

Abilicorp Foundation Board of Directors

Neil Jacobson



Photo of a white man with glasses in a blue button-down shirt sitting at a computer.

Neil is the founder and CEO of Abilicorp, a business innovation consulting company. Abilicorp's mission is to significantly increase the employment rate of people with disabilities by promoting entrepreneurs with disabilities and eliminating employment barriers.

Neil retired in 2008 from Wells Fargo Bank after 29 years. Neil began his career at the Bank as a Proof-of-Deposit programmer. His last position was as a Senior Vice President managing the System Automation Management and Wireless Technology Divisions. Being the Chief Systems Architect for the retail business was also a position that Neil enjoyed. The proudest part of his career was architecting the first 7×24 banking system in the United States. The team, Neil managed implemented the 2nd mobile banking system in the country. Interestingly, Neil cannot use the mobile banking system because of his disabilities. Neil has always been an advocate and change agent for the economic development of people with disabilities. In 1975 Neil co-founded the CIL Computer Training Program, a nationally recognized training program, enabling people with significant disabilities to become computer programmers. Neil also founded the Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Data Processing and helped create the Neil Jacobson Computer Center in Uganda. He has served on the boards of The World Institute on Disability and RespectAbility

Having his advocacy work heavily shaped by his parents' experience during the Holocaust, Neil has endeavored to further disability awareness to the Reform Judaism Movement. He has presented at the Hebrew Union College in New York and several Union of Reform Judaism's Biennials. He and his wife, Denise, co-founded the Access Committee at Temple Sinai in Oakland, Ca.

Neil received a BS in Mathematics from Hofstra University and completed his MBA at Golden Gate University. In 1991, Governor Wilson inducted me into the California Hall of Fame. Neil has received many awards for his

contributions, including the Independence Award from CIL, the Murray Award from the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy, and Alumnae of the Year at Golden Gate University.

Neil and Denise married in 1983 and adopted our son in 1987. Denise and Neil have Cerebral Palsy. Denise and Neil are part of the team that helped make The Netflix Documentary called Crip Camp.

Neil loves talking with family and friends, writing, watching good movies, and drinking mochas. Neil ends almost every conversation saying Go! Go! Go!

Denise Sherer Jacobson



Photo of a smiling white woman with short gray hair and glasses.

Author/educator **Denise Sherer Jacobson, M.A.**, has worked as an activist, counselor, administrator, and oral historian (at UC Berkeley) in the Independent Living Movement for over 50 years. She penned the multi-layered memoir, ***The Question of David: A Disabled Mother's Journey Through Adoption, Family, and Life***, as well as a plethora of disability/Jewish-themed blogs, articles, stories, and poetry published on websites and in newspapers, magazines, and anthologies. In 2015, she was the subject of a *New York Times* online photo essay. She is the story consultant for the acclaimed 2020 Netflix documentary *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution* and a featured personality in the film. She is deeply connected to her Jewish community, helping to establish the Access Committee of Temple Sinai (Oakland) in 2003, and acting as its first Chair. Sherer Jacobson has given presentations on disability-related issues both nationally and worldwide. As a writer/educator, her goal is “*Weaving the Disability Experience into the Tapestry of Living*.”

Melissa Crisp-Cooper



Photo of a smiling white female wearing a blue sweater with reddish-brown hair

Melissa first became involved in health advocacy for people with disabilities over a decade ago when she worked for the [State Council on Developmental Disabilities](#). As a Consumer Visitor with the Life Quality Assessment project, she helped to interview hundreds of Regional Center consumers near Sacramento.

Since moving to the Bay Area, Melissa has been actively involved with both the [Office of Developmental Primary Care at UCSF](#) and the [WITH](#).

“As a woman with a developmental disability and a long-time advocate,” says Melissa “I am passionate about creating a healthcare system that meets the diverse needs of our community and that values us as both patients and people.”

Kenneth R. Chrisman

Ken Chrisman is the former EVP/ CIO at the Wells Fargo Retail Bank. He is responsible for Retail Bank Software Product Development and managed bank-wide posting applications. Chrisman is also the former Board Governor and Lead Director for The Doctors Company and former President of the World Institute on Disability (WID). Chrisman retired at the end of 2018

John D. Kemp

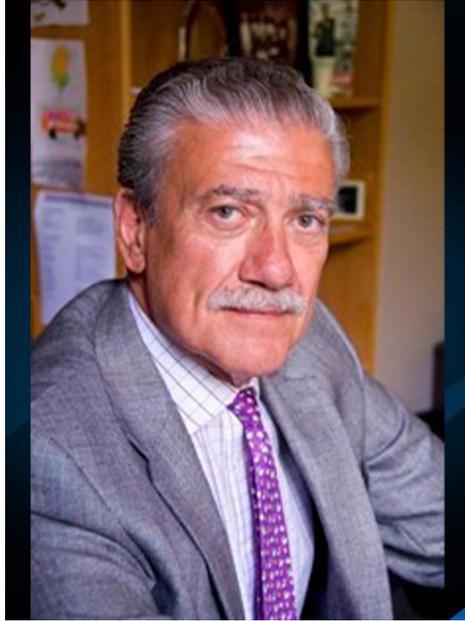