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
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: Jeanne A. Carpenter Epilepsy Legal Defense Fund

## 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 harrassment 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 !