "be" in the hearing world. The con would be that it was challenging because there were obstacles, bouts with discrimination and ignorance. Having gone through that has made me a stronger person. On the other hand, I've enriched myself in the Deaf world, learned ASL and discovered my 'deaf' identity. Having both worlds, the hearing and the Deaf, has given me a better understanding of the both and the drive to ensure functional equivalence when it comes to inaccessibility.

When you were younger (approximate age), what did you want to be when you grew up?

I remember when I was about 7 years old that I wanted to be Santa Claus because he gets to fly across the world in a sleigh, he had elves and made everyone happy. Then I discovered the cartoon character, "Daffy Duck" whom I thought was deaf hence the word "Daffy" and I thought it was "Deafy". That would mean I would be the same as him. Then when I found out he wasn't deaf I shifted to the "Road Runner" because he always says "Beep, Beep" like my hearing aids did. As I got older I found out that Lou Ferrigno who played the "Hulk" was deaf too so I wanted to be like him. I stopped following him because lifting weights was too heavy.

What is the greatest accessibility feat since 2000?

Actually there are two, the captioned telephone and the videophone. With captioned telephone it allowed many of the hard of hearing people to feel connected to the world by hearing and reading the captions. And for the

Deaf community, the videophone and VRS service. Both steered the deaf away from the TTY years to a better communication vessel to communicate in their own natural language.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you'd like to see in the next 5 years?

I would like to see a product that will help alleviate communication barriers between two people. A simple easy-to-use device that will caption all audible messages everywhere, a product that will decipher visual sign language into voice.

I would love to see a hologram video phone and VRS service.

All public transit places, restaurants, performing arts, churches, movie theatres, live streaming on social media, TV, and information technologies, all need to be communication-accessible with captions, T-coil looped and with certified ASL Interpreters. It's common sense and dire necessity.

If you were President of the country for an hour, what is the one thing you would change?

I would declare that all places to be ADA compliant! No matter the cost, nor the disability, every place must be accessible. Telecoil, Captions and interpreters will be required on all media (live streaming on social media, gaming, tv, etc.), public venues (performing arts, classrooms, public transit places - air, land and sea). All drive-throughs at fast food places are to be accessible for non-verbal customers. All of these should have been in place when ADA Law came about. Some changes have been made but they are too few and too slow for me.

MARK SEEGER

Position with TDI: Secretary and Midwest Region Representative

Company: TDI

Job Title: Retired Telecom Manager (Sprint, CSD)

Resident State: Texas



Why do you support TDI?

TDI was instrumental in the deployment of TTYs when my parents, who were Deaf, began using them in Texas. *The Blue Book Directory* was an important source of key information and contacts that enabled my family to have better access to resources, tools, and people that enabled participation in social, educational, business, medical and governmental aspects of life. I witnessed first hand how the connections that TDI enabled made a huge difference in the lives of people who were Deaf and Hard of Hearing through the sharing of advocacy specifically when it came to establishing TTY based Relay Services nationwide. Without the expertise of TDI, many aspects of Title IV of the ADA would not have been possible, not to mention CVAA and the subsequent follow along pieces of legislation that have furthered communication access for all.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

My careers at Sprint and at the Texas Commission for the Deaf, Sprint and CSD were something that I feel so honored to have been a part of. My initial years of advocacy at the Texas Commission for the Deaf allowed for me to learn first hand how working as an ally along with leaders from the Deaf Community could create a sea change in policy that shaped how we live. As a result of the hard work of many consumers, Texas was able to pass Relay legislation enabling 24/7/365 relay services prior to the passage of

ADA (along with California, New York, Alabama, Connecticut and a few other states). Much of the grassroots efforts that lead these small statewide victories created the template upon which ADA was written. I'm proud to have been able to work alongside so many of the pioneers in my field at Sprint (TRS/CapTel) and at CSD (VRS) as these services were taking off in their infancy and being able to witness what they turned into as the services matured.

When you were younger (approximate age), what did you want to be when you grew up?

From the first time we got a phone in our home (7 years old), I knew I wanted to work somehow, someday, with the phone industry. The whole notion of how the phone worked, its capabilities to connect people, and the barriers that were being overcome with the advent of TTYs fascinated me. I still remember our first phone number (512) 444-3775. When TTYs became electronic, it was even more intriguing, I loved learning all the features of the newer TTYs, memory capabilities, and answering machine capabilities were so cool! And how the size shrunk from large (Green Monster) to very compact (Ultratec Compact Phone) was so fascinating, and sexy (different color keyboards)!

Name 3 people, living or deceased, that you would want to have as a dinner guest, briefly explain why.

