

Equal Access Advocates

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·Disabilities Act was passed by the United States Congress, there were approximately 43 million disabled Americans.

·Today, according to the National Institute of Mental Health (“NIMH”), one in four American adults “suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year.”

· Mental disorders alone now claim 57.7 million people and yet are rarely recognized as needing special accommodations during litigation.

·The World Health Organization (WHO) cites depression alone as affecting 121 million people worldwide.

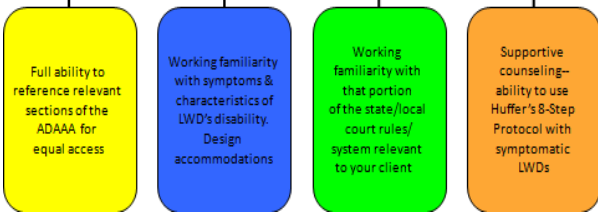
· *Psychiatry* estimated that in the U.S., major mental disorders cost \$193 billion annually in lost earnings.

Consulting
Training webinar/onsite
Expert Witness
Ethical Advocacy for the Invisibly Disabled

Rubric for the effective use of the ADAAA



Ethical compliance under the Americans with Disabilities Act related to invisible disabilities



ADAAA at Work for the Invisibly Disabled

Connecting the Judicial System to the Resources Needed for Ethical Compliance Under the ADAAA 2009

We promise justice, but we deny access. We promise equality, but we deny access. We promise fairness, but we deny access. We don't seek your sympathy. We don't want your pity. Just remove the barriers, and let all have access.

Chief Justice Lewis, Florida Supreme Court

Using the techniques in *Unlocking Justice* may well lead a revolutionary movement toward humanizing our legal system for those most vulnerable among us—an aging population, those with non-apparent disabilities, PTSD, Traumatic Brain injury, ADHD, depression, anxiety, autism, and the many other conditions, *These* will be the quiet heroes who went to court, faced *off* with an adversary, demanded fair and equal access, won their day against the System, and set legal precedent that will outlive us all.

**Phil Zimbardo, Professor Emeritus Stanford University*

flexible accommodation for your litigant's needs

Consulting and Training of Advocates Provide an End to End Solution to Preventing Legal Abuse Syndrome (PTSD/LAS)

After nearly thirty years as an AAMFT Clinical Member and Licensed marriage and Family Therapist in private practice and public school consultancy, I recognized symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are virtually induced by abuses perpetrated by our judicial systems. My research and observations led to treatment protocols published first in 1988 for peer review. Since that beginning, I have written two books, *Overcoming the Devastation of Legal Abuse Syndrome and recently Unlocking Justice*. I continue my research, writing, and speaking on the effects of ethics and legal violations on individuals and our culture. My work confirms that denial of honest services, cronyism, and widespread acceptance of fraud on the court precipitates complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), called Legal Abuse Syndrome. I am deeply concerned that access to our court system is being denied to those with PTSD. Therefore, I serve as an expert witness regarding special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act as needed. I continue to perfect protocols for treating PTSD and am certified on both levels in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR).

- Legal Abuse Syndrome is a subcategory of PTSD
- PTSD is covered under the ADA
- Legal Abuse Syndrome is a preventable injury

EAA Supports Solutions for Advocacy through Training Online or Onsite

- gain protection through knowledge of the ADA against violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2009
- show compliance by certifying an ADA certified specialist to work directly with clients
- gain a general knowledge of the characteristics common to specific invisible disabilities (e.g. autism, PTSD, ADHD)
- learn the steps to creating, applying for, enforcing, and monitoring ADA accommodations
- gain a working appreciation for and use of a mental health component, Huffer's 8-Steps, to facilitate the client's ability to function optimally when symptomatic whether in preparation for court or during court.
- provides CLEs, CEUs, or an ADA advocate/forensic specialist certification

Innovative Solution

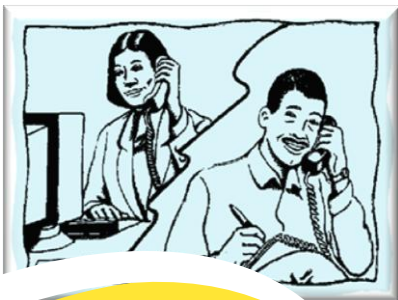
TM

- saves money and time
- relieves family's stress
- relieves burden of court visits
- resolves emotional issues
- yields productive outcomes
- disabilities are not exploited

New: Stalled emotional litigation stealing your life? Dr. Huffer suggests communicating by proxy.

