



For Immediate Release

Ashley White, Equal Rights Center, 202.370.3204

awhite@equalrightscenter.org

Equal Rights Center Board of Directors Welcomes Former Executive Director of American Council of the Blind

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 22, 2010 — Today the [Equal Rights Center](http://www.equalrightscenter.org) (ERC)—a national non-profit civil rights organization—announced the appointment of the newest member to the Board of Director’s, long time disability and blind community advocate, Charles H. Crawford.

“The entire Board of Directors for the Equal Rights Center is very excited to announce our newest member, a lifetime advocate for equal rights for people with disabilities, Charles Crawford,” said Rev. Dr. James G. Macdonell, President of the Equal Right’s Center’s Board of Directors. “With his recognized leadership within the blind community, Charles will be an excellent addition to our Board and the efforts to end discriminations in this country.”

Crawford joins the board with a career of service and advocacy on behalf of the blind community. Once the Executive Director of American Council of the Blind (ACB)—a national consumer-advocacy organization with 30,000 blind and visually impaired members—Crawford still works closely with the organization. He currently serves as Chair of ACB’s Rehabilitation Issues task force, President of ACB’s National Capital Area Chapter, and Vice President of ACB’s Maryland Chapter.

“I feel honored to join such a distinguished and diverse group of civil rights leaders on the Board of Directors for the Equal Rights Center,” said Charles Crawford. “I look forward to working with the rest of the board to help the organization fulfill its mission to end discrimination across the country.”

In addition to his extensive work and dedication to ACB, Crawford currently works throughout the capital region to ensure the voice of the disability community is heard. He currently is a Commissioner on the Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities, is a member of both the Maryland State Rehabilitation Councils for the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Office of Blindness and Vision Services.

“The Equal Rights Center is able to accomplish all we do through the guidance and expertise of our tremendous board, and the organization is truly lucky to have yet another distinguished civil rights advocate lead us on the march in advancing civil rights,” said Don Kahl, Executive Director of the Equal Rights Center.

In addition to advocacy work, Crawford has been an important public servant throughout his career, providing consultation to national and local governmental entities. Most recently Crawford was hired as a Consultant and Trainer for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority’s Metro Access paratransit program. Crawford also held the posts of National Program Director of Blind Rehabilitation Services Department of Veterans Affairs and Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

Crawford’s advocacy and service on behalf of the blind community has been recognized through both local and national awards including the George Card Award from the American Council of the Blind, the Access Award from the American Foundation for the Blind, the Morris Frank Award from The Seeing Eye, Inc., and an award from Massachusetts Projects with Industry in recognition of leadership developing technology for the blind.

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About the Equal Rights Center (www.equalrightscenter.org)

Originally formed in 1983, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) is a national non-profit civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. With members located in 33 states and the District of Columbia, the ERC works nationally to promote equal opportunity in housing, employment, disability rights, immigrant rights, and access to public accommodations and government services for all protected classes under federal, state, and local laws.