Three women in my life that were

incredible mentors to me, all CODAs and all Sign Language Interpreters that volunteered most of their careers - 1) Elizabeth Criswell (Dallas, Texas), 2) Fran Herrington-Borre (Austin, Texas) and 3) Lucille Koehl (Baytown, Texas). These ladies modeled for me the passion of being contributing members of the Deaf Community. Each of these ladies contributed greatly to the communities they lived in. Elizabeth established one of the largest Deaf Non-Profit Service Agencies in the nation - the Dallas Deaf Action Center - which continues as a large multi-million dollar non-profit. Fran was a tireless advocate constantly working with State Deaf Leaders in Austin as a volunteer interpreter at meetings with the Governor Ann Richards, Mayor, Legislators, President LBJ, County Commissioners and so many other influential politicians who helped enact Deaf centric legislation that promoted greater communication access. And, Lucille, who was the founder of the Board for Evaluation (BEI) of Interpreters in Texas, one of the premier certification systems that has survived the test of time as a valid, reliable, and envied test of many states and the nation. Lucille's efforts, all volunteer, in the early days of the BEI giving countless hours of her time to develop, use, rate, and score interpreter evaluations across Texas will never be forgotten.



CASSANDRA M BORYSLAWSKYJ

Position with TDI: Treasurer and Northeast Region Representative

Company: ZP Better Together, LLC

Job Title: Account Manager

Resident State: Connecticut

Why do you support TDI?

I recall my childhood frustrations with technology, my peers, family and friends repeatedly saying I “cannot” do things like making calls, listening to radio, or understanding TV programs.

I was compelled to make calls at payphone booths whenever I went out to the streets with my peers, siblings and friends to let my parents know where I was no matter, and even several trips to out of state events. I did not know whether my parents could hear me or did not have any idea that the pay phone worked. I was trained over and over on how to dial and count seconds in order to make it work and speak. Over some years it worked good enough until I decided not to do it anymore when in college.

When I learned about TDI at its 1995 biennial conference in Boston, I was very enthusiastic because it was about time to see the deaf community getting involved in the early era of technological movement. After being inspired by meeting some people at the TDI conference I decided to jump into the tech education and bought my very first IBM personal computer with 256 KB which cost more than \$2000. I also purchased a TV caption decoder.

Thanks to TDI, technology opened the doors to everyone with or without disabilities to access products we desire to stay close to the world in order to understand every word and be able to

be a part of the society. As I witnessed TDI’s participation and my involvement too in the tech committee with the NAD during the rapid pace of technological change, I am glad to be a part of TDI to stay ahead to ensure the rights of the deaf community’s being involved in the tech world.

If you have a “disability”, what is it and how did you own it?

At first, I did not think I have a disability. However, I did not know about it until when I was transferred to public school. Among hearing students in classes I learned that by their views I was disabled due to communication barriers. Funny they did not say it in front of me but whispered behind my back that I was.

After a while I had struggled with my disability identity, I understand that I am deaf and would rather communicate in ASL rather than oralism. As I grew up in oral school, I had struggled with speech therapy almost every day.

I decided to study ASL by taking over 18 courses to learn about the linguistics of English vs. ASL as I realized in public school all students are required to take English while deaf students do not take ASL courses. I believe that all schools’ deaf students should be encouraged to take ASL classes similar to students with English.

Today I accept gladly that I am deaf and communicate in ASL fluently.

When you were younger (approximate age), what did you want to be when you grew up?

I thought I wanted to be an author because I wanted to tell the world about the life experiences of being deaf, frustrations and misunderstandings, etc. In addition, I loved to write science fiction stories. During breaks, bedtimes and camping I loved telling about history, ghosts, and many mysteries. I always believed sharing information was important and some people like myself might miss an opportunity to learn about it due to lack of access.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you’d like to see in the next 5 years?

Tech ownership should be shared rather than owned like car technology, airplane or sailing. Now it is Airbnb that enables everyone to share their homes. Car technology is in progress by Google but hopefully the voice will be accessible. We will be able to use a different car model to commute to work, and travel.

Open airplanes may be a nice idea to enable some people to use private planes to travel. Mind power is next like speech recognition technology, but will it be accessible? What about mind-controlled technology? Or a wireless transmitter? I believe the brain computer interfaces will be universal like for example, say,

JIM HOUSE

Position with TDI: Northwest Region Representative

Company: Washington State Independent Living Council

Job Title: Disability Integration Manager for Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning

Resident State: Washington



Why do you support TDI?

I have always been fascinated with the possibilities that technology brings. I guess it started when I was digging through my grandpa's stack of old Popular Mechanic and Popular Science magazines from the 50's and 60's. In those magazines were a lot of articles and stories about what our world would be like 50 years into the future. While many of those visions did not come to pass, I have witnessed TDI's good work over the years in creating a path toward an accessible world through better communications and information technology.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

The opportunities to make this world a better place is at the heart of my career. My dream job was during my 15-year tenure as the Public Relations Director at TDI where I witnessed and took part in shaping an accessible world through access to information and communications. Since I moved back to the West Coast

in 2013 after receiving the Robert H. Weitbrecht Award from TDI, I initiated an ordinance in Portland, Tacoma and other cities to require businesses to display captions on public televisions in their premises. Currently, I manage the Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning for Washington State Independent Living Council that advises state and local emergency management agencies on removing communication barriers and other types of barriers for people with disabilities in Washington State and across the nation.

If you have a "disability", what is it and how did you own it?

