

Bar Committees and Sections: Hosting Accessible Events

The Oregon State Bar is committed to ensuring persons with disabilities are able to participate equally in the Bar's events, programs, and services. This includes all committee and section offerings.

In a recent survey evaluating accessibility barriers to Bar programs and services, bar members indicated committee and section events are one of the most common Bar events where they encounter accessibility issues.

When planning events, committees and sections are required to select facilities accessible to people with disabilities. While most hotels and meeting facilities comply with requirements for accessibility, historic venues and private residences often do not. For this reason these types of locations should only be used in limited situations. Event planners are asked to consider and discuss the following questions with facilities they contemplate using for events:

1. Does your organization have a written policy for accessibility for accommodating people with disabilities?
2. Does your facility or organization have a dedicated staff person to assist with accommodation requests?
3. Is your facility located in close proximity to public transportation?
4. In what way is your business/organization able to provide accommodation for individuals who are:
 - a. Mobility impaired?
 - b. Hearing impaired?
 - c. Sight impaired?
5. Which of the following resources does your facility offer?
 - a. Close access to accessible parking spaces
 - b. Installed ramps or access to elevators
 - c. Accessible restrooms
 - d. Braille signage and elevator control buttons
 - e. Websites optimized for the use of electronic readers

[Download Planning Accessible Meetings and Events: A Toolkit from the ABA](#)

ADA Requests for Accommodation

Committees and sections receive a variety of requests for accommodation from potential participants. The Bar is here to help sections and committees make arrangements for accommodations. ***Only the Executive Director or her designee may deny a request for accommodation.*** Generally the committee or section is responsible for all expenses associated with meeting accommodation requests. If you receive a request for accommodation, please contact Member Services Director Danielle Edwards at dedwards@osbar.org or 503-431-6426, or the Bar's ADA Coordinator Nik Chourey at nchourey@osbar.org or 503-431-6363.

For more information the Bar's ADA Notice is available at <http://www.osbar.org/ada/adanotice.html>.