

### Media Release

## Lawsuit filed against Denver's Colorado Convention Center for not providing assistive listening system(s)

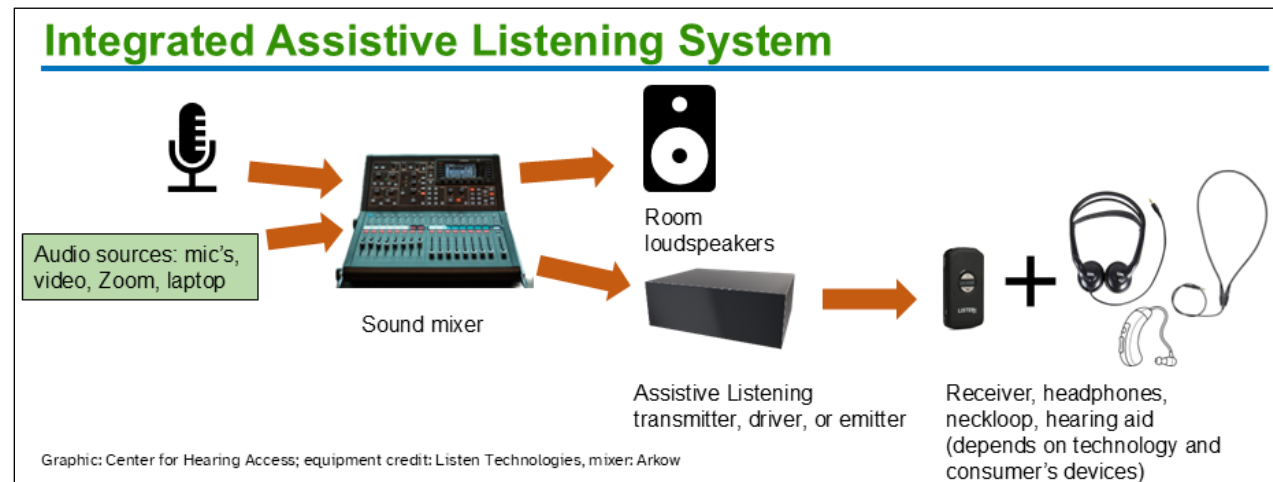
### For Immediate Release

(Eugene, OR, July 28, 2026) The Center for Hearing Access, in conjunction with the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC), announce that on July 22, 2026, co-plaintiffs Dr. Linda Forrest of Oregon, and CCDC filed a civil rights discrimination lawsuit in federal district court in Colorado under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) against the City and County of Denver and other related entities as owner and operators of the Colorado Convention Center (CCC), and the American Psychological Association (APA) for the failure to provide assistive listening systems for sessions during the APA's August 2025 annual convention held at the Colorado Convention Center. Case No. [1:26-cv-03311](#)

Assistive listening systems (ALS) [transmit audio clearly](#) from a microphone to a person's ear by minimizing the negative effects of distance, background noise, and reverberation. Just as a ramp or elevator is required for a building with stairs, an assistive listening system is required under the [ADA](#) as part of the built environment in all rooms with sound systems. Access is required for individuals who wear hearing aid equipment as well as for those who do not. In addition, individuals with other disabilities such as autism, low vision, auditory processing disorders, ADHD, and cerebral palsy, find assistive listening systems invaluable.



*Required signage for  
assistive listening systems*



*Assistive listening systems are integrated with a sound system to give equal access to audio.*

Dr. Forrest, a retired professor highly regarded in her field with longtime leadership positions with the APA, has significant hearing loss and requires an assistive listening system to effectively participate in conference sessions where she was both an audience member and a panel moderator. No system was provided in any of the more than 60 conference meeting rooms.

Dr. Forrest states: “The APA has been my professional home for over four decades. While my hearing aids are invaluable, their [effective range](#) is only about 6 feet. As my hearing loss has increased, I am understanding less and am increasingly dependent upon ALS to be able to fully participate in these professionally important meetings. Last year while attending the 2025 APA Convention, I understood virtually nothing.

If an assistive listening system (ALS) such as a hearing loop, FM, or infrared technology had been present as required by the ADA, I would have been a full participant in my annual professional meeting. Without the ALS, I was left out of the exciting intellectual exchanges that regularly occur at professional meetings. I missed descriptions of the latest psychological research and practice developments. I ended up being isolated from my professional peers. All of this happened to me last year, yet it didn’t need to happen. If an ALS had been present, I would have heard everything and been able to participate fully. I am pursuing this lawsuit not only for myself but for the many others who struggle with hearing loss. The technology exists for us to be able to hear and understand. This lawsuit is an effort to make sure that in the future assistive listening technology is present in all of the CCC meeting rooms so individuals who need this help will be able to hear and understand.”

The Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition is suing on behalf of itself and its members whose rights to effective communication at the CCC have been denied and will continue to be denied if the Convention Center remains non-compliant. Attorney Andrew Montoya, who represents the plaintiffs, said, “The ADA was signed into law 36 years ago, and the convention center was expanded in 2005 and again in 2024. Astonishingly, none of the 63 meeting rooms in the convention center include assistive listening systems.” Julie Reiskin, CCDC’s co-Executive Director, noted that “assistive listening systems help people with hearing loss and many others, but they only work when they are in place.”

The Center for Hearing Access, a national education and advocacy network based in Eugene, OR, is particularly interested in this suit because, Director Ginevra Ralph states, “[73 million Americans](#) have some degree of hearing loss and over 98% of them use spoken language to communicate. They have the right under the ADA to expect an assistive listening system to be in place – without having to request it in advance – whenever they attend performances, lectures, conferences, court, city council meetings, and so forth, in order to fully participate in daily community life. We hope that Dr. Forrest’s and the CCDC’s suit will ensure that everyone will have this sort of equal hearing access.”

**About the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition**

Founded in 1990, the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC), a non-profit organization, is Colorado's premier disability rights advocacy organization, run by and for people with disabilities. CCDC advocates social justice for Coloradans with all types of disabilities. CCDC strives for all Coloradans with disabilities to live full, equitable lives with equal access to any civic, professional, and/or personal opportunities available to people without disabilities.

**Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition Contact Information**

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**About the Center for Hearing Access**

Founded in 2024, the Center for Hearing Access is a national, non-profit advocacy initiative educating and supporting consumers, audiologists, hearing instrument specialists, and facility staff about all ADA compliant assistive listening systems and other strategies to encourage continued community engagement and rewarding social and cultural experiences for people with hearing loss. The Center maintains a robust website with practical advocacy resources, including templates, videos, articles, vendor lists, hyperlinks, and 150+ practical handouts. A 501(c)(3) non-profit, the Center refrains from endorsing any specific products, businesses or services by policy to ensure impartiality and to provide the most useful body of information to its targeted audiences.

**Center for Hearing Access Contact Information**

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