I was born as a hard of hearing person and functioned in the hearing world up until when I became a teenager in the 70's. My hearing declined to the point where I could no longer use the telephone. At that time I began to learn sign language and received my first TTY. This was my introduction to TDI, although at the time I had no idea I would be a major part of its

work beginning in 1998 to now.

If you were President of the country for an hour, what is the one thing you would change?

In these uncertain times, access to information is vital to our survival. I would make an executive order requiring all press conferences at the federal level to include captioning, audio description, and ASL interpreters. Most state governors are doing a much better job than the White House.

What's your favorite accessibility product?

Closed captioning is the world's best equalizer. In 40 years, captioning has brought us together on television, online videos, movies, DVDs, and more. However, the quality of captioning has suffered over the years as more producers seek to cut costs and turn to automation which leaves us further behind with garbled text that can be worse than no access at all.



TINA CHILDRESS, AU.D., CCC-A

Position with TDI: Member At-Large, Board of Directors

Company: See Hear Communication Matters / CASE Audiology / Illinois School for the Deaf

Job Title: Educational Audiologist

Resident State: Illinois

Why do you support TDI?

TDI is an organization that supports the ideals that I also support - access, technology and advocating for all groups that are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, including late-deafened, DeafBlind and Deaf with Additional Disabilities. I welcome the opportunity to help make systemic changes on a variety of issues.

If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be, why?

Clever chameleon - I can assimilate to many different environments (e.g., deaf, hard of hearing, hearing, American, Asian, Hispanic) and situations because of my hearing to deaf background and use my intelligence and abstract thinking to not only problem-solve but to save others in similar situations. I love the fact that superheroes often have a "normal" persona so for me, that would be a mild, mannered Filipina-American audiologist who knows ears and hearing but also knows how to turn technologies into tools for our superhero toolbelt.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

I love the fact that I get to help people that are just like me - a person with hearing loss. When I talk to hearing health care and education professionals, my goal is to help them see the point-of-view of the consumers that they are

serving. When I talk to my peers and parents of children with hearing loss, my goal is to educate, advocate and oftentimes, translate, the jargon and technologies that are a part of our world. Helping people understand how to use technologies and advocacy strategies to better communicate with their friends, families and significant others is my passion. I also am grateful that I am tech savvy and can figure out how to share this information to make the most impact.

If you have a "disability", what is it and how did you own it?

I like to refer to myself as "hearing fluid" - depending on how I am functioning in different situations. When I'm with my Deaf friends communicating in ASL, then I'm Deaf. When I take my cochlear implants off at the beach and have to write notes back and forth with my hearing friends, I'm deaf. When I'm in noisy situations struggling to communicate, I'm hard of hearing. When I'm in a quiet-ish environment speaking with only a few people, I'm more hearing.

For general purposes, I consider myself a late-deafened, ASL-fluent adult with bilateral cochlear implants.

When you were younger (approximate age), what did you want to be when you grew up?

I grew up with normal hearing and did not become deaf until I was age 29 (after I had already become an audiologist -

the irony!). I do remember taking my high school future career questionnaire. Based on my responses, I should have been a DJ...or a funeral director. I'm glad I didn't follow that advice.

What is the greatest accessibility feat since 2000?

The development of captioning technologies for phone use, personal viewing (e.g., television) and group viewing (e.g., movies). We can now caption phone calls and media as well as use speech-to-text technologies on this device that we can fit in our pockets and purposes. We can (usually) enjoy streaming channels and live broadcasts in the comfort of our own homes due to captioning on our televisions (though admittedly, there is still room for improvement). We can now enjoy going to movie theaters with friends and family and understand what's happening on the screen. This is another area that has room for improvement - on-demand open captioning would be an ideal solution.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you'd like to see in the next 5 years?

I'd love to see improved outreach in order to reach people who do not know what's available or how to use technology that is available. What good is technology if no one knows it's available or how to use it?

MEI KENNEDY, PHD

Position with TDI: Member At-Large, Board of Directors

Job Title: Consultant

Resident State: Texas



Mei currently resides in Austin, Texas with her husband who is also deaf and a Professor, and two hearing boys. I am a parent, and an advocate, of a hearing son with autism.

Why do you support TDI?

I first learned about TDI's work through my father who was actively involved in various organizations. His motto has always been that "your quality of life depends on the quality of communication". I agree. Proud to be able to support the effort to enhance communication accessibility for our community.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

My interest lies in instructional design, enhancing the interactivity and accessibility of online learning, designing with deaf eyes. The spatial view online, in my opinion in a way parallels DeafSpace work that is being done at Gallaudet University. With the current climate it will be quite an interesting time as we shift online.

What I enjoy the most about my career is the ability to be self-directed, the autonomy to complete tasks on my own schedule and to choose the projects to be involved with.

If you have a "disability", what is it and how did you own it?

Born Deaf into a Deaf family. I am currently involved with CSD-Learns promoting more Deaf role models which made me realize that I grew up around so many Deaf adults who molded me into the way I am. I really am lucky. Looking back, it seems as if I grew up in Deaf Shangri-La, not feeling disabled growing up.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you'd like to see in the next 5 years?

