

RHONDA NEUHAUS

BAR ADMISSIONS:

Massachusetts (Nov. 27, 2007); Maryland (Dec. 12, 2007); Washington, DC (Nov. 7, 2008)

LANGUAGE AND SPECIAL SKILLS:

- Language/international experience: Fluent in Spanish. Experience in 55+ countries.
- Special areas of expertise: facilitation, education on and direct civil rights and human rights of persons with disabilities; policy analysis; non-profits; advocacy; (human rights; international development, international relations; policy analysis and law; public policy; community outreach and grassroots organizing; advocacy plan development, mainstreaming and disability inclusion; interaction with NGOs, DPOs and other inclusive community actors; advice on inclusive development strategies and practices; community development; environmental policy and conservation; conflict resolution and mediation; program design, implementation and evaluation; capacity building and training; civil society support; career and academic advising; editing; writing; public speaking; participatory education; professional mentoring.
- Working with non-profits, advocates on healing, listening, inner dynamics, learning how to heal ourselves to heal the world. Supporting those in social justice work.
- Fulbright Scholarship: Fulbright Specialist Program Specialist (accepted March 2014 for 5-year program with the Department of State). Expertise: human rights, civil rights, disability rights.
- Organizational Affiliations: Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB), Association for Conflict Resolution, American Bar Association, MD and MA Bar Associations, Phi Alpha Delta (PAD), National Association of Attorneys with Disabilities, Algernon Sydney Sullivan Association.

EXPERIENCE:

Rhonda Neuhaus Consulting (disability-owned)

Global, February 20, 2015- present

✍ Advising on disability inclusive development and human rights in Guatemala, Peru and Costa Rica.

✍ Handicap International, 4 month Consultancy supporting the Making it Work initiative *April – July 2017*. Performed tasks as interim Program Manager; supported the resolution of interpersonal challenges

within the rights-based project to keep the project on timeline and moving forward. Utilized skills including: knowledge of CRPD; interviewing and direct involvement understanding and evaluating the status of the project from varying actors in the disability and gender fields.

✍ U.S. Embassy of Mexico/U.S. State Department Speakers Bureau, *April 2018*. carried out 2 trainings to 80+ women with disabilities in Mexico City and Oaxaca, Mexico. All in Spanish without translation. Trainings on the topics of gender and disability rights + advocacy. Facilitation also on the topics of self care for advocates, reflective listening and ADR for the advocate.

Spiral Healing by Raven

Global, 1996 – present (*though began in more fully in February 2015*)

✍ Working with individuals and groups on individual and global healing. Areas of focus include clearing blockages and obstacles to maintaining energy and focus in a difficult social justice world (ie. overwhelm, panic, low energy, skills for self care for the social justice worker, etc).

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF), Washington, DC *Policy Analyst for Government Affairs, January 2011- February 2015*

✍ Lobbied on federal policy and legislative issues that affect people with disabilities. Areas of focus: ADA compliance, ^[L]healthcare and ACA implementation (including HIT, non discrimination in HC); education (particularly in the area of ESEA reauthorization, restraint/seclusion, teacher quality); accessible technology; judicial nominations; physician-assisted suicide; transportation; trainings on Intersectionality (disability and race/ethnicity/gender/GLBT); inclusion, access and awareness raising.

✍ Worked with and advise agencies including: DOJ, HHS/ACL, DOE, FEMA, Department of State and USAID, EEOC on issues related to the civil and human rights of persons with disabilities.

✍ Lead grassroots lobbying efforts in DC and the states towards ratification of the Disability Treaty aka the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

✍ Worked on all areas of lobbying and advocacy including letters to the Hill and agencies; supporting comments on proposed rules and regulations; drafting testimony, talking points for briefings and hearings on the Hill; providing information to the media; provide information to Congressional offices; using social media for advocacy (Twitter, Facebook, linkedin)

✍ Worked on a variety of coalitions and task forces including: Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (rights, education, international, healthcare and LTSS TF's), Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (education, healthcare). Health disparities/HEAA; Health disparities in HIT; PCORI disability roundtable.

✍ Co-chair of the disability working group at InterAction (umbrella organization of US-based development organizations).

Global Partnership on Disability and Development, World Bank and Syracuse University Washington DC, Board Member, November 2009-January 2011

Handicap International, Takoma Park, MD, Project Manager, July 2008- January 2011

✍ Managing international coordination for the Making it Work initiative, multi-stakeholder approach toward implementing the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Creating international knowledge management platform (guidelines, training tools, website), conducting capacity building trainings and facilitation. Providing technical support to new and ongoing projects. Participation in relevant UN meetings. Extensive public speaking and writing skills applied. Grant writing, budget, project design and management and staff supervision experience.

✍ International work to date in Europe, Middle East, Southeast Europe, Central and South America and Northern Africa.

✍ Attended the UN-CRPD Conferences of State Parties, New York, NY (2008-09) and UN meetings with the Commission on Social Development.

✍ Represent HI on the IDA-CRPD Forum Steering Committee; and USICD Senate Ratifying Committee (for the CRPD)

✍ Building capacities to influence national and international policy; promoting disability rights; and raising awareness. Bridging the gap between international standards and existing services, systems and policies in developing nations

✍ Trainings on participatory methods of human rights education, curriculum development for human rights programming. ^[SEP]

Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB), Pittsburgh, PA, *Founding Member, February 2008-present*

✍ Active member of the pro bono organization. Co-Chair of the Latin America Interest Group; Member of the Project Development Committee; August 2008: Presented at the Colombian Mediators, Arbitrators and Conciliators International Congress in Cartagena, Colombia. Gave a lecture in Spanish on Mediation in the United States and Mediators Beyond Borders. ^[SEP]

Blue Law International, LLP, Washington, DC, *Consultant, February- May 2008*

✍ Performed consulting work in international disability law and policy projects. Specific experience carrying out a project on political inclusion in Morocco and training on the UN CRPD in Mexico and the US.

