**OUR POSITION STATEMENTS**

**Position 1:** Promoting individual autonomy for Persons with Disabilities including the freedom to make one’s own choices.

**Position 2:** Breaking down attitudinal barriers and promoting greater social awareness and acceptance towards Persons with Disabilities.

**Position 3:** Ensuring the opportunity for Persons with Disabilities to choose their place of residence within the community on an equal basis with others with access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services.

**Position 4:** Providing equal information access for Persons with Disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities.

**Position 5:** Ensuring the right to work and education, on an equal basis with others that is inclusive and accessible to Persons with Disabilities.

**Position 6:** Advocating for justice in Domestic and International forum for the legal rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Position 7:** Supporting Families and Care Givers of Persons with Disabilities.

**Position 8:** Committing to equality and social justice together with all who fight against racism.
DIG is a nonprofit legal advocacy center for disability rights. At DIG, we look at disability from every angle and perspective. Our litigation department ensures that the laws are being enforced and interpreted correctly so that people with disabilities have choices in all aspects of their lives. Our programs bring exciting trainings to families, professionals, and the community at large. DIG is at the forefront of the disability movement and continues to look at cutting edge disability issues.

**Our Mission**
Expanding opportunities for participation, education, employment, and acceptance of persons with disabilities through advocacy, litigation, education, and training.

**Our Vision**
Every person is entitled to equal treatment and dignity.
2021 was another big year for DIG. We continued to help people navigate the pandemic and enter back into the world. As business and schools opened, we were there to help people safely return with the accommodations they needed.

We also expanded our Wallet Card Project by adding a new version of the wallet card for caregivers. We are so proud to release the new version of the card and we hope it helps families feel safer and more comfortable when they are out in the community.

Thank you for your support this year,

Debbie
MEET OUR TEAM

Executive Director
Deborah Dietz

Litigation Director
Matthew W. Dietz, Esq.

Development Director
Sharon L. Langer, Esq.

Staff Attorney
Stephanie L. Langer, Esq.

Administrative Assistant
Yarelys Mirabal

Wallet Card Project
Carolina Rossel

Interns
Razan Alramahi
Christopher Cano
Marygrace Longoria
Bailey Beauchamp
Maxwell Dietz
Dorysped Mancebo Ortega

Board of Directors
Matthew Dietz
Larry Forman
Adrienne Gang
Sharon Langer
Scott Leffler
In 2021, the COVID-19 Pandemic continued to direct much of the advocacy that was required over the year.

Unfortunately, Florida was and continues to be focused on returning to normalcy rather than protecting the interests of persons with disabilities who require accommodations to be fully integrated in the community.

In that regard, Disability Independence Group has represented parents of immunocompromised children who required protections in their schools so they would not be at increased risk of injury from the virus.
On behalf of the Florida Counsel of the Blind, we ensured that the State of Florida would provide accessible vote by mail for persons who were blind and print impaired, and in 2022 we are continuing to ensure that persons with vision and print disabilities have the options of accessible absentee voting.

However, pandemic issues did not predominate the time of the litigation section. It continues to be a priority for DIG to ensure that persons that are Deaf receive effective communications in employment, health care settings and throughout society.

Denial of Fair Housing reasonable accommodations and modifications continue to be a frequent issue, as over 50 percent of all Fair Housing Complaints across the United States are disability related. The representation of persons with autism, developmental disabilities and mental illness, and accommodations needed to remain living independently has become a large part of practice of DIG.
Unfortunately, the rights of persons with disabilities, and civil rights in general, have been slowly eroding. We are currently on appeal on many cases that serve a bellwether for this trend. This includes issues such as whether local municipalities have the authority to establish broader civil rights protection than the state of Florida; whether adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities have a property interest in their room in a group home or whether they can be ejected without legal process; and whether Florida regulations and guidance supersede the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
STATISTICS

84 CASES IN 2021

2021 Number of Cases by Disability

- ID/DD = 47
- Mental Health = 16
- Physical = 13
- No Disability = 6
- Vision = 2

2021 Number of cases by Cause of Action

- IDEA/504 = 29
- Fair Housing = 11
- Benefits = 10
- General Litigation = 10
- Guardianship/Estate = 8
- Title III = 8
- Title I = 7
- Title II = 1
THE WALLET CARD PROJECT

Total Number of Requests = 1,038

ASD = 866

ID/DD = 170

Other = 2
THE WALLET CARD PROJECT

2021 Wallet Cards by State

- Black = 0 cards
- Yellow = 1-5 cards
- Green = 6-10 cards
- Purple = 11-20 cards
- Red = 21-50 cards
- Blue = 51-100 cards
- Magenta = >100 cards

Wallet Cards by Country

- South Africa = 1 card
- United Kingdom = 1 card
- Puerto Rico = 4 cards
- United States = 1,031 cards
TRAINING & OUTREACH

DIG continued to work on the Miami Inclusion Alliance, Access the Vote Florida, Unite Miami, and the Enable Project.

Lucy continued to make Bar(k) Cards for all her friends

We gave 38 trainings
We had 21 interns work at DIG
## Financial Report

### Revenue

- Litigation - $585,697
- Grants - $486,935
- PPP Loan Forgiveness - $183,794
- Donations - $18,470
- Other - $9,425

### Functional Expenses

- Programmatic - $942,107
- Management - $61,063
Thank you!