



Speakers

Thirty Years After the Americans with Disabilities Act: Where Are We Now, and Where are We Heading?

August 2020



Jason J. Fichtner, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies

Jason J. Fichtner is a senior lecturer and an associate director of the International Economics and Finance program at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. He is also a fellow with the Bipartisan Policy Center and a research fellow with the Alliance for Lifetime Income and a research fellow with the Center for Financial Security at the University of Wisconsin. His research focuses on Social Security, federal tax policy, federal budget policy, retirement security, and policy proposals to increase saving and investment. Fichtner served in several positions at the Social Security Administration, including the deputy commissioner of Social Security (acting), chief economist, and associate commissioner for retirement policy. He also served as a senior economist with the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, as an economist with the Internal Revenue Service, and as a senior consultant with the Office of Federal Tax Services at Arthur Andersen, LLP. His work has been featured in the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Investor's Business Daily, the Los Angeles Times, the Atlantic, and USA Today, as well as on broadcasts by PBS, NBC, and NPR.. Fichtner is the author of "The Hidden Cost of Federal Tax Policy" and the editor of "The Economics of Medicaid." Fichtner earned a B.A. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; an M.P.P. from Georgetown University; and a Ph.D. in public administration and policy from Virginia Tech.



Jill Houghton, Disability:IN

As president and CEO of Disability:IN, Jill Houghton and her team are working to build an inclusive global economy where people with disabilities can participate fully and meaningfully. Disability:IN has empowered over 185 leading brands to advance disability inclusion and equality. Houghton's passionate approach to the inclusion of people with disabilities comes from her core. Her challenges associated with having a learning disability ignited her career at the federal, state and local levels to drive disability inclusion in business. Houghton has grown Disability:IN offerings to nationally recognized programs, including the Disability Equality Index (in partnership with the American Association of People with Disabilities), Supplier Diversity program, NextGen Leaders Initiatives, and Inclusion Works which has resulted in over 30,000 people with disabilities being hired.



Gina Livermore, Mathematica

Gina Livermore is director of the Center for Studying Disability Policy and a senior fellow at Mathematica. She is an expert in evaluation research and design and employment policy and health insurance for people with disabilities. Her work focuses on improving the economic well-being and self-sufficiency of transition-age youth and working-age people with disabilities. She has also researched the prevalence of long-term poverty and material hardship as well as access to health care for these groups and the quality of national disability data. Livermore holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.P.H. in epidemiology from Tulane University.



Jennifer Sheehy, Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor

Jennifer Sheehy is the deputy assistant secretary leading the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor. The mission of ODEP is to develop policy that increases job opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities. In 2016, she was also appointed by the president to the AbilityOne Commission. Prior to her current position, Sheehy spent ten years at the U.S. Department of Education in many roles, including acting director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, acting deputy commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration and special assistant to the assistant secretary of Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Sheehy came to the Department of Education from the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities where she was senior policy advisor and served a detail as associate director in the White House Domestic Policy Council. Before she joined the task force staff, Sheehy was vice president of the National Organization on Disability and director of its CEO Council. She has received many civic and achievement awards including the 2019 Presidential Rank Award, the Accenture Women in Government "Rising Leader" award, and the Diet Coke/Glamour magazine "Women at Their Best" award. Sheehy earned a B.A. from Cornell University and graduated with honors from Georgetown University, where she received her M.B.A.



John Tschida, Association of University Centers on Disabilities

John Tschida is the acting executive director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). He has spent more than 20 years using data and research to drive policy change and service development for individuals with disabilities. Previously, Tschida served as director of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), the federal government's premier applied disability research agency. He also served as director of public policy and innovation at Allina Health in Minnesota, where he developed integrated health delivery systems and financing models for people with disabilities. At the Courage Center, Minnesota's leading nonprofit provider of rehabilitation services, Mr. Tschida was vice president of public affairs and research, building and directing a policy and research team that focused on defining and achieving better outcomes for complex populations. His team received one of the first Health Care Innovation Awards from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Mr. Tschida serves on a number of national panels designing policy or governance solutions to further the independence of people with disabilities, including the board of the Long Term Quality Alliance, Anthem Health's National Advisory Board, and the Lakeshore Foundation's Advisory Council. Tschida has written numerous articles on disability and public policy for national and local publications. Mr. Tschida has a master's degree in public policy and a health services research certificate from Georgetown University, and a B.A. from Macalester College.

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