As technology changes rapidly, we need to ensure that any auditory-based technology has alternative equivalency for our community. Thus the need to continue pushing for high quality captioning is crucial.

What was the last book you read?

I am currently reading *The Sun Sister* (book 6 of Seven Sisters series) by Lucinda Riley. Truly enthralled by her storytelling as each of the female characters shared their journey finding who they are, metaphorically and literally. #whoispasalt.

What's your favorite accessibility product?

Captioning, because it plays a huge part of my daily life. I am truly appreciative of the law, and the community and organizations pushing the requirement to be up to par.

What is your favorite activity? E.g. reading, gardening, travelling, etc -- and why?

My family enjoys traveling, for we feel that it is the best way to learn and create memories. "Travel is like a knowledge, the more you see, the more you know you haven't seen" - Mark Hertsgaard.



MATT MYRICK

Position with TDI: Member At-Large, Board of Directors

Company: AT&T

Job Title: Lead Accessibility Solutions Engineer

Resident State: California

Why do you support TDI?

I personally believe in the dedication and mission that TDI portrays and advocates. As a person with hearing loss, I am able to contribute to TDI's mission and continue to support the organization that has been around for 30+ years advocating for deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, deafBlind and hearing individuals have equal access to telecommunications and video accessibility. For the past fifteen years, I have been working for a telecom and entertainment company in providing accessibility for consumers that rely on essential communication needs and the level of knowledge goes hand in hand with the support I am able to give back to the community that I support.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

Working for the largest telecommunications company in the world; I've had the privilege of working in different areas of the business. Accessibility is one passion of mine because technology allows us all to defeat those common denominators. Throughout my fifteen years with AT&T I have worked in the areas of telecommunications relay services – providing services for the hearing loss consumers and currently with the corporate accessibility technology office allows me to work within the company to improve accessibility for our consumers and support the

company's transformation from copper line to an all-digital platform. One milestone during my time working with AT&T is identifying ways to digitize the aging TTY relay services from building and demonstrating the analog-to-digital compatibility Real-Time Text solution. This meant having to build a reliable solution for the voice core network to support the baudot tones (TTY tones) through the network not to interfere with the tones and latency. This was demonstrated to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and the FCC supported this industry change which resulted in a successful two way compatibility between analog and digital.

If you have a “disability”, what is it and how did you own it?

Personally, I have a hearing loss since I was born. My parents both worked hard to make sure I had the best level of support and resources possible and my parents made that happen and while all that happened, I learned from my own experience and understanding my own hearing loss by utilizing sign language, using the best technology that was available to me during the time. Throughout my life I've used the TTY (text teletypewriter), VAX (email), beepers (wireless notification), Wyndtel (wireless device), PDA (personal digital assistant), Blackberry to smartphone devices... and all these helped me to stay engaged with society

and allowed me to be connected to my world. Furthermore, as technology advances so did the hearing aids. Probably my biggest obstacle was my being able to transition from analog to digital hearing aids; which took some time to adapt and this allowed me to truly enjoy and benefit from my hearing aids that are Bluetooth enabled using my smartphone and stream directly to my hearing aids (Resound Enzo 3D 9 Series – thank you!). This revolutionized the way I am able to own my own disability and aiding my disability to ability. You have to find ways that work for you and own it.

What is your favorite activity?

It's been almost one year since I moved to Southern California and I have been enjoying all the great outdoors whether that's riding my mountain bike, camping, fishing, swimming or hitting the beach with my family and friends. I love culinary foods, Brazilian BBQ, traveling, fixing things and being under the sun! I enjoy learning new things and recently I've been intrigued with learning about data analytics and problem solving skills which is similar to the work I do today as an accessibility solutions engineer. This fascinates me because there is so much information about data analytics and the industry moves fast producing 2.3 trillion gigabytes of data every day. Data can be used in ways that can help change the way we do things in this world. It's Big Data!



DR. OPEOLUWA SOTONWA

Position with TDI: Member At-Large, Board of Directors

Company: Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Job Title: Executive Director

Resident State: Missouri



Why do you support TDI?

TDI has been at the forefront of fighting for technological revolutionary change for Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Americans for the last 50 years. I support TDI because there is still so much to be done in preparing telecommunication access for next-generational change, be it 911 accessibility, information technology, telemedicine, self-driving cars, and accessible rider support, just to name but a few. I think TDI is uniquely equipped and strategically positioned to take the lead for these important endeavors and I will give my unflinching support for the realizations of TDI's goals.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

I am passionate about my career. My goal is to approach my role with an attitude of servant leadership; this means that I always intend for my work to benefit others. State government is the perfect place to use this approach because we work for the people of Missouri. I love researching and drafting legislative mandates and initiatives to establish disability rights at state and national levels. I enjoy working collaboratively with many organizations that share my thirst for access and inclusion as well as representing and publishing the issues affecting our community. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing the

fruits of my labor come to life. Learning about how my work gives people access to things others takes for granted keeps me motivated to give my all every day.

If you have a “disability,” what is it and how did you own it?

