# **Dots and Dashes**

# **March 21, 2022**

## **ACB Applauds DOJ’s Guidance on Web Access & the ADA**

On Friday, the Department of Justice published [guidance today on web accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)](https://www.acb.org/bop-seeks-award-excellence-2). It explains how state and local governments (entities covered by ADA Title II) and businesses open to the public (entities covered by ADA Title III) can make sure their websites are accessible to people with disabilities as required by the ADA. The guidance discusses a range of topics, including the importance of web accessibility, barriers that inaccessible websites can create for people with disabilities, when the ADA requires web content to be accessible, and tips on making web content accessible.  [The press release is available here.](mailto:slovering@acb.org)To find out more about the ADA, visit [ada.gov](mailto:carrie.muth.acbo@gmail.com) or call the Justice Department’s toll-free ADA information line at 1-800-514-0301 or 1-800-514-0383 (TTY).

## **Mark Your Calendars for FCC Online Forum on Video Programming Accessibility**

Last week, the FCC announced a virtual event, the Video Programming Accessibility Forum – Online Audio Description (Forum) scheduled for March 28, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Eastern. The Forum will explore the state of audio description availability for online video programming, including best practices and technical issues. It will also explore how to enhance accessibility, such as voluntary actions to promote online audio description.

This is a public event and will be captioned and sign language interpreted via [www.fcc.gov/live](mailto:VRLab@rice.edu). Additional reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request by emailing [FCC504@fcc.gov](http://surveymonkey.com/r/2022acblc) or calling the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) at (202) 418-0530.

The public and interested stakeholders will be able to engage in this discussion by sending questions during the event to [livequestions@fcc.gov](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AMDPixiumUS). An agenda and more materials will be available on the events page.

Event Link to the Forum:

URL:  [https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/03/video-programming-accessibility-forum-online-audio-description](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAzMTguNTUxMjc1NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5qdXN0aWNlLmdvdi9vcGEvcHIvanVzdGljZS1kZXBhcnRtZW50LWlzc3Vlcy13ZWItYWNjZXNzaWJpbGl0eS1ndWlkYW5jZS11bmRlci1hbWVyaWNhbnMtZGlzYWJpbGl0aWVzLWFjdCJ9.ZdQcEAlBureDZU435C7YbDXr0CTllDSs_bayhkL41Zo/s/667332679/br/128340540219-l)

Public Notice:

URL:  [https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-second-video-programming-accessibility-forum](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAzMTguNTUxMjc1NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5hZGEuZ292LyJ9.Cx5TMP_wWiT5y_5b50vgaHc0ziL8rQ4RQ38GrujHVnE/s/667332679/br/128340540219-l)

Word:  [https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-22-287A1.docx](http://www.fcc.gov/live)

PDF:  [https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-22-287A1.pdf](mailto:FCC504@fcc.gov)

Text:  [https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-22-287A1.txt](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAzMTguNTUxMjc1NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2JldGEuYWRhLmdvdi93ZWItZ3VpZGFuY2UvIn0.m_kklocW1x4v5cn4lATjSKrQ_90Y97Kf8AFczh2_ScY/s/667332679/br/128340540219-l)

General information about the FCC’s audio description requirements is available at [https://www.fcc.gov/audio-description](mailto:SundayEditionAC@gmail.com). For specific questions, please contact Joshua Mendelsohn, Attorney Advisor, Disability Rights Office, CGB, FCC, at [joshua.mendelsohn@fcc.gov](https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-second-video-programming-accessibility-forum) or Diana Sokolow, Attorney Advisor, Policy Division, Media Bureau, FCC, [diana.sokolow@fcc.gov](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-22-287A1.docx). Individuals who use videophones and are fluent in American Sign Language may call the FCC’s ASL Consumer Support Line at (844) 432-2275 (videophone).

## **Leadership Conference Survey**

Many thanks to all who attended ACB’s 2022 virtual D.C. Leadership Conference. We would like you to participate in a brief satisfaction survey. This will greatly assist us in improving the quality of our conferences and events. You can take the survey at [http://surveymonkey.com/r/2022acblc](mailto:livequestions@fcc.gov).

## **Seeking Blog Posts**

Did you attend this year’s virtual legislative seminar? Were you able to meet with your senators, representatives, and/or legislative aides? We’re looking for blog posts reflecting your experiences with advocacy. Send them to [slovering@acb.org](https://www.fcc.gov/audio-description).

