



## Projects of **De juRe Alapítvány** (DRA-Hungary) 1996-2011

**De juRe Alapítvány** (Disability Rights Advocates-Hungary), a private nonprofit NGO, promotes the civil and human rights of people with every type of disability through education, litigation, and outreach. DRA-Hungary was founded in 1996 by Mr. Sid Wolinsky, director of litigation of Disability Rights Advocates in California, with the financial support of the Soros Foundation and USIS. DRA-H has been working for over 15 years with the support of different national grants and financial backing from DRA-California. Below, please read descriptions about some of our most effective and high visibility projects of the last few years.

### *1996-2011. Shared World Conference Series*

These conferences were organized with the goal of building bridges between people with and without disabilities, and between different disability groups on the national and international level. Many different topics were the focus of these conferences including: independent living movements around the world, historical roots of attitudes toward disability in different countries, sexuality and people with disabilities, changing national legislation, lobbying techniques, opening up of the work market for people with disabilities, equal opportunities in education, portrayal of disability in the media, self assertiveness trainings etc.

### *1999–2010: Litigation*

Three lawsuits were launched against well-known establishments due to violation of accessibility regulations as well as the bills (statutes?) for Equal Opportunity and Equal Treatment. We won the case against Central Café. OTP Bank Rt, the biggest bank chain in (Hungary?), also lost its case in the lower court against blind people for failing to provide accessible ATMs, but won in the second and third appeal. We will continue to fight the issue on the European level. We litigated against a national bus company because of the inaccessibility of one of its major and newest stations. This legal action is ongoing.

### *2001–2011: De Facto Legal Advisory Office*

With the assistance of the Soros Foundation, we opened a free legal clinic focusing on discrimination based on a person's disability. Most of the cases are not cases of actionable discrimination. Nevertheless, people with disabilities strongly feel that unjust things that have happened to them would not have similarly happened to their able-bodied companions. In almost all of the cases a psycho-therapeutic approach with a sound piece of advice by our Legal Advisory Office was effective and appreciated.

### *2005–2007: Equal opportunities in education*

In cooperation with the Hand in Hand Foundation and Early Development Center, we successfully challenged a discriminatory practice by the Ministry for Education resulting in the modification of the Public Education Bill. As a consequence, children with severe disabilities are entitled to attend general public or special schools from age 6 till age 23.

*2007 Continuous Education for Judges*

DRA-H was chosen from among 200 organizations with three other NGOs to put together a three-day long training program for judges regarding human rights. DRA-H concentrated on disability related issues, eg. challenges of people with disabilities in court, dealing with hidden stereotypes and prejudices of judges.

*1999-2011 Ongoing research programs, dissemination of information, publications, exhibitions, disability awareness programs*

Videos, brochures and leaflets in different topics, eg. PC talk, media and disability, disability information for children, accessibility related issues for public servants, engineers and university students. One of our latest projects, called Barrier free motherhood, concerns issues of disability and motherhood. A forum and a training session were held and the results of the research project are now disseminated widely to the proper authorities. The project entitled *IntegrArt* integrated a *Disability Film Festival*, a photo exhibition, puppetry and music, all involving issues of equal opportunities, accessibility and inclusion, created by and/or with disabled and non disabled amateur artists.