I am Deaf. I lost my hearing at age 16 when I contracted spinal meningitis, which was a big adjustment for my family and me. Growing up in Nigeria—a country that had no rights afforded to people with disabilities at the time—I did not have the tools I needed to succeed. People believed an evil spirit caused my deafness. Then, one bright morning, I was standing in front of our house when two Deaf people walked by, flinging their hands into the air and laughing. I could see they were very happy and shared a common language. I was mesmerized and set about learning all I could about sign language and Deaf Culture. I knew that with access to language and communication, I could reach my full potential and make a difference.

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was younger and hearing, I wanted to be a polyglot or multi-lingua interpreter. I grew up speaking eight different languages and served as a translator at church services by the time I was 10 years old. This dream of mine was shattered when I lost my hearing. It wasn't until I saw sign language for the first time that I knew

my passion for language still had a purpose. Now I know 10 languages: eight spoken/written and two signed.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you would like to see in the next five years?

I know it is a tall order, but I would like to see self-driving cars in the next five years. Access to autonomous transportation will be revolutionary in general, but particularly important for DeafBlind individuals and others with visual impairments. Transportation without having to rely on others to provide it will unlock unprecedented opportunities.

If you were President of the country for an hour, what is the one thing you would change?

I would issue an Executive Order that would expand requirements for accessibility at all levels. While the Americans with Disabilities Act was a grand step toward equal access, we have seen relatively few requirements enacted since. Nearly 30 years later, further progress toward securing rights to equal access is long overdue.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

The thing I am most proud of is being a father to my three precocious sons. There is nothing more than raising the

SEEGER Continued from page 21

What is the greatest accessibility feat since 2000?

For me, the maturity of VRS. While started in Texas by the father of VRS, Ed Bosson in 1994, we knew through trials in Texas, North Carolina and Arizona that it was possible. However, it wasn't until statewide services in Texas and Washington State utilizing the internet and a netscape browser connecting to the first VRS call center that was a group of local Video Interpreters housed in the garage of an interpreter agency's home here in Austin (HanWave), that we really saw the potential for individual (rather than institutional) use of VRS. Many of the early platforms used expensive high speed, ISDN, T-1 or DSL connectivity, which was very expensive and therefore limiting. When high speed internet connections (mostly cable) became more commonplace, and the advent of D-Link, and of course the huge impact of the Sorenson VP with its directory capabilities for ease of use for calling point to point.

What is the biggest accessibility improvement you'd like to see in the

next 5 years?

Seamlessly integrated phones that support simultaneous video and captioning on wireless devices.

What was the last book you read?

Goodbye things.

What's your favorite accessibility product?

FaceTime.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Relay Texas.

What is your favorite activity? E.g. reading, gardening, travelling, etc -- and why?

Traveling, because it is humbling to learn and remind ourselves about how small and insignificant we really are in the larger picture. This happens often when we learn more about the history of the world and the many cultures that have created the environment we live in today.



CHILDRESS Continued from page 24

What's your favorite accessibility product?

My cellphone - there are very few things I cannot do with it, especially when it comes to accessibility options like speech-to-text, regular texting, emailing, videoconferencing, etc. I also use it as an alarm, a place to keep notes, find information, share information as well as relax with entertainment.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

The resources that I've created to help others who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing as well as professionals that work with them.

What is your favorite activity? E.g. reading, gardening, travelling, etc -- and why?

I am an ear geek to the core. Not only did I choose audiology as a profession (this was prior to knowing I would later become deaf) but I am so deeply vested as a person with hearing loss that I actually spend my spare time researching new technologies, trying them out and then sharing information.



BORYSLAWSKYJ Continued from page 22

"Hey, Siri" and preferably "think", "Hey, Siri". What about ASL to speech? Live transcribe is a wonderful tool but we would love reversal of ASL to voice tool.

About the Internet of Things (IoT), we connect everything like body thermometers, appliances, smart houses, or gardens which refer to sensors and meters. We will measure, track and analyze everything from A to Z. Smart watches may not be accessible because these are mostly depending on voice. Alexa or Google Assistant is one example.

Virtual reality is already here but it is very new. There will be upcoming digital education, telemedicine, artificial intelligence (AI) like robots, wearable tech, implants, remote jobs, and especially voice enabled tech, etc.

I would like to see almost all technologies be accessible and open, but I am genuinely concerned about security vulnerabilities.

What's your favorite accessibility product?

Videophone is my favorite one. Smartphone is my second one.



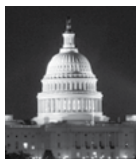
SOTONWA Continued from page 27

next generation of leaders to continue building upon the foundation we are laying today.

What is your favorite activity and why?

I love to play Scrabble. It is one of the few games I am good at, thanks to my background knowledge with so many different languages. I have played for nearly 30 years and can be pretty competitive. Thanks to modern technology, I can play with friends near and far with mobile apps of the game. There are friends I have been challenging to Scrabble games every day for years!





