



Legal Advocacy

Epilepsy Foundation National Office

Cherree Sanders, MSW
Manager/Paralegal



MISSION OF LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

- To protect the civil rights of people with epilepsy by promoting education, advocacy and access to legal services.
 - Legal information to consumers
 - Support attorneys to promote positive case outcomes
 - Support affiliates advocacy efforts
 - Collaborate with internal staff, PAB members, experts, attorneys, etc.



PRIORITIES OF THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

- Employment
- Education
- Criminal Justice
- Public Accommodations
- Housing
- Insurance



Jeanne A. Carpenter
1953-2003
Attorney and Epilepsy Advocate

WAYS TO CONTACT THE FUND

- Online Application: www.epilepsy.com
- Phone: 1-800-332-1000 (select #2)
- Email: legalrights@efa.org

LAWS PROTECTING OUR CONSUMERS

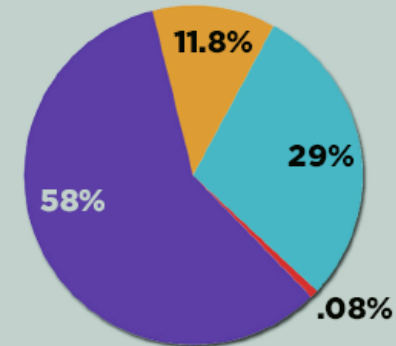
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – Titles I, II, III
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – 501, 503, 504
- Family Medical Leave Act – FMLA
- Fair Housing Act
- State Anti-Discrimination Laws

LDF HIGHLIGHTS

Community Inquiries

In 2017, the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) has responded to more than **255** inquiries and requests for legal assistance from members of the epilepsy community

Legal Advocacy Inquiries



LDF HIGHLIGHTS

Disability Defense

In 2017, the LDF has supported **three** significant ADA employment cases that were litigated and resolved in favor of the plaintiffs. Cases involved:

- An aspiring police officer who was disqualified for employment because of his history of epilepsy and his employer's discriminatory employment policy.
- An employee who was terminated as a result of employment discrimination based on her epilepsy.
- A schoolteacher who was subject to harassment and unjust termination because of his epilepsy.

Criminal Defense

- Supported **19** criminal defense attorneys with LDF resources to defend clients against criminal charges related to seizure behavior.
- Developed a factsheet to educate the public about the medical and disability-related rights of prisoners with epilepsy in correctional facilities.
- Advocated for restoration of access to epilepsy medications for an Ohio inmate and the reversal of disciplinary penalties inappropriately imposed on the inmate as a result of his seizures.

Thank You !

