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Deborah A. Ryan

Work Experience: 09/1/2002 -present

Deborah A. Ryan & Associates

Owner of an accessibility consulting firm specializing in compliance with Mass. AAB Regulations (521 CMR), Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), and the Federal Fair Housing Act (FHA). Services include:

Plan Review: Ensure compliance with accessibility requirements during the planning and design stage to avoid costly mistakes

Technical Assistance: Provide code interpretations and detailed code analysis including jurisdictional issues

Accessibility Survey: On site inspections of facilities to determine the level of compliance with accessibility requirements, including suggestions for compliance.

Variance Process: Assist in the preparation and filing of variance applications before the AAB

Complaint resolution: Provides assistance in resolving complaints on accessibility issues, including analysis of complaint and recommendation for resolution

Expert witness: Provide support to assist with resolution of lawsuits. Provide analysis of code compliance prior to purchase and sale of property. Provide expert witness testimony relative to code compliance and accessibility issues.

Training: Provide training for architects, builders, developers, building inspectors, real estate professionals, etc. on varying accessibility requirements

2011-present

Board Member, United States Access Board, Washington DC

Presidential appointment to US Access Board

1976-7/2002

ARCHITECTURAL ACCESS BOARD

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Public Safety

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 1987-2002

- Provided technical assistance to builders, owners, architects, and the community regarding the application of 521 CMR
- Developed and implemented public information and training programs to inform all responsible parties of regulatory requirements and effective approaches to universal design
- Advised the AAB on technical issues regarding the implementation of 521 CMR
- Implemented AAB policy and decisions including enforcement provisions such as levying fines and compliance with conditional variances
- Coordinated litigation and other legal issues with the Executive Office of Public Safety and the Attorney General's Office
- Developed, administered and monitored agency operations and finances
- Directed and supervised all agency operations, including staff and consultants
- Advised Secretariats and other state agencies on effective means for addressing accessibility issues in state programs and facilities and in all state funded construction projects
- Designed and developed the Annual Best Accessible Design Awards Program to recognize excellence in accessible design
- Facilitated collaboration between AAB, constituencies and other agencies in the rule making process; identify and coordinate necessary research efforts.

- Represented the AAB before private and public organizations, interest groups and the general public
- Provided training programs to state and local building inspectors, architects and advocates in understanding the Rules and Regulations of the AAB (521 CMR)
- Acted as liaison between the AAB and members of the press, as well as the legislature

ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS BOARD

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Public Safety

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – 1976-1987

- From 1976 to 1986 the Board was known as the Architectural Barriers Board and was located within the Department of Public Safety. The Board was reconstituted in 1987 as the Architectural Access Board, an agency under the Executive Office of Public Safety. As a newly constituted agency, the position of Executive Director was established in 1987. I was hired as the first Executive Director, however, held previous positions as Associate Director and Administrative Assistant since 1976.

Education:

Suffolk University Law School, Boston, MA J.D. 1998

University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA B.A. 1993

Boston Architectural Center, Boston 1982-1990

Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Program for Senior Executives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1988

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management, Governor's Leadership Seminar for Senior Executives in Government

Flasher Judicial Institute, Boston College, Training for Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers

Professional Memberships And Seminars

- Vice President, **Andrew Square Civic Association**
- Member, **Massachusetts Bar** – Admitted in 1999
- Former Member, **United States Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (USATBCB), Public Rights of Way Access Advisory Committee (PROWAAC)**
- Former Task Force Member, **National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards (NCSBCS), Streamlining the Nation's Building Regulatory Process**
- Honorary Member, **Massachusetts Building Officials Association**
- Member, **Southeastern Mass. Building Officials Association**
- Past Member, **Technical Code Council, Board of Building Regulations and Standards**
- Presenter, Department of Justice Multi-Family Housing Access Forum, Boston
- Presenter on Accessibility and Historic Preservation for Historic Windsor - Springfield, MA, Washington, D.C., and Chicago, IL
- Presenter on Accessibility and Historic Preservation for **Very Special Arts, Boston**
- Panelist at **Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)** on Accessibility Requirements in Massachusetts
- Member, **Boston Society of Architects Access Committee**
- Recently conducted Accessibility Seminars at
 - **Build Boston**
 - **Understanding the differences between the ADA and the Mass. AAB**
 - **Understanding the FHA and AAB housing requirements**
 - **Understanding the state's accessibility requirements**
 - **Boston Society of Architects**
 - **Boston Architectural College**
 - **Architectural and Landscape Architectural Firms**
 - **Local and State Building Officials Associations**