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AADB = American Association of the Deaf Blind
 ALDA = Association of Late Deafened Adults, Inc.
 ASDC = American Society of Deaf Children
 CC – closed captioning
 CCASDHH = California Coalition of Agencies Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.
 CGB = Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
 CPADO = Cerebral Palsy and Deaf Organization
 CTS = Captioned Telephone Service
 DHHCAN = Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network
 DRO = Disability Rights Office
 E-911 – Enhanced 911
 FCC = Federal Communications Commission
 FNPRM – Final Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
 HLAA = Hearing Loss Association of America

IP – Internet Protocol
 NAD = National Association of the Deaf
 NBDA = National Black Deaf Advocates
 NG-911 – Next Generation 911
 RERC-TA = Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Telecommunication Access
 SCAT/SCABT = Speech Communications Assistance By Telephone, Inc.
 SoA = Speed of Answer
 TAP = Technology Access Program at Gallaudet University
 TDM = Time Division Multiplexing, a method of handling electronic communications
 TIA = Telecommunications Industry Association
 TLPC = Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic
 TRS – Telecommunications Relay Service
 VRS – Video Relay Service

Telecommunications Relay Services

Comments - In the Matter of Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities • Structure and Practice of the Video Relay Service Program • CG Dockets No. 03-123 and No. 10-51

■ (August 5) TDI, NAD, CPADO, ALDA, and AADB submitted comments to the Commission on the following topics in VRS:

A. Permitting At-Home Interpreting on a Permanent Basis

The Consumer Groups generally support transitioning the pilot VRS at-home call handling program but some concerns remain. Based on anecdotal information, users generally are not able to distinguish calls handled in a call center versus an at home location. While the Consumer Groups are not aware of any breaches in confidentiality in VRS calls handled at-home, this significant concern remains because confidentiality in communications is a key aspect of functional equivalency and required by the TRS rules. Also of concern to the Consumer Groups is the confidentiality related to real-time-text (“RTT”) used during a VRS call. Consumer Groups are aware that technology exists to prevent copy and paste in software and urge VRS providers to implement technology that prohibits interpreters, whether in call centers or at home, from copying and pasting RTT text.

B. Providing Service to New and Porting Users Pending TRS-URD Verification

The Consumer Groups support the proposal to allow VRS providers to provide service to new and porting users pending the completion of identity verification.

While the Consumer Groups believe that a two week temporary registration is sufficient for most potential applicants, two weeks may not be sufficient for others such as deaf-blind or deaf with additional disabilities that may require assistance in completing or providing further information to validate their application. Therefore, the Consumer Groups recommend that the Commission permit VRS providers to extend the initial two-week temporary registration period for consumers who certify as part of the application process that they are deaf-blind or deaf with additional disabilities. The Consumer Groups expect that the incidents of a number being retained for longer than a two-week period while a consumer’s identity is being verified will be minimal and will not deplete numbering resources.

C. Requiring Enterprise and Public Videophone Log-In Procedures

1. General Considerations

As explained in prior filings with the Commission, the Consumer Groups oppose any log-in requirements to use enterprise and public videophones as well as the proposed certification requirement for the responsible individual. The Consumer Groups reiterate, and incorporate into these Comments, the concerns expressed in Consumer Groups February 20, 2018 Ex Parte and in the Consumer Groups May 2, 2019 Ex Parte, attaching those letters to these Comments as Appendices A and B.

The Consumer Groups also continue to recommend that the Commission refer the issue to the iTRS Advisory Council to work with the TRS Fund Administrator on less burdensome



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ways to validate VRS calls from public and enterprise telephones.

Sorenson's suggestion of entering the user's VRS telephone number (without a PIN) is a reasonable alternative for many but not all VRS users because many VRS users who have a VRS telephone number likely will remember their VRS telephone number and thus entering it will not be an undue burden for those users. Further, as stated above with respect to a log-in requirement generally, there are VRS users who do not have a VRS telephone number who would not be able to use public or enterprise videophones even under Sorenson's proposal. Therefore, Sorenson's recommendation is not without burden and will not ensure functional equivalency for all consumers.

2. Proposed Exemptions.

To be clear, the Consumer Groups oppose any log-in requirements to use enterprise and public videophones. If the Commission nevertheless wishes to adopt a log-in requirement, the Consumer Groups urge the FCC to reduce the burden of any such requirement to the greatest possible extent and make the log-in requirement as narrow as possible. The Consumer Groups support unqualified exemptions for point-to-point and emergency calls. Similarly, the Consumer Groups support exemptions for limited user enterprise videophones and for videophones in emergency shelters and domestic abuse shelters. With respect to limited user enterprise videophones, the Consumer Groups are concerned with the limitation of allowing only five registered users to be simultaneously logged in. This could unintentionally decrease the employer's interest/resources to hire more deaf and hard of hearing individuals to work for the company. In addition, certain enterprises may have more than five employees or regular customers that are deaf or hard-of-hearing. In such a situation, who would decide what five persons could be logged in? How would that decision be made? How would a decision to log-out one of the five users and replace them with another user be made? Similarly, the Commission should provide guidance on the contents of a profile and how that profile is created. To the extent there is a log-in requirement, the Consumer Groups support expanding the locations that qualify for an emergency exemption. In addition to emergency shelters and domestic abuse shelters, sexual abuse shelters and any other shelter that offers emergency or transitional assistance to a type of user should qualify for an emergency-type exemption to the log-in requirement.

