

Panelists:



## Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA Striving for Equity and Inclusion

Panel Discussion

August 6, 2020 2 pm



**Moderator:** Karin Korb, Coordinator, Policy and Public Affairs,  
Lakeshore Foundation

### Featured Panelists (at left, from top to bottom)

- **Deidre Davis Butler, Esq.**, Founder, DYSability Dynamics Inc. LLC
- **Scott Chesney**, Motivational Speaker & Life Coach, Scott Chesney LLC
- **Keith Jones**, President / CEO, SoulTouchin' Experiences
- **Nancy Starnes**, Former Chair, United States Access Board

# Deidre Davis Butler

Deidre Davis Butler is an attorney and disability rights expert and advocate. With a career spanning more than 40 years, Deidre has worked to promote legislative and social change geared toward providing equal access to ALL things, with and for persons with disabilities. She has helped craft, implement and enforce employment laws, including, but not limited to the Air Carrier Access Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Deidre is New Jersey born and raised in Linden. After matriculating at Brandeis University and Howard Univ. Law school, she initiated her legal career with the (then known as) Public Advocate's Office's Advocacy for the Disabled. Her assignments included the Client Assistance & Independent Living Programs. Following that, she became the Deputy Director of the only CIL in NJ, DIAL. Her last contribution to NJ was as Director of the Union County Office of Disability. Her big accomplishment was that she established the job bank in the state for consumers with disabilities.

In addition to Deidre's commitment for disability rights was her commitment to her clients in her private law practice. She partnered with her late father for several years. In 1987, she transitioned to Federal service and sadly left for DC.

The DC tenure was: (1) Chief of the Federal Independent Living Program U.S. Depart of Education from 1987-1991; (2) Director of ADA Training at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Deidre lead the Federal Government's training initiatives, which were necessary to implement the ADA. (Joint EEOC & Depart of Justice) (3) From 1995-2001, she was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the White House Office of Presidential Personnel and at the U.S. Depart. of State (DOS) as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for EEOC. There, she enforced civil rights laws within the Foreign Service, at U.S. embassies



and for the DOS Civil Service employees. Davis traveled worldwide training on the ADA, independent living and the importance of disability rights as human rights.

In 2005, Fortune One Company Wal-Mart, Inc. appointed Deidre as the first Director of ADA Services. She was responsible for helping to ensure that all Wal-Mart retail, transportation and distribution facilities complied with the ADA. Her expertise helped to shore up Wal-Mart's reasonable accommodation programs for associates and customers.

Deidre has been a Board of Directors member of too many organizations to list, but she does hold dear the National Council on Independent Living (1985-87); Howard University Center on Minorities with Disabilities. (1981-1991); The Teddy Pendergrass Alliance (2001); the National Black Disability Coalition (Emeritus) and of Sources Center of Independent Living (2016-present).

Much like board memberships, Deidre has received many awards. Close to heart are the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award (2011) and NCIL's Max Starkloff Lifetime Achievement Award (2020). In 2012, this change maker retired and established DYSability Dynamics Inc. LLC, a disability diversity consultant company. Deidre has a unique perspective on the dynamics of disability and would be more than elated to share.



## **Scott Chesney**

Scott Chesney is a world-renowned motivational speaker and life coach who has presented to over 1.5 million people in 40 countries. Known as “The Commander in Change,” by his clients, Scott is a navigator of life with paralysis for nearly 35 years after awakening to paralysis at the age of 15 from a sudden spinal stroke, Scott has amassed a resume of transformational experiences, powerful insights, and inspiring stories that cut to the core of the human spirit.

He has become a nationally and internationally recognized workshop and keynote presenter, and his positive and inspiring messages have changed countless lives. His insights have been coveted and applauded by The United Nations, The Pentagon, The FBI, Fortune 500 corporations, sports teams, hospitals/rehab centers, associations, and K-12 schools. In addition, Scott is an Ambassador for the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, a member of the Seton Hall University Leadership Advisory Council, a member of the Board of Trustees for The Knowles Foundation, and a member of the National Speakers Association (NSA).

In April 2020, a documentary about Scott’s life entitled “Ride the Wave” was released worldwide. Scott is married, has two children, and resides in New Jersey.

## Karin Korb

Karin broke her back in a gymnastics vaulting accident and is most known for her wheelchair tennis accolades. She is a 2-time Paralympian and a 10-time member of the USA World Team. She was the first person with a disability to receive a Division 1 athletic scholarship to Georgia State University to play intercollegiate wheelchair tennis and has gone on to assist other universities in creating their own wheelchair tennis programs. She was named the USA's Junior Wheelchair Tennis World Team Cup Coach and led the top American juniors into international competition, where they are currently ranked number ONE in the world! Her induction into the Georgia Tennis Hall of Fame as its youngest inductee and only person with a disability, speaks to her unyielding commitment to foster and grow the sport of tennis to all those who wish to play. She also received the coveted "Gold Brick" in front of Arthur Ashe's Stadium in Randy Snow's Neighborhood. When asked about this honor she simply responded with: "Well, that brick is cute and everything and an amazing gift to my



heart, however, it reminds me to continue building the legacy that the infamous Randy Snow started and that requires a whole lot of love for tennis, sport and humanity." In 2018 she was awarded the prestigious "Athletes in Excellence Award" by the Foundation for Global Sports Development which recognizes elite-level athletes who have dedicated themselves to bettering their local and global communities through mentorship, service, and volunteerism. In 2019, she received the 2019 UNIQLO Spirit Award given to a person who embodies the principles and core values of UNIQLO, a person who seeks to change the world around them by challenging themselves and striving for the highest standards, pursuing their goals with an innovative spirit and a shared desire to see wheelchair tennis continually move forward to ever greater heights. She served on the coveted U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee Athletes Advisory Council for eight years

representing seven sports which included Tennis, Table Tennis, Shooting, Archery, Equestrian, Powerlifting and Canoe/Kayak. She currently serves on the Alabama State Rehabilitation Advisory Council as well as the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program's PADD (Protection and Advocacy of Persons with Developmental Disabilities) Advisory Council. She also serves on the board of directors of A Friend of Mind, Baseline Tennis, Alabama FBI Citizens Academy, America Walks, the International Tennis Federation's Player Council and serves as a Champion ambassador with the Sport Integrity Global Alliance. She is deeply passionate about inclusion of persons with disabilities at every level of sport, wellness and life.

