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Date: 7/8/2015 2:00:47 PM  
Subject: Two Ground-breaking Decisions

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## The ADA at 25

We were honored to participate in an event organized by the Administration on Community Living last month to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Kevin delivered a keynote speech in which he highlighted how the ADA has been a powerful tool for change for older adults, praised the disability community for its strong and sustained activism and noted that this activism can be a model for aging advocates. For more of our thoughts on the intersections between disability rights and aging rights advocacy read [our blog](#) and [paper](#) on the ADA at 25.

## Celebrating Pride in a Big Way

When the Supreme Court ruled to extend marriage rights to all same sex couples across the nation on June 26, just in time for LGBT Pride, we celebrated. Access to the rights and benefits of marriage is important for everyone, and has an even greater impact on the lives of many older LGBT couples. As we celebrate, we must continue to fight discriminatory practices that linger in the system. That's why we released a fresh version of our 2011 report, [\*\*\*LGBT Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities: Stories from the Field\*\*\*](#). The report served as an impetus for San Francisco's Bill of Rights for LGBT Seniors and we hope it

will spark more such actions in other cities. In other LGBT news, we have a hopeful update on our class action against Social Security seeking to stop its practice of going after married LGBT SSI recipients for overpayments paid to them as a result of Social Security's failure to recognize their marriages when it should have.

[Read the update »](#)

## **CUFF Act Won't Fight Crime, But It Will Fight Poor People**

The misguided policy that nearly made Rosa Martinez homeless is rearing its ugly head again. Rosa Martinez, a California woman whose SSI benefits were stopped because the Social Security Administration mistook her for a Florida woman with the same name and an outstanding warrant, was Justice in Aging's lead Plaintiff in a case against Social Security. The case successfully challenged the agency's policy of relying solely on the existence of an outstanding warrant to withhold benefits, often for minor infractions like failing to appear in court for a traffic violation, and regardless of whether the person knew about the warrant. The one thing that all of the cases had in common was that the law enforcement agency that issued the warrant had no interest in pursuing the person to secure an arrest. Now two U.S. Representatives have introduced the CUFF Act in Congress, which would reinstitute this unfair policy and throw low-income seniors and people with disabilities who depend on SSI as their sole source of support out on the streets. Stay tuned for more news about how you can help us combat this misguided bill.

[Read more on our blog »](#)

## **Affordable Care Act Wins Again!**

On June 25, the Supreme Court upheld the tax subsidies that help people aged 50-64 afford health care coverage

that would otherwise be out of their reach. The decision once again upheld the Affordable Care Act, which has expanded health care coverage to millions and includes important benefits for low-income older adults.

[Read our blog for more details »](#)

## In Case You Missed It

Here's a list of reports, publications, and webinars released in June

- ***Give your Advocacy Teeth*** Dental Fact Sheets for all seven counties in California that have implemented the CCI
- ***Version Four of the Advocate's Guide to California's Coordinated Care Initiative*** Advocates Guide
- ***Medicaid Managed Care Rules: Key Considerations for Aging Advocates*** Issue Brief
- ***ADA at 25: Aging Advocates Celebrate Partnership and Progress*** Issue Brief
- ***LGBT Older Adults in Long-Term Care: Stories from the Field*** Report
- ***Protecting Dual Eligibles from Balance Billing: What Advocates Need to Know*** Webinar
- ***The California Coordinated Care Initiative: Consumer Benefits and Benefit Package Summary—Advanced Training*** Webinar
- ***Medicaid Managed Care Rules: Key Considerations for Aging Advocates*** Webinar
- ***The California Coordinated Care Initiative: What Advocates Need to Know—Santa Clara County*** Webinar

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