Community Mediation Program & Maryland District Court, Baltimore, MD, *Mediator, January 2004 – May 2008*

✍ Disputes including: landlord/tenant, domestic, employer/employee, neighborhood, contracts.

National Association of the Deaf; Civil Rights of Persons with Disabilities Clinic Silver Spring, MD, *Student Attorney, January 2007 – May 2007*

✍ Represented Deaf and Hard of hearing individuals on ADA, IDEA, §504 of Rehabilitation Act cases. Interviewed clients, drafted DOJ Complaints, demand letters; assisted lead counsel on all areas of information referral and litigation.

Law offices of Gina M. Harasti, P .C. Baltimore, MD, *Law Clerk, May 2005- August 2005*

✍ Drafted pleadings, motions; performed legal research; interviewed witnesses. Areas of law: torts, condemnation, breach of warranties, criminal defense, business dissolution, trademarks, trade secrets, illegal repossessions, defamation, estate creation, contracts, insurance defense, appellate motions, garnishment, and sovereign immunity.

United States Federal District Court, Federal Magistrate Paul Grimm Baltimore, MD, *Judicial Fellow, January 2005- May 2005.*

✍ Assisted in drafting social security appellate opinions; assisted with and observed settlement conferences and negotiations; attended courtroom proceedings; assisted with miscellaneous projects, as needed.

Baltimore City Circuit Court, Retired Judges Chambers Baltimore, MD *Judicial Intern, June – August 2004*

✍ Worked on civil and criminal cases. Researched; drafted opinions, created a manual on asbestos cases; assisted each judge.

Brandeis University, Sustainable International Development (SID) Program Waltham, MA, *Consultant, Career Advisor, October 2001- May 2002*

✍ Advised students. Performed evaluation of program. Created an alumni network. Presented in symposia and workshops on disability, gender and international development. Organized conferences and dialogues between faculty and universities and organizations collaborating on international development. Edited articles and resources for publication.

Mobility International USA/National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange Eugene, OR, *Public Relations Coordinator, February 1999 – December 2000 (Increased participation of people with disabilities in int'l exchange and devt)*

✍ Studied the impact of international exchange on people with disabilities over 19 years. Spoke at and organized regional, national and international conferences. Facilitated workshops for women with disabilities. Published articles for national disability, international and mainstream publications. Edited quarterly newsletter. Co-produced 2 educational videos.

✍ Presented at: Rehabilitation Int'l Conference, Brazil, Aug. 2000; the Mobility Int'l (Europe) Conference, Tunis, Tunisia, May 2000. Professional Delegation on Dis. Rights and Leadership, Tokyo, Japan. Nov. 1998 – Dec. 1998. Numerous public speaking events.

Oxfam America Boston, MA, *Evaluation and Organizational behavior Consultant, June 1998 – November 1998*

Brandeis University Waltham, MA, *Assistant for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's (HHDL) visit to Brandeis University, October 1997- May 1998*

The Chelonia Institute/Florida Audubon Society/Dr. Peter Pritchard Winter Park, FL; Guyana, South America, *Intern, December 1996- June 1997*

✍ Assisted on sea turtle conservation project. Compiled research; prepared educational materials and worked with local communities.

Nassau County Legislature, Former Democratic Minority Leader, Bruce Nyman Mineola, NY ^[L]_[SEP] *Intern, July 1996- August 1996*

EDUCATION:

University of Maryland, School of Law Baltimore, MD

- ✍ Juris Doctor Degree conferred May 18, 2007. GPA: 3.26
- ✍ Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF) Finalist, April 2007. Fellowship for government jobs.
- ✍ Mediation Certification Training (50 hours & apprenticeship), Community Mediation Center, Baltimore, MD. Jan. 2004.
- ✍ 1st place, Negotiation Competition, Oct. 2006; 6th (out of 24) Regional ABA Negotiation Competition, Nov. 2006
- ✍ Spanish for Lawyers, July-August 2006. Studied Civil and Comparative Law, and technical Spanish for Lawyers. Spain.
- ✍ Participant and finalist in ABA Client Counseling Competitions (2006); and ABA Negotiation Competitions, 5th place (2005-2006). Included 1 month of negotiation training.
- ✍ Gold Medal (1st Place), ICODR, International Online Commercial Arbitration Competition, Center for Information Technology and Dispute Resolution, February- April, 2006; 4th place, ICODR Mediation Competition, February, 2006
- ✍ Bronze Metal (3rd place), International Competition for Online Dispute Resolution (ICODR), International Mediation Competition, Center for Information Technology and Dispute Resolution, January-February, 2005.
- ✍ Assoc for Conflict Resolution (ACR), Alternate Dispute Resolution Society (Board Member: 2005-06), Phi Alpha Delta (PAD), Jewish Law Students Association, International Law Society, Women's Bar of MD, American Bar Association (ABA), Stud. Div.

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

- ✍ M.A., Sustainable International Development, May 1999.

Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

- ✍ B.A., Environmental Studies (Policy and international concentrations), May 1997.
- ✍ Awards/Scholarships: Environmental Studies Scholarship, Harcourt Brace Scholarship, ODK (National Leadership Honor Society), Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award (for exemplary character).