

Preface

This book is intended to be a guide for understanding disability law as it applies to property, land use, and zoning law practice. For many people representing or working with local governments, this may be a new area of legal consideration. It is important to do property development, land planning, and zoning with proper concern for the ability of all people to safely and easily navigate our built environment, including people with disabilities and people seeking to age in place.

Moreover, we must appreciate that disability laws and regulations apply to a wide range of local government activities and services. This includes planning, zoning, and all programs, services, and activities of local government, as well as the building and alteration of certain facilities and structures. Up until now, there has been little guidance on disability law and its application to property, planning, and zoning law. This book undertakes the process of sorting through the numerous and varied sources of disability law in order to present the user with a clear and concise guide to the key provisions of disability law applicable to the work of local government and to property, planning, and zoning lawyers. This book is not meant to be an exhaustive and all-inclusive treatise. It is meant to provide an introduction and broad overview of land use law and disability. It includes key references and an easy-to-follow set of examples

that assist the reader in understanding issues of disability law in the context of property, land use, and zoning.

Remember that in practice, one will also need to consult state law that may supplement federal law on these topics.

While developing this book, I have had the assistance of several research assistants. I wish to acknowledge and thank them for assisting me with footnotes and proofreading. They are Christopher Baiamonte, Shannon Crane, Jeffrey Fasoldt, Jr., Emily Keable, Dominique Kelly, Sarah K. Spencer, and Maria Zumpano.