

LOU ANN BLAKE



EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law
Wilmington, Delaware

JD, May 2005

Montana Tech of The Univ. of Montana
Butte, Montana

BS Environmental Engineering, 1983

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NFB Newsline Hawaii
Independent Contractor, Program Manager

May 2024 – present

- Conducts outreach presentations about NFB Newsline to residents of Hawaii with print disabilities, rehabilitation service providers, and educators of students with print disabilities; performs administrative duties such as data collection and report preparation.

National Federation of the Blind
Baltimore, Maryland

December 2005 to January 2024

- Managed and conducted accessible voting advocacy for the NFB, including evaluating ballot marking devices and remote accessible vote-by-mail (RAVBM) systems for accessibility and usability, and providing feedback to vendors.
- Supported coalitions of NFB affiliates and other disability rights and stakeholder organizations in advocacy efforts for the passage of accessible vote-by-mail legislation in Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont.
- Served as an expert witness for two federal voting discrimination cases regarding the right of voters with print disabilities to vote-by-mail privately and independently: *Johnson, et al. v. Callanen, et al.*, SA-22-cv-00409-XR (W.D. Tex. 2023) and *American Council of the Blind, et al. v. Indiana Elections Commission, et al.*, No. 1:20-cv-02118-JMS-MJD (S.D. Ind. 2020).

- Managed programming to provide training and technical assistance to elections officials, voting advocates in the protection and advocacy system space, and blind and low-vision voters.
- Deliverables produced include *Electronic Ballot Delivery System Accessibility Guidelines*, as well as webinars and workshops to educate voting advocates, elections officials, and blind and low-vision voters about accessible voting technologies, and the barriers to voting experienced by blind voters.
- Presentations given on accessible voting included conferences and meetings of National Disability Rights Network, National Association of State Election Directors, American Bar Association Standing Committee on Election Law, National Council on Disability, National Commission on Voting Rights, and Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium.
- Other duties included: coordinating the annual Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium, including fundraising and selecting topics and speakers; serving as managing editor of the NFB's online journal, *The Journal of Blindness Innovation and Research*; and working with the NFB research advisory council to review research studies to ensure they were suitable for participation by NFB members.

C.C. Johnson & Malhotra, P.C.

August 2001 – August 2002
September 1985 – June 1993

Lou Ann Blake, Inc.

February 1998 – August 2001

Gannett Fleming, Inc.

June 1993 – February 1998

Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, P.A.

September 1984 – September 1985

City of Baltimore
Environmental Engineer

July 1983 – September 1984

- Worked with clients and engineers to formulate the design and prepare plans, specifications, and construction cost estimates for the construction of municipal capital improvement projects related to wastewater treatment, water treatment, and solid and hazardous waste.
- Was responsible for coordination between the client, design engineers, government regulators, and construction contractor during design and construction, including the review of change orders.

PUBLICATIONS

- The Blind Voter's Guide to Voting (<https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/national-center-nonvisual-election-9>)
- Blind Voter Registration Drive Guide (<https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/national-center-nonvisual-election-10>)
- Accessible Vote-by-Mail Toolkit (<https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/national-center-nonvisual-election-3#experience>)
- Purchasing an Accessible Voting System (<https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/national-center-nonvisual-election-4>)
- Training the Poll Worker: Empowering the Blind Voter (<https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/national-center-nonvisual-election-5>)
- Blind Voter Survey Reports for 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2020 Absentee Voters, 2022, 2022 Absentee Voters (<https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/national-center-nonvisual-election-3>)
- Videos (<https://nfb.org/resources/voting-resources>)
 - The Clear Ballot Clear Access
 - Dominion voting ImageCast X
 - ES&S ExpressVote
 - Hart InterCivic Verity

AWARDS

2021 Maryland Top 100 Women, awarded by *The Daily Record*

Hon. William Duffy Memorial Scholarship, Widener University School of Law, 2004-2005 Academic Year

Nicole "Nikki" Cullison Memorial Award, Widener University School of Law, 2004

VOLUNTEER WORK

Member, Mobile Voting Circle of Advisors, Tusk Philanthropies	January 2024 –present
Advisor, Illinois Collation for Accessible Voting	January 2024 – present
Treasurer, Greater Baltimore Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland	2019 to January 2024
Board Member, Peaces of Me Foundation	2019 – 2021
Member, Baltimore City Mayor's Commission on Disabilities	2009 to 2017