## **Call for Nominees for 2022 ACB Awards**

The awards committee is searching for nominees who you feel are deserving of national recognition for their work in ACB or the blindness community. Awards will be presented at the 2022 conference and convention in Omaha. Nominees will be judged on the quality of nomination letters and how well the person meets the spirit of the award for which they are being nominated. Please remember that the candidate must have national influence to be considered for the ACB awards.

**The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2022.** All nomination letters must be received electronically by 11:59 p.m. Eastern on April 1st, 2022. Email your nomination letters to both Carrie Muth, [carrie.muth.acbo@gmail.com](mailto:irb@rice.edu), and Koni Sims, [koni.l.sims@gmail.com](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-22-287A1.pdf).

For details about the awards, visit [https://www.acb.org/call-nominees-2022-acb-awards-0](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-22-287A1.txt) and [https://www.acb.org/bop-seeks-award-excellence-2](https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/03/video-programming-accessibility-forum-online-audio-description).

## **ACB Furry-Tails, Presented by Sunday Edition ands GDUI**

There have been so many memorable moments and people in the American Council of the Blind over the last 60 years, but there have been so many Furry Skilled Professionals who live in our hearts and memories. Sunday Edition is partnering with GDUI for a program to recognize some of these amazing guides. This year in Omaha during the national convention, join us as we remember and honor these wonderful dogs and their handlers.

How Furry-Tails will work:

Sunday Edition will collect nominations from now through May 15th. Then a committee from GDUI and Sunday Edition will select 10 Furry-Tail recipients to be awarded at the convention. A paw-shaped plaque will be awarded to the handler or representative of the handler, and a testimonial will be placed on the Furry-Tails webpage that will be created for this awesome program. Pictures and video testimonials will be recorded for the program and the handlers will have the opportunity to address the program attendees to remember their special furry professionals. Additionally, Sunday Edition will highlight the awardees on the weekly program in August.

Submissions should include:

* A written testimonial of 500 to 750 words, including the story of said furry professional with anecdotes and accomplishments. Please include any memorable moments from the life of the nominee.
* Who is the handler and who will represent the handler and nominee at convention;
* A bright and clear picture of the nominee and one of the team; and
* Any folks who wish to share stories and memories of the nominee.

Please send your nominations to [SundayEditionAC@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.mendelsohn@fcc.gov), and put “Furry-Tails Nominee” in the subject line.

As we celebrate 60 memorable years of ACB, let’s celebrate the furry members who have added so much to our great community. Look for more information on Furry-Tails in the national convention program, and announcements on Sunday Edition. We look forward to brushing through the submissions and presenting these amazing stories for ACB members at convention.

## **Rice University Seeks Adults with Central Vision Loss for Research Study**

Rice University seeks adults with central vision loss (preferably due to age-related macular degeneration) to participate in a research study. The goal of this study is to learn how people use vision and hearing when they experience the world, particularly when they make judgments about collisions with obstacles in the environment. Study participants will be asked to perform tasks using computer displays of moving environments including virtual reality, and to complete surveys.

Participants must meet eligibility requirements for the study, which will be determined by screening tests. Participation will consist of several sessions, each between about 1 and 2 hours, in addition to a hearing exam and an eye exam. Each participant will receive up to $300 plus up to $60 for parking/transportation.

The research project will be conducted in Sewall Hall at Rice University, Houston, Texas. The hearing exam will take place at UTHealth in Houston. The eye exam will take place at Retina Consultants of Texas in Bellaire.

This research study has been reviewed and approved by Rice University Institutional Review Board. If you have concerns regarding this study or questions regarding your rights as a study participant, please contact Compliance Administrator-IRB, at Rice University via email, [irb@rice.edu](mailto:diana.sokolow@fcc.gov), or telephone (713) 348-3586.

If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, contact study personnel at [VRLab@rice.edu](mailto:koni.l.sims@gmail.com) or (713) 348-2432, and provide your email address or phone number and mention this announcement.

## **Pixium Vision Seeks Those with Dry AMD**

Pixium Vision, a high-tech startup company in Paris, is developing ways to potentially restore vision of patients who have dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD). They are currently conducting clinical trials in Europe, as well as three sites in the U.S. located at UPMC-Pittsburgh, Bascom Palmer-Miami, and Stanford-Palo Alto. To take the survey, visit [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AMDPixiumUS](https://www.acb.org/call-nominees-2022-acb-awards-0).