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1080633036563/Consumer%20Groups%20VRS%20Structure%20FNPRM%20Comments.pdf>

Closed Captioning

Ex Parte Filing - Children's Television Programming Rules • MB Docket No. 18-202 Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative • MB Docket No. 17-105 Closed Captioning of Video Programming • CG Docket No. 05-231 Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. Petition for Rulemaking • PRM11CG

■ (June 27) TDI, HLAA, NAD, CPADO, ALDA, AADB, CCASDHH, ACB, AFB, IT-RERC, DHH-RERC, and NTID submitted the ex parte filing to express our concern about specific provisions in the Commission's draft item, scheduled to be voted on at the July 2019 Open Meeting, to change the children's television rules.

Short-Form Programming. First, the R&O would permit broadcast stations "to air up to 52 hours annually of Core Programming that is not regularly scheduled on a weekly basis, including educational specials and regularly scheduled non-weekly programs, and short-form programs, including PSAs and interstitials." Accordingly, we urge the Commission to commit to seeking detailed information from broadcasters and compiling a report, no more than two years from the effective date of the R&O, detailing the extent to which short-form content has proliferated and the extent to which it is accessible to children with disabilities through the provision of captions and description. We likewise urge the Commission to commit to revisiting its changes in the R&O if the report reflects that children with disabilities are being denied accessible programming as a result of a proliferation of short-form programming.

Multicast Programming. Second, the R&O permits broadcasters to air as much as one third of their programming on multicast streams. Accordingly, we urge the Commission to commit to seeking detailed information from broadcasters and adding to the aforementioned report the extent to which children's programming has shifted from primary to multicast streams, and the extent to which multicast programming is accessible to children with disabilities through the provision of captions and description. We likewise urge the Commission to commit to revisiting its changes in the R&O if the report reflects that children with disabilities are being denied accessible programming as a result of the proliferation of multicast programming.



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Categorical Caption Exemptions. We remind the Commission that the aforementioned issues with the availability of captioned short-form and multicast children's programming stem from the long-standing and unjust maintenance of categorical closed caption exemptions, including the \$3 million annual revenue, short-form, and locally-produced non-news no-repeat value exemptions that many of the Consumer Groups have repeatedly urged the Commission to revisit and abolish or dramatically narrow. We urge the Commission to be mindful of the impact the changes in the R&O may have on the categorical exemptions and to renew its commitment to revisiting the now-more-than two-decades-old categorical exemptions and the flawed economic assumptions that led the Commission to adopt them in the first instance.

DeafBlind Accessibility. Finally, we note that the R&O does not acknowledge the significant accessibility shortcomings of children's programming for children who are DeafBlind, does not consider the extent to which the R&O's proposed changes will impact children who are DeafBlind, or propose any future action to vindicate the civil rights of children who are DeafBlind. We urge the Commission to formally acknowledge these issues and commit to future action to ensure that children's video programming is accessible on equal terms to children who are DeafBlind.

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10627122716203/2019.06.27%20Disability%20Consumer%20Groups%20Children's%20Video%20Accessibility%20Ex%20Parte%20final.pdf>

Unopposed Motion for Extension of Time - Closed Captioning of Internet Protocol-Delivered Video Programming: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 • MB Docket No. 11-154

■ (July 18) TDI, ALDA, CPADO, DSA, NAD, and DHH-RERC submitted this motion to extend the public comment and reply comment deadlines regarding Pluto, Inc.'s petition for waiver of IP closed captioning requirements by 90 days. Requestors respectfully move to extend the due dates for comments and reply comments to October 24 and November 7, respectively. Counsel for Pluto has consulted with Pluto and Pluto consents to this motion. First, the current timing of these deadlines—in the middle of summer—makes it harder to gather the information necessary to prepare meaningful comments. Second, we note that TDI's pro bono counsel on the consideration of captioning waiver

petitions, the Communications & Technology Clinic of Georgetown Law's Institute for Public Representation is a law school clinic that is generally inoperative during the summer months. Third, the organizations filing this motion face particular challenges in consulting with their members. Fourth, Pluto's petition raises complex questions. Pluto effectively is requesting a waiver of the FCC's captioning rules not just for its own app, but for other platforms as well, such that understanding the implications of the waiver request will require relatively detailed technical analysis. Pluto also appears to be seeking a change in the legal standard applicable to waiver petitions, asking for a waiver based on the general good cause standard rather than demonstrating the need for such a waiver under the CVAA's economic burden standard.