Litigation is necessary for legal disengagements. TM is necessary for all other necessary communication

- Therapeutic Mitigation offers more than mediation
- Complementary to litigation
- Therapeutic features reaches the underlying emotions that create traps keeping a case stuck in a high conflict category
- Affordable compared to litigation
- Stays with a case as long as needed
- More attentive to true human interests



EAA--Provides Therapeutic Mitigation Services

Meeting Disengagement Needs beyond the Parameters of Court

When negotiation presents as an option, many times litigants refuse, caught in negative traps emanating from the court context rather than the pure issues. Therapeutic Mitigation relieves those deep-seated intractable fears and lingering emotions that negatively affect the wellbeing of children and adults long after disengagement. Therapeutic Mitigation gives an opportunity to hear, respect, resolve conflict, and avoid the tragedy of ongoing conflicted relationships. Unless you have a specially trained attorney they will usually work from a legal position rather than your emotions—your fundamental needs and concerns within the reality of your whole self. You can spend your entire legal budget on arguing —positions year after year without getting your interests resolved. There is a difference. Frustrated love, mistrust, feelings of betrayal and your basic goals and needs, short term and long term, are tied to your interests. This is a differentiation that is served by TM.

What TM Looks Like--Proxy Voice Intervention

TM starts with choosing or being ordered to try a less expensive communication model from litigation.

Once the decision to try TM is made by one, both, or all parties, the following steps are usual:

Step 1—The parties agree to dispense with active legal action for a period to be agreed upon.

Step 2—Both parties commit that the wellbeing of the children is the major focus or the health and wellbeing of the litigants.

Step 3—Communication is mainly done through the advocate where it is filtered to reflect the interests of each party.

Step 4—Advocates are uniquely trained to identify the roadblocks to communication.

Step 5—Anger, resentment, and intransigence, often rooted in a principle being violated, are invited to be expressed.

Step 6—The parties agree to generate a volume of possible solutions.

Step 7—Parties agree that the goal is not for a—win but a communication process that is productive.

Step 8—Mitigation is not usually done in person but through writing, telephone, fax, email, text, Skype, or whatever works.

Step 9—When or if an impasse occurs, then a qualified therapist personally approaches the matter.

Step 10—The arrangements are not binding except as the court may order or the participants may want to contract with one another.

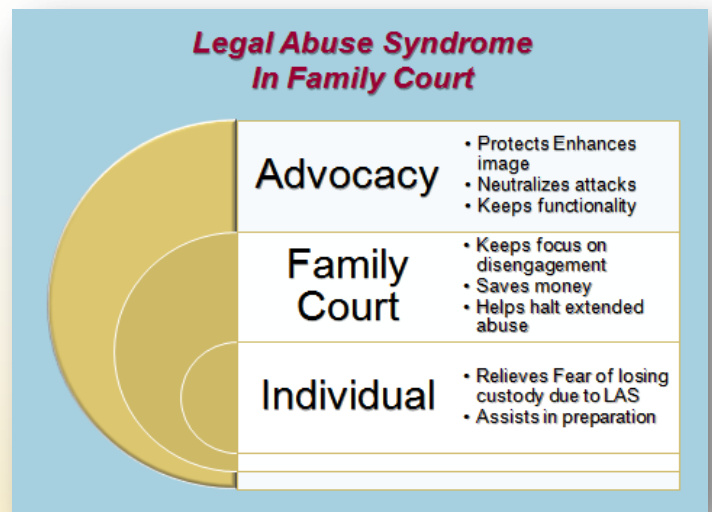
Therapeutic Mitigation is to gradually reveal the traps giving litigants an opportunity to release themselves from them.

Huffer's 8-Steps Counseling Component of the ADAAA Rubric

Helping your client to be functional and capable and eventually cope with and survive PTSD/LAS

1. Reframing: Revalidates & re-centers
2. Debriefing: Organizes data for litigation & counseling
3. Grieving: Expands the counseling realm
4. Deshaming: Guides in discerning motives of opposition to avoid shame
5. Regaining Control Obsessive-Compulsive Hyper-vigilance: Ids & explains loss of control
6. Blaming: Attribution apart from court
7. Empowerment: Ideas that protect & energize
8. Recovery: Helps you seek peace even if there is injustice

*About Philip G. Zimbardo: Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Stanford University is a two-time past president of the Western Psychological Association, and the past president of the American Psychological Association. As an internationally recognized scholar, educator, researcher and media personality, he has won numerous awards and honors in each of these domains. He has been a Stanford University professor since 1968, having taught previously at Yale, NYU, and Columbia. Zimbardo's career is noted for giving psychology away to the public through his popular PBS-TV series, *Discovering Psychology*, along with many text and trade books.



Advocates support of and ability to use Huffer's 8-Steps with symptomatic clients provides the clients tools with which to address the emotional issues not addressed in court. A client's mental and emotional stability profoundly impacts their ability to focus in court. When symptoms numb, blind, and stymie, the advocate is their instrument, attentive to telltale cues:

"Your Honor, my client needs a 10 minute break."

What advocates do is very simple:

- They come onto your case as a consultant and if needed expert witness.
- They review the case to determine what accommodations are needed in the courtroom or during legal proceedings.
- They arrange evaluations to assess what your needs are apart from formal accommodations.
- They prepare a request that is confidentially provided to the access coordinator of the court requesting the accommodations.

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