Preface

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In July 1990, when President Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), society finally recognized the civil rights of Americans with disabilities. As with most civil rights legislation, passage of the ADA resulted from concentrated, cohesive lobbying efforts by Americans with disabilities and their supporters. The ADA stood as the flag at the helm of the disability rights movement. "We've finally done it," supporters exclaimed in exultation as the President's pen touched paper, "we've achieved recognition as full-fledged members of American society."

To achieve such recognition, disability rights advocates argued from moral, political, and economic perspectives. Now, there are new goals, and the arguments which disability rights advocates previously advanced may not effectively serve to achieve them. The following four essays address this issue of change, and suggest specific attitudinal shifts that the authors deem necessary to attain the disability movement's current objectives.

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†† Each essay represents the opinion of that author only, and not necessarily the consensus of all authors.


2 These essays are the result of a panel presented at the 1993 Society for Disability Studies meeting which was organized by Sara D. Watson.