

Respect. Dignity. Agency. Justice. Equity.

Eliminating Discrimination At Every Intersection



Disability
Law United



Disability Law United (DLU) centers human dignity, and we're proud to use major disability laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, some of the most progressive laws ever passed, as powerful tools to transform our communities and eliminate discrimination.

Instead of focusing on direct legal services, we focus on cases that can have an immense, systemic impact on the ways disabled people are treated in the U.S.

We work at the intersection of disability and other key civil rights issues: immigration, incarceration and policing, disaster planning and environmental justice, and access to public services and spaces.

Disability & Immigration

Disability rights laws are a novel and underutilized tool for preventing or redressing harm to people with disabilities within the detention-and-deportation system. DLU is one of only a few organizations nationwide that specifically advocate and litigate for changes at the intersection of immigration and disability law. This makes us a key player in the fight to eliminate discrimination in the U.S. immigration system, as well as a connector for individuals and groups who do work in one area or the other.



DLU litigation has already resulted in over 40,000 people being released from ICE custody.

Disability & Carceral Justice

The U.S. prison system has a long history of perpetuating dangerous and even lethal conditions for disabled people, and at least 40% of individuals detained in state prisons have a reported disability. Reports estimate that up to 50% of people killed by police have disabilities.

DLU's advocacy has resulted in lasting, structural changes to conditions for people with disabilities in the Colorado and Tennessee prison systems, policing practices in Sacramento, California, and more.

We successfully challenged the lack of outdoor exercise for prisoners in administrative segregation in the Colorado Department of Corrections.



**Disability
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Disability, Disaster & Environmental Justice

The ripples of climate collapse disproportionately impact people with disabilities, who are often left out of land management planning and environmental advocacy – including disaster planning, preparedness, and response.

DLU is one of very few nonprofit organizations fighting for the inclusion of disabled lives in planning for extreme storms, wildfires, and countless other disasters caused by climate change. **Federal and state disability laws are untapped, powerful tools**, which we to use to force municipalities and states to engage in adequate disaster planning, preparedness, and response that protects everyone.


Through strategic FOIA litigation, we compelled disclosure of New Orleans' emergency preparedness plans, forcing transparency from governments that would rather plan around disabled people than with them.



Disability & Access to Public Services & Spaces

The communities in which we live and services upon which we depend are not designed for everyone. Buildings, sidewalks, and public places are too often inaccessible to different types of bodies and abilities. Access to government and educational programs increasingly rely on electronic communication not designed for full access by disabled people.

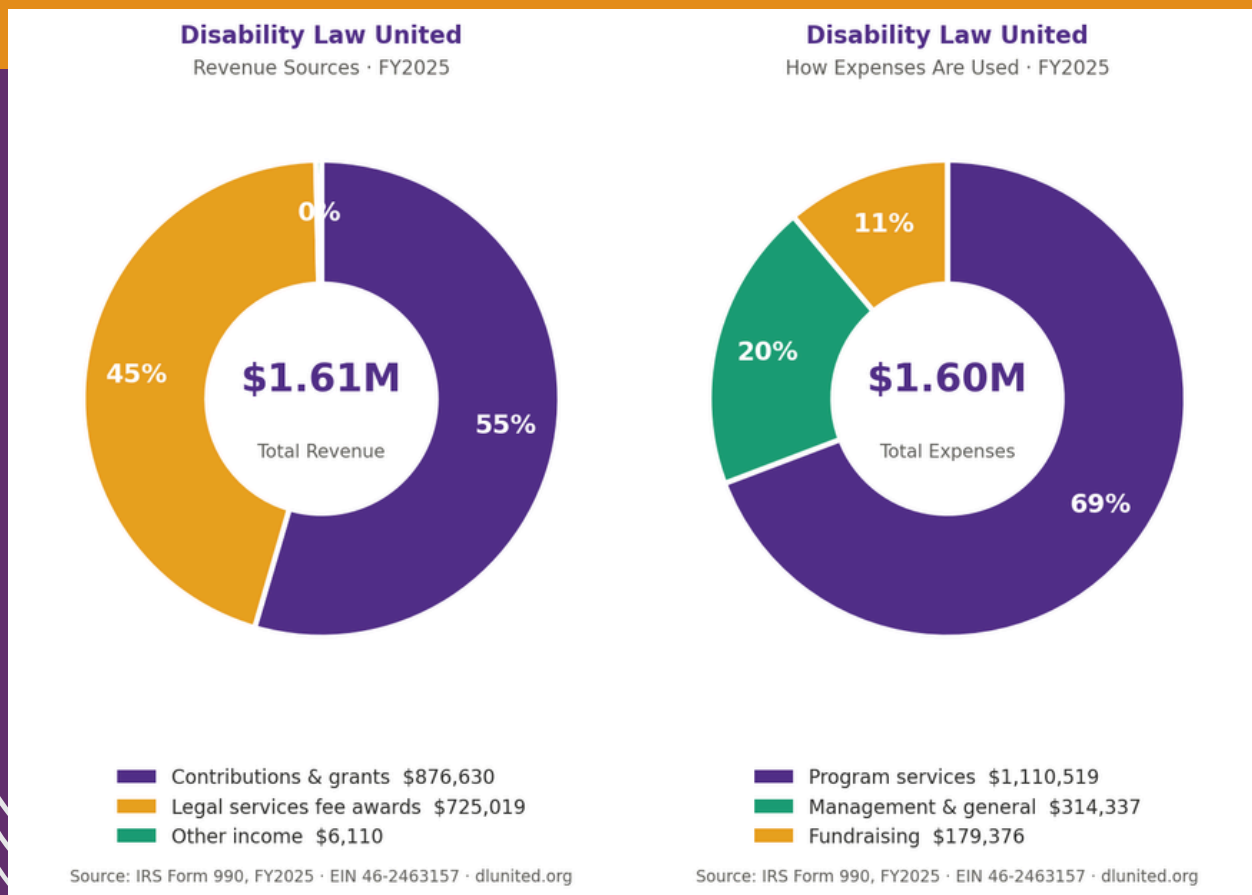
DLU utilizes federal and state disability laws to ensure that systems are built to address the needs of disabled individuals, and are not based on processes or criteria that exclude them.



DLU challenged the failure of Denver's professional hockey and basketball arena to provide open captioning for Deaf and hard of hearing fans. The settlement resulted in installation of LED boards and captioning for home games.

Disability Law United 2025 Financials

Disability Law United is a nonpartisan, nonprofit legal organization committed to protecting and advancing the rights of people with disabilities. Our work is made possible through the support of individual donors, and grants from private foundations. Contributions to Disability Law United help fund critical litigation, advocacy, public education, and outreach initiatives that defend disability rights and promote equal access and opportunity for all. You can support this work through donations, grants, donor-advised gifts, legacy bequests, and other tax-deductible contributions that strengthen our fight for justice.





Support Disability Justice

You can help disabled people receive high quality legal support by making a tax-deductible donation to Disability Law United. The vital work we do every day depends on people like you who believe everyone deserves exceptional lawyers who get it.