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1071817549322/Consumer%20Groups%20Motion%20for%20Extension%20of%20Time%20-%20Pluto%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

Petition for Declaratory Ruling and/or Rulemaking on Live Closed Captioning Quality Metrics and the Use of Automatic Speech Recognition Technologies - In the Matter of: Closed Captioning of Video Programming Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. Petition for Rulemaking • CG Docket No. 05-231 • MB Docket No. RM-11065 • Docket No. RM-_____

■ (July 31) TDI, NAD, HLAA, ALDA, CPADO, DSA, DHH-RERC, Captioning DRRP, IT-RERC, and NTID submitted a petition for declaratory ruling and/or rulemaking on live closed captioning quality metrics and the use of automated speech recognition technologies. For more than two decades, the quality of closed captions of live programming has stood as a significant but underdeveloped priority for the accessibility of video programming for Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing. While the Commission has acknowledged the critical importance of accurate, synchronous, complete, and well-placed captions to ensure equal access to news, weather, sports, and other live programming, its focus on "best practices" for captioning methodology has failed to yield consistent results. As new captioning technologies and methodologies including automatic speech recognition (ASR) enter the captioning marketplace, many consumers have continued to experience poor-quality captions on live programming, which in some cases have become even worse over the past several years. In this petition, we urge the Commission



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to finally begin in earnest an inquiry aimed at developing objective, technology-neutral metrics for caption quality. While developing these metrics remains a difficult task, a “best practices” approach tailored to traditional methods of human and ENT captioning is not a workable approach for the diverse, modern landscape of live captioning methodologies and technologies that increasingly incorporate automation and other approaches with widely varying results. More specifically, we urge the Commission to initiate an inquiry into the state of the art of closed captioning techniques for live television programming and how the varying dimensions of caption quality, including accuracy, synchronicity, completeness, and placement affect the accessibility of video programming. Following the development of a robust record, we urge the Commission to turn to a rulemaking to require live television programming to be captioned at a level that meets or exceeds technology-neutral metrics calibrated to guarantee that the programming is accessible by Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing. Finally, we urge the Commission to address near-term issues with the use of ASR by immediately issuing a declaratory ruling and/or expedited rule change with near-term guidance and policy on the application of the existing best practices to ASR.

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10801131063733/2019.07.31%20Consumer%20Groups%20Caption%20Quality%20Petition%20for%20Declaratory%20Ruling%20and%20or%20Rulemaking%20final.pdf>

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10801131063733/2019.07.31%20Consumer%20Groups%20Caption%20Quality%20Petition%20for%20Declaratory%20Ruling%20and%20or%20Rulemaking%20Appendix%20A.pdf>

■ (August 12) In filing an ex parte to record this phone conversation on August 8, 2019, Blake Reid, TDI’s Counsel spoke to Michael Scurato in Commissioner Starks’ office regarding the use of automatic speech recognition (ASR) in live television captioning and Internet Protocol captioned telephone service (IP-CTS) as it relates to the above-referenced dockets. In particular, Mr. Reid reiterated points raised by deaf and hard of hearing consumer groups and accessibility researchers in our July 26, 2018 ex parte on IP-CTS certification of ASR providers and July 31, 2019 petition for declaratory ruling and/or rulemaking on live television captioning metrics.

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1081359753845/2019.08.12%20>

[Consumer%20Groups%20Ex%20Parte%20re%20ASR.pdf](#)

■ (August 20) in filing an ex parte to record another phone conversation on August 20, 2019, Lise Hamlin - HLAA, Linda KozmaSpytek - Gallaudet Technology Access Program, and Blake Reid, TDI’s Counsel spoke to Michael Scurato in Commissioner Starks’ office regarding the use of automatic speech recognition (ASR) in live television captioning and Internet Protocol captioned telephone service (IPCTS) as it relates to the above-referenced dockets. In particular, they reiterated points raised by deaf and hard of hearing consumer groups and accessibility researchers in our December 19, 2018 ex parte regarding the Commission’s pending Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on IP CTS, including issues around 911, state administration, consumer eligibility, and waste, fraud, and abuse, our July 26, 2018 ex parte on IP-CTS certification of ASR providers, and our July 31, 2019 petition for declaratory ruling and/or rulemaking on live television captioning metrics.

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1082025071300/2019.08.20%20Consumer%20Groups%20Ex%20Parte%20re%20ASR.pdf>

■ (August 30) TDI, NAD, HLAA, ALDA, CPADO, DSA, DHH-RERC, Captioning DRRP, IT-RERC, and NTID responded to the August 26 motion by National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and NCTA—The Internet & Television Association to extend the comment deadlines for the Consumer Groups’ and accessibility researchers’ July 31 Petition for Declaratory Ruling and/or Rulemaking on live closed captioning quality and automatic speech recognition (ASR) established in the Commission’s August 14 public notice of the Petition. As we noted in the Petition, it is urgent for the Commission to address the treatment of ASR under the Commission’s closed caption quality rules because addressing the quality of closed captioning for live television is critical to vindicating the civil rights of the more than 48 million Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing to participate fully in the democratic, cultural, and economic opportunities afforded by equal access to video programming. However, given the upcoming meeting between representatives of several of the Groups and researchers with NCTA and NAB and our mutual interest in reporting the results of that meeting on the record, we do not object to the extension proposed in the motion.

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1083062959404/2019.08.30%20Consumer%20Groups%20Response%20to%20NAB%20and%20NCTA%20Motion%20for%20Extension%20final.pdf>



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