



Linda Mastandrea

Paralympian – Wheelchair Track 15 Gold and 5 Silver Medals

Linda Mastandrea is currently an attorney in Chicago, IL with a practice concentrating in disability law and advocacy, as well as Director of Sport for Chicago 2016, the organization working to bring the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games to Chicago.

Linda, who was born with cerebral palsy, has been active in the disability community since her college days at the University of Illinois, when she was introduced to wheelchair sports.

Competing in wheelchair track, Linda won 15 gold and 5 silver medals representing the United States in

Paralympic and World Championship competition in the 1990's. She set world and national records in five different events during her career. Meeting people around the nation and around the world convinced Linda that the issues people with disabilities faced everywhere were quite similar. She discovered a passion for advocacy, and took a job with the Peninsula CIL in Newport News, VA in the late 1980's. After a couple of years there, she moved back to Chicago, taking a job at the newly opened Progress CIL as the Program Manager.

She then decided to pursue a J.D, graduating from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1994. Linda has taught Disability Law, conducted seminars and trainings on the ADA, Rehabilitation Act, vocational rehabilitation, and other disability related topics for audiences nationwide. She represents people with disabilities, helping them enforce their rights under state and federal disability laws. She is also a hearing officer for a state agency, hearing cases concerning the provision of special education and related services.

She has received numerous awards for her accomplishments, including the Harold Scharper Achievement Award from the University of Illinois, the International Olympic Committee President's Disabled Athlete Award, the David Award from the Italo-American National Union, and a Young Alumni Award from Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Linda is actively involved in the community on a local, national and international level. She serves on Access Living's board and chairs their Lawyer's Advisory Committee. She serves as Vice President to the National Disability Sports Alliance. She is Secretary to the Midwest Chapter of Olympians and Paralympians and on the board of World Sport Chicago. She is a member of the Legal Committee of the International Paralympic Committee as well. Previously, she served on the Business Enterprise for Persons with Disabilities (BEPD) Advisory Council for the City of Chicago, which assists the city in awarding qualified disability owned businesses procurement opportunities with the city.