

Bob Joondeph, Chair  
Nancy J. Altman  
Jagadeesh Gokhale  
Kim Hildred



400 Virginia Ave, SW  
Suite 625  
Washington, DC 20024

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Claire Green, Staff Director

## Board Meeting Public Agenda July 29, 2022

Virtual Session

### Social Security Marriage Penalties

11 am – 12:15 pm

#### Public Session

*A Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) working group will provide a policy briefing on marriage penalties in SSA programs. Participants will talk about how marital status affects Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and identify possible legislative and administrative changes for Board consideration.*

*Presenters include:*

- **Claudia Center**, Legal Director, Disability Rights, Education, and Defense Fund (DREDF)
- **Ayesha Elaine Lewis**, Staff Attorney, DREDF
- **Kate Lang**, Senior Staff Attorney, Justice in Aging
- **David Goldfarb**, Director of Financial Security Policy, The Arc

*The Board is committed to ensuring all sessions are accessible to the public. Public sessions will be recorded with live closed captioning. To request an accommodation, please email [events@ssab.gov](mailto:events@ssab.gov). The Board can meet requests more effectively if notice is provided at least three business days before the event.*

## Speaker Bios

**Claudia Center** is Legal Director for Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF), where she litigates cases that increase civil rights and civil liberties for persons with disabilities, and represents the disability community in legislative, policy, amicus, and appellate work. Center was previously a Senior Staff Attorney in the Disability Rights Program of the national ACLU Foundation, and the Director of the Disability Rights Program at Legal Aid at Work. In 2009, she received the Paul G. Hearne Award for Disability Rights from the ABA Commission on Disability Rights. Center played a key role in the passage of comprehensive amendments to the Fair Employment and Housing Act that successfully expanded protections for persons with disabilities in employment and housing. In addition, she argued before the United States Supreme Court in *US Airways, Inc. v. Barnett*, a case that confirmed a broad scope of “reasonable accommodations” for disabled employees. Claudia has served as an Adjunct Professor teaching disability rights law at Hastings College of the Law and at Berkeley Law. Following law school, Center was a Staff Attorney at NARAL Pro-Choice America and was a recipient of the Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellowship in 1992. She earned a JD from Berkeley Law and a BA from Wesleyan University.

**Ayesha Elaine Lewis** joined DREDF as a Staff Attorney in Fall 2020. Ayesha’s interest in disability rights began as a college student at the City University of New York, Macaulay Honors College at Lehman College. As a leader in student government, she spearheaded successful efforts to improve campus accessibility for students with disabilities. Her experience seeing the potential for civil rights mandates to increase the opportunities for her fellow students to pursue their dreams strengthened her motivation to go on to law school. Ayesha is a graduate of New York University School of Law, where she earned her JD in 2013 and LLM in taxation in 2015. After clerking for Justice Allison Eid at the Colorado Supreme Court and Judge Juan F. Vasquez at the United States Tax Court and working in legal services, she became a legal fellow at the ACLU Center for Liberty. At the ACLU, she litigated civil rights impact cases, engaged in policy advocacy, and conducted public education regarding gender discrimination and disability justice, with a particular focus on issues that intersect with racial justice. She then completed a fellowship at the ACLU of Michigan, where her work focused on immigration, criminal justice, and policing reform. Ayesha uses her experience from various aspects of civil rights

advocacy to inform her work to advance the civil and human rights of people with disabilities at DREDF.

**Kate Lang** is a Senior Staff Attorney in Justice in Aging’s Economic Security Team in Washington, DC. Lang works on Social Security and SSI-related issues and was formerly a Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Bureau in Riverdale, Maryland where Lang was an advocate for low-income older adults and persons with disabilities. In previous positions, Lang worked at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, Bread for the City Legal, and Doherty, Cella, Keane and Associates, LLP, and Legal Services of Northern California. Lang received a BA from Oberlin College, JD from Fordham University School of Law, and a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania in teaching English to speakers of other languages.

**David Goldfarb** joined the Arc of the United States as its new Director of Financial Security Policy in March 2022. Previously, he spent nearly eight years at the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), where he oversaw NAELA's advocacy initiatives. His successful advocacy campaigns include passage of the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act and the extension of Medicaid's spousal impoverishment protections to home and community-based service waivers through September 2023. He currently co-chairs the Disability and Aging Collaborative and the CCD Social Security and Financial Security Task Forces. Goldfarb began his public policy career as the Economic Policy Fellow for Senator Bill Nelson of Florida. He holds a JD from Seattle University School of Law and a BA in economics from the University of Colorado. He was inducted into the National Academy of Social Insurance in 2017.