

Joshua T. Cotter
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EDUCATION/ADMISSIONS

Albany Law School, Albany, NY
Juris Doctorate, May 2012

Publications: “Early Intervention Services” and “Pre-School Special Education”, in *Representing People with Disabilities*, 4th Edition

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
Bachelor of Arts: Dual major: Psychology and Political Science, May 2009

Admissions: New York State, Northern District of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

EXPERIENCE

Legal Services of Central New York, Inc., Syracuse, NY
Staff Attorney, August 2012- Present

- Litigate civil rights and disability rights cases in federal and state courts with a focus on the rights of people incarcerated in local county jails and juvenile detention facilities.
- Litigated in state courts including Article 78 proceedings challenging the denial of Section 8 benefits, and actions challenging housing conditions.
- Supervise interns and volunteers on research and writing assignments.
- Present to, and participate on panels for, law schools, national advocacy groups and local organizations.

Disability Advocates, Inc., Albany, NY
Legal Intern, May 2011 – May 2012

- Conducted research, handled intakes and assisted supervising attorneys in representing persons with disabilities on employment, special education, public benefits, and civil rights issues.

Prisoners’ Legal Services, Albany, NY
Legal Intern, September 2010 - May 2011

- Provided civil legal services to people incarcerated in New York State prisons, focusing on civil rights, mental health, conditions of confinement and sentencing issues.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS AND HONORS

2016 Recipient of the New York State Bar Association Dennison Rey Civil Legal Services Staff Attorney Award

Wright v. DOCCS, 831 F.3d 64 (2d Cir. 2016), 242 F.Supp.3d 126 (N.D.N.Y. 2017), which held the New York State prison system’s blanket policy denying motorized wheelchairs to prisoners with serious mobility disabilities violated the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Winston v. City of Syracuse, 887 F.3d 553 (2d Cir. 2018), which held the City of Syracuse's water shut off policies violate tenants' constitutional right to Equal Protection and Substantive Due Process under the law.

Williamson v Maciol, 20-cv-00537, (MAD-DJS), Northern District of New York, ongoing federal class action lawsuit challenging a county jail's discrimination against female prisoners held there.

Wright v OMH, 20-cv-00478, (MAD-TWD), Northern District of New York, ongoing disability rights lawsuit challenging the New York State Office of Mental Health's policy of forcing a man with a severe mobility disability to pay for repairs to his own motorized wheelchair while providing all other residents disability and medical care free of charge.

Wallace v Conway, 19-cv-01024, (FJS-ATB), co-counsel on a disability rights lawsuit challenging a county jail's placement of a man in solitary confinement because he is blind. The case was settled shortly after it was filed and the man moved to general population.

Spero v. Vestal Cent. Sch. Dist., 427 F. Supp. 3d 294 (N.D.N.Y. 2019), co-counsel on case challenging the suspension of a student on the grounds it violated his First Amendment rights and right to Substantive Due Process. The case was settled prior to trial.

J.B. v. Onondaga Cty., 401 F. Supp. 3d 320 (N.D.N.Y. 2019), successful class action lawsuit challenging Onondaga County's failure to make a private interview room available in the courthouse for attorney-client visits.

Drake v Rome City School District, 18-cv-1092, (DNH-ATB), co-counsel on case challenging the suspension of a student on the grounds it violated their First Amendment Rights. The case was settled shortly after filing.

A.T. v. Harder, 298 F. Supp. 3d 391 (N.D.N.Y. 2018) and *V.W. v. Conway*, 236 F.Supp.3d 554 (N.D.N.Y. 2017), successful class action challenges to county jails' practices of placing 16-and 17-year-olds in solitary confinement and denying them access to education.

Williams v. Conway, 312 F.R.D. 248 (N.D.N.Y. 2015), successful class action challenge to a county jail's failure to reasonably accommodate prisoners who are deaf or hard of hearing.