Her career in both advocacy and policy has spanned over three decades. She has worked with Lakeshore Foundation's Lima Fox Trot Military program since its inception and is presently Lakeshore's Policy and Public Affairs Coordinator. In this capacity she leads the Lakeshore Foundation's Leadership and Mentorship Program, the Women and Girls with Disability Summit, the Durable Medical Equipment research initiative and is the coordinator for the Global Sports Mentorship Program collaborative with the University of Tennessee's Department of Sport, Peace and Society and the U.S. State Department to name a few. Her love of humanity is often times referred to as "contagious" and her infectious enthusiasm for sport and a dignified life experience will leave you wondering: "What can I play and how can I be involved".

Korb refers to herself as a simple vehicle for service to, for and with others; "everything beyond that is a bonus."

Karin holds an undergraduate degree in Public Administration from Kean University and a Masters of Sports Management from Georgia State University. She is a certified life coach with the International Coaches Federation and brings a highly diverse level of experience having worked with local, national and international clients of varying organizations to create ongoing opportunities for sports integration. Most recently, her efforts in sports diplomacy with the U.S. State Department and the International Tennis Federation Development Fund have taken her to Trinidad and Tobago, Germany, Colombia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. If she is not working on a grant submission or immersed in programming, you will find her meditating at the Shambhala Center where she is always focused on deepening her practice. You can often hear her saying: "Listen people, we must also do the bicep curls for our minds!" She is currently working on her MBSR certification (Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction) and strongly supports integrative medicine, palliative and dignified end of life hospice care. She always has her eyes on the pulse of humanity and "how can we best represent the vision of inclusivity and most importantly, global respect."



## Keith Jones

Keith Jones is the President and CEO of SoulTouchin' Experiences. As an African American community activist and entrepreneur with cerebral palsy and as a strong advocate for independent quality living in the community, Mr. Jones has participated actively in various issues that face people with disabilities. These areas include, but are not limited to housing, education, and voting access.

Mr. Jones is also extremely active in multi-cultural, cross-disability education and outreach efforts and has performed trainings (including train the trainer) with the purpose of strengthening outreach efforts to provide services and information to people with disabilities. Mr. Jones works to not only educate the disability community about enhanced community living, but also the community at large. Mr. Jones holds a strong desire to get the disability community more involved in the issues that concern their own lives.

Mr. Jones provides outreach support in relationship to the arts and independent living skills. Mr. Jones has been recognized for his emerging leadership by the state of Massachusetts and President's Commission for Employment for People with Disabilities. Also, Mr. Jones was the recipient of the Disability Law Center's 2011 Individual Leadership Award.

## Nancy Starnes

Ms. Starnes served as a Presidential Appointee to the United States Access Board (Public Member), an independent Federal agency that develops and maintains design criteria for the built environment, transit vehicles, telecommunication equipment and for electronic and information technology as well as enforcing accessibility standards that cover federally funded facilities.

Following a plane crash in 1973 that resulted in a paralyzing spinal cord injury, Ms. Starnes entered public service and was the first female to be elected to Sparta New Jersey's Town Council, serving as Mayor in 1984.

Ms. Starnes' creativity, strategic thinking and leadership capacity during her 10 years at the National Organization on Disability (Washington, DC) led to ever-increasing responsibilities as Director of Community Participation Programs, as Chief of Staff, as Senior Vice President, and as Director of External Affairs. In addition, she designed and launched the national Accessible America Awards competition to recognize and promote replication of model community programs and services that promote independent living and inclusion for people with disabilities. She had responsibility for NOD's DC office operations and contributed to the organization's over-all fundraising, communications and external affairs activities. Prior to her work with NOD, Ms. Starnes was Chief Operating Officer for the Paralysis Society of America (of the Paralyzed Veterans of America) and had provided leadership to two New Jersey counties as Director of their Offices for the Disabled (founder of the Sussex County Office).

She has also: represented President George W. Bush as a member of his Delegation to the 2006 Paralympic Games in Torino, Italy; delivered testimony before the U. S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources Subcommittee on National Parks Oversight Hearing on Disability Access in the National Park System; and was a contributing author to





“Mandate for Change: Policies and Leadership for 2009 and Beyond” (Lexington Books, January 2009), forty-five essays, each with concrete policy proposals, by seventy of the nation’s premier experts and activists.

Ms. Starnes is a current board member of Policy Works, Inc. and Greyhound International’s Access Advisory Committee. She has also served with: the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, the Northeast Disability and Business Technical Advisory Council (DBTAC), Region II, the National Coalition on Disability Rights/ADA Watch, DOT Forum Group and the Transportation Security Administration’s Disability Coalition. She has represented people with disabilities on Delta Air Lines’ Customer Advisory Board and Northwest Airlines’ Customer Advisory Board. Ms. Starnes has received numerous honors and tributes including selection as a United Way “Community Hero”, carrying the Olympic Torch through New Jersey on its way to the Centennial Games in Atlanta, Georgia.