

Good Morning. I am Monica Murphy. I am an attorney with Disability Rights Wisconsin. What a beautiful day and a great occasion to celebrate 20 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We have come a long way. All around us there is increased access to buildings, to transportation, to communication, to education. These things are great and should be celebrated, but we cannot become complacent there is still a long way to go to ensure the equality of people with disabilities in our society. There are still too many people with disabilities living and working in segregated settings. There are still too few people with disabilities working at all. The employment rate for people with disabilities is less than half of that for people without Disabilities. People with disabilities are still being victimized by stigma and bullying. People with disabilities are still being denied effective communication by government services and places of public accommodation 20 years after the passage of the ADA. I just settled one such case last week. Disability Rights Wisconsin is working to promote the equality and independence of people with disabilities but we cannot do it alone. We work with organizations such as Independence First our hosts for this event, we work with the Mental Health Task Force and Make it Work Milwaukee, and we work with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of Justice. This morning we are honored to have here from the United States Department of Justice the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin James Santelle. Mr. Santelle has been with DOJ for 25 years. He has handled civil and criminal cases as well as acted as a Resident Legal Advisor at the United States Embassy in Baghdad and as the Rule of Law Coordinator for the United States Mission in Iraq. In December of 2009 his nomination was confirmed the Senate and President Barack Obama appointed him to be the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin; James Santelle.