



For Immediate Release

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Three Washington D.C. Hilton Hotels to Increase Accessibility for People with Disabilities

*Hotels reach agreement with American Association of People with Disabilities
and Equal Rights Center to implement accessibility initiative*

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 13, 2010 – The Equal Rights Center (ERC), a national non-profit civil rights organization, and the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), today announced an agreement with Hilton Worldwide, Inc. and the owners of three Washington D.C. Hilton hotels, including the Washington Hilton, Embassy Row Hilton, and the Capital Hilton, that will enhance the accessibility of these hotels.

“AAPD appreciates the opportunity to work with these hotels to enhance accessibility and advertise these improvements to our community and society at large,” said Andrew J. Imparato, President and CEO of AAPD.

After receiving evaluations from its members regarding the accessibility of several Hilton brand hotels in 2008, the ERC reviewed three Washington D.C. hotels. The ERC and AAPD then approached Hilton, which manages the Washington Hilton and Capital Hilton, and the owners of the Embassy Row Hilton to inform them of their recommendations. The owners of the three hotels then worked with ERC and AAPD to ensure that the hotels provide industry leading levels of accommodation for guests with disabilities.

“The ERC was very pleased to have the opportunity to work with these three hotels and the AAPD, a national leader for people with disabilities, in addressing our concerns,” said Donald Kahl, Executive Director of the ERC. “More than 10 million people visit the District every year and these hotels are taking an important step forward by agreeing to ensure all of those visitors have access to these world-class hotels.”

The three hotels agreed to incorporate suggestions made by ERC and AAPD into their renovation programs, two of which had already commenced, to increase, in some cases, the number of accessible guest rooms, ensure dispersion of accessible rooms among room types, and

generally to improve accessibility throughout hotel guest rooms, restaurants, ballrooms, common areas, and parking lots. Two of the hotels also agreed to implement advertising and outreach programs to promote their accessibility.

The ERC and AAPD were represented by the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs and Gilbert LLC.

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About the American Association of People with Disabilities (www.aapd.com)

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the country's largest cross-disability membership organization, organizes the disability community to be a powerful voice for change – politically, economically, and socially. AAPD was founded in 1995 to help unite the diverse community of people with disabilities, including their family, friends and supporters, and to be a national voice for change in implementing the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

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.

About the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs (<http://www.washlaw.org/>)

The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs was established in 1968 to provide pro bono legal services to address issues of discrimination and entrenched poverty. Since its founding, the Committee has handled more than 5,000 cases on behalf of individuals and advocacy organizations in the areas of equal employment, fair housing, public accommodations, public education, asylum and refugee rights, and disability rights. For more information about the Committee, see www.washlaw.org. The Committee can be reached at 202.319.1000.

