

# CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO



The Equality Committee on Disability Rights presents

## Disability Rights Strategies for Unhoused Residents

Using the Americans with Disabilities Act and Related Laws to Ensure that Responses to Homelessness Respect the Rights, Needs, and Dignity of Unhoused Residents with Disabilities

### Speaker

#### Michelle Uzeta

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Across the United States, the criminalization of homelessness has intensified. Cities are expanding anti-camping ordinances, conducting large-scale encampment removals, and increasing police involvement in public space management. These practices fall hardest on people with disabilities, who are dramatically overrepresented among unhoused adults nationwide and who face heightened risks when enforcement escalates.

Yet disability is rarely centered in policy responses to homelessness—even though disability civil rights laws offer some of the strongest protections available to unhoused residents. Strict relocation deadlines, inaccessible shelter systems, the seizure of medically necessary equipment, and the failure to offer reasonable modifications can violate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Fair Housing Act and related state laws. Recent case law confirms that, even after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Grants Pass v. Johnson* narrowed some constitutional arguments, disability rights claims remain a powerful avenue for challenging harmful enforcement practices and securing meaningful accommodations.

This webinar will explain why disability and homelessness are deeply interconnected, how criminalization compounds disability-based inequities, and how the ADA and related anti-discrimination laws can be used to protect unhoused people and ensure that responses to homelessness respect the rights, needs, and dignity of disabled residents.

### Topics

- How disability and homelessness are connected
- How criminalization of housing status compounds disability-based inequities
- How the ADA and other disability rights laws can be used to protect the rights, needs, and dignity of unhoused disabled people
- Summary of recent, relevant case law
- Practical strategies for lawyers

### Committee Chair

Ben Bien-Kahn, Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld

Register online: [www.sfbar.org/calendar](http://www.sfbar.org/calendar)

**Wednesday**

**June 17, 2026**

MCLE Registration: 1:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Virtual Program: 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

### MCLE: 1 Hour of Recognition and Elimination of Bias

To receive MCLE credit, you must sign in during the designated MCLE registration period. This activity is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of California.

BASF is a certified provider. Provider #103

### Location

Virtual

Zoom link will be provided prior to the program.

### Cost

Free for BASF Law Student

\$50 Section Member

\$60 BASF Member

\$75 All Others

All prices increase \$10 on the day of the program.

**Pre-registration is required.**

### Viewing Options



Live Webcast available, register at [www.sfbar.org](http://www.sfbar.org)



Webcast Recording will be available. Register separately on our online platform.

Special Requests:

People with disabilities should contact BASF regarding reasonable accommodations at [events@sfbar.org](mailto:events@sfbar.org).

All are welcome, varying rates apply based on membership status.

**Event Code: G261613**