

September 2024 | Issue 48

In this issue ...

- A note from your 2024 APA President
- Keynote for the 2025 APA National Conference
- 2025 scholarship application
- APA supports the Pro Codes Act
- "Failure to accommodate when doing a fitness for duty exam may cost you big time" by William Goren
- "Overview of the 2024 *Workplace Mental Health Report*" by Charles Watt
- Upcoming continuing education
- APAC Board updates
- And more!

Not seeing all the articles?

Your newsletter may have been clipped. Click on "View entire message" at the bottom of this email.

A note from your 2024 APA President



There are a few online blogs I follow regularly. Usually, they are concerned with employment law, something that intersects with my role as an ADA Coordinator for a public entity in many ways. I also follow the blog *Understanding the ADA*, written by a friend, APA member, and newsletter contributor, William Goren.

William recently alerted me to an issue that could significantly impact the work of accessibility professionals like us: the Supreme Court decision that overturned years of reliance on the expertise and opinions of federal agencies, known as "Chevron Defense."

Bill directed me to Richard Hunt, a Texas attorney who writes the blog *Accessibility Defense*. He recently had a [post](#) discussing the *Loper Bright v. Raimondo* decision and "the demise of *Chevron*." He mentions several interesting ways this decision might impact FHA lawsuits in the future. Mr. Hunt's blog doesn't allow for comments, but he indicated he would answer any questions our membership might email him if time permits.

I encourage our membership to read through the [post](#). Doing so made me realize just how significantly the Supreme Court's decision *could* impact the way things are usually done in many different contexts, especially accessibility standards.

[Charles Watt](#)

2024 APA President

We're thrilled to announce that John Wodatch, a renowned disability rights attorney with over 50 years of experience, will deliver the keynote address at next year's conference. Mr. Wodatch played a crucial role in drafting and implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; his insights and expertise will undoubtedly inspire and inform our discussions.



Conference registration will open in November. Stay tuned to our [conference page](#) for the latest updates on the schedule and presenters.

2025 Exhibitors



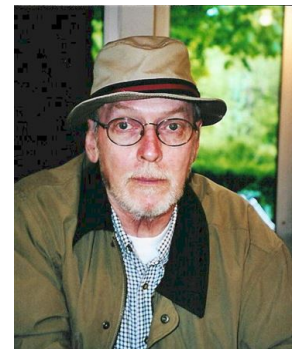
If you're interested in [showcasing your products and services](#) at the 2025 conference, [email us](#) today!



The conference will be held at the Austin Marriott North. All conference attendees are responsible for securing hotel accommodations and travel arrangements. A limited number of rooms are available at a special APA discounted rate. Check availability and book [here](#).

The 2025 Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship application is now open

The 2025 Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship is now accepting applications. Since its inception in 2010, APA has proudly awarded scholarships to promising university students dedicated to advancing accessibility in the built environment. To ensure the scholarship's continued success, the committee is actively fundraising. We would like to invite you to support our efforts by donating an item for our upcoming conference raffle. Please contact a [JBMS Committee member](#) to contribute an item. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted and can be made directly on our [webpage](#). If you know a college student pursuing a career in accessibility in the built environment, please encourage them to apply on our [webpage](#).



APA, as part of a broad coalition of organizations, supports the Pro Codes Act

Recently, the APA was asked to join a coalition of organizations and support the [Pro Codes Act](#), legislation that would allow nonprofit standards developers to sustain their efforts in creating and revising safety codes. A quick turnaround was needed to meet the deadline to sign and show



William Goren

ADA-relevant article from an APA member attorney

Don't miss [William Goren's](#) blog post, "[Failure to accommodate when doing a fitness for duty exam may cost you big time.](#)"



Commentary from an ADA Coordinator

Check out Charles Watt's article, "[Overview of the 2024 Workplace Mental Health Report.](#)"

Upcoming APA continuing education

[APA Fall CE/LU Webinar](#)

Friday, September 6, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. CT (half-day options available)

Miss the 2024 APA National Conference? Don't miss this chance to catch some of those courses. This live, interactive webinar will be on Zoom. Half-day and full-day registration options are available.

Classes include:

- Existing Facilities and Program Access
- Accessible Polling Places
- Once You Arrive: Accessible Parking and Sidewalks
- Accessible Means of Egress: Options and Operation
- ADA and Accessibility: Lessons Learned and Strategies for Compliance
- 2022 CBC Intervening Supplement: Significant Changes in Accessibility



**JAMES
TERRY**

**KIMBERLY
PAARLBERG**

**MARK
HULME**

**DON
WOOD**

Click here to find out more and register

[An Introduction to Universal Design](#)

hosted by APA and the Rocky Mountain Chapter

presented by [Joshua Klyber](#), APAC-BE, over Zoom

Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 12:00 - 1:00 PM CT

APAC-BE #125 1 CEU, ACTCP 1 Elective, AIA/CES #APA 307

1 LU|HSW, ICC #41771 .10 CEU



**Joshua
Klyber**

[Click here to find out more and register](#)

Texas Accessibility Academy

hosted by APA and the Texas Chapter
October 8 & 10, 2024, via Zoom

Join [Marsha Godeaux and Jonathan Sparks](#) for a two-day comprehensive study of the Texas Architectural Barriers Act (TABA), Architectural Barriers Administrative Rules, and the 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS)



**Marsha
Godeaux**



**Jonathan
Sparks**

Single-day registration available

Day #1 AIA/CES #APA 301 8 LU|HSW

Day #2 AIA/CES #APA 302 8 LU|HSW

[Click here to find out more and register](#)



APAC - Certifying excellence in accessibility

The APAC Program expresses sincere gratitude to Scott Crawford

Scott has stepped down from his public member role on the APAC board to devote his time to several multiple sclerosis research committees. We will miss his thoughtful insights and wish him well in his many advocacy roles.



The APAC Board welcomes Mick Hintz as the new public member

Mick brings expertise in architecture and ADA consulting to the Board, and we're delighted to have him involved.



To learn more about the APAC Board, visit [APAC Program page](#)

APAC-BE exam ranked #1 by ADA Shop Talk!

Check out these ADA Shop Talk podcast episodes:

- [5 ADA Certifications That Make You Stand Out](#)
- [The APAC-BE Certification](#), with Matt H Lescher, Director of Accessibility Services at CCI, APAC-BE, and APAC Board president

Find out more information about the [ADA Shop Talk podcast](#). ADA Shop Talk is available on iTunes, Spotify, iHeart Radio, and Amazon.

Congratulations to our newest APAC-BE certificants! Our collaboration with the Great Plain ADA Center in Minneapolis was a great success, and we're looking forward to next year. A list of all of the APAC-BEs can be found here.

See a list of all current APACs here

APA couldn't do it without our volunteers

Thank you to the APA Expansion and Marketing Committee for your efforts in developing plans and activities to expand APA's presence. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.



Jack
McClellan



James
Terry



John
Torkelson



Sandra
Miles
BOD Liaison



Camille
North
APA Staff

Thank you to our wonderful APA volunteers who generously gave

their time to staff our booth at the [ADA symposium](#) in June. Your dedication and enthusiasm were instrumental in spreading awareness of APA's mission and the APAC-BE exam.

The picture to the right shows three of the volunteers: Matt Lescher, Charlie Watt, and John Torkelson.



APA mentorship program



Want to help professionals new to the industry? Need help because you're a professional new to accessibility? Check out the [APA mentorship program](#)!

APA member spotlight



Each month, APA randomly chooses a member to showcase on the APA homepage and social media. Be sure you have a photo and bio in the APA member directory so we can shine a spotlight on you!

[Check out this and all the other member benefits here](#)

Welcome our new members!

Click on the member's name to view their profile in our Member Directory. Not all members have public profiles.

[Tima Bell](#), CA

[David Ecolano](#), VA

[Jessica Hubert](#), NC

[Luisa Janssen Harger Brown](#), NY

[Joel Launchbaugh](#), CA

[Mark Lichter](#), DC

[Susan Lloyd](#), SC

[Elizabeth Mak](#), TX

[Eric Melendez](#), CA

[Ileana Rodriguez](#), TX

[Elizabeth Ruggles](#), CO

[Kirsten Verbus](#), AZ



Current member?

This year's [APA logo](#) is available for your use.

APA 2023 Annual Report

Members can view our

[2023 Annual Report here](#)

APA chapters

All members can [join a "Home Chapter"](#) at no extra cost. Members may also join additional chapters for \$60/year. For more information or to designate your Home Chapter, please contact [Frances Ellington](#).

Are you in need of an accessibility specialist?

Looking for a specialist to help with planning your building designs or making inspections? If so, we have the expertise you need right on our website!

Check our [Hire a Professional](#) page and search our complete directory by expertise, name, or location.

We need you!

APA is looking for professionals who are interested in promoting accessibility throughout the nation. We would love to have you come on one of the APA committees. If you're a current member, [click here](#) to see all APA committees. For any questions, please contact [Camille North](#).

2024 Committee/Chapter leaders

- **Communications & Membership:** [Natalie Crawford](#)
- **Education & Events:** [Angela Shapiro](#)
- **Expansion:** [Jack McClellan](#)
- **Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship:** [Meghan Simecek](#)
- **Legislative & Legal: Board of Directors**
- **Technical Standards:** [Kim Hooker](#)
- **APAC Board:** [Matt Lescher](#)
- **APAC Exam & Item Writing:** [Robin Roberts](#)
- **Rocky Mountain Chapter:** [Dana Barton](#)
- **Texas Chapter:** [Stacey Brewer](#)

Minutes from past committee meetings are available to APA members [here](#).

Have ideas for the newsletter or website?

Join the Communications & Membership Committee. We meet virtually just once a month! Contact [Natalie Crawford](#) to find out more.

Advertise with APA!

If you or a company you know of would benefit from reaching other accessibility professionals, consider advertising on our website or in our newsletter. [Contact APA](#) for details.

Have ADA, FHA, TAS, or other technical questions?

It's easy to get answers via the APA members-only [Forum](#):

- Log in and access your member profile.
- Under the Forums heading select Forum Memberships.
- Choose the forums and threads that interest you.
- You may opt in for any or all discussions.

Sign up for [Job Opportunities](#):

- Remember to opt in for any new discussions, even if you have previously opted in for all discussions.

Don't forget that we also have [FAQs](#) for members only!

Call for job openings! One of your APA member benefits

Let APA work for you!

Find qualified applicants by posting your

Learn more about Accessibility Professionals Association - APA

- [About us - Our vision and mission](#)
- [APA annual reports](#)
- [History](#)
- [Past Board members](#)

2024 APA Board of Directors

- [Charles Watt](#): President
- [Gene Boecker](#): President-elect
- [Walter Qualls](#): Secretary
- [Sarah Strauch](#): Treasurer
- [Mark Mazz](#): Board Member
- [Sandra Miles](#): Board Member
- [Jonathan Mueller](#): Board Member
- [John Torkelson](#): Past President

Members may see all Board minutes [here](#).

APA is an approved* provider for APAC, AIA, ICC, Florida DBPR, and more!

Continuing Education: *APA is an approved CE/LU provider for AIA/CES Provider (#G583), ICC Preferred Provider (#1321), and Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR, #PVD312). APA also provides preverified ACTCP credits on noted courses and has previously awarded an APA-ADA Specialist Designation, an APA-ADA Assembly Area Designation, and an Accessibility Standards completion certificate. APA partners with APAC (Accessibility Professionals Association Certification Program) to provide CE credits. Members/guests can meet the CE/LU requirements of numerous organizations, including the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, by attending APA training and verifying with organizations when a course has been registered.



The APA Newsletter is provided to share general accessibility information and other resources that may be of interest to our members and constituents. While the APA Newsletter is published by the Accessibility Professionals Association, it is not intended to draw legal conclusions, nor does it substitute for the advice of an attorney. The APA Newsletter does not speak for and does not represent the U.S. Department of Justice's interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations (TDLR) interpretation of the 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS).

Additionally, we provide space for advertisers, but we do not claim any knowledge of or approval of advertisers' products or services.

If you have any articles for our next newsletter, please submit your articles to [Frances Ellington](#).

Follow us on social media!



Accessibility Professionals Association - APA | 6001 W Parmer Ln Ste 370 #929 | Austin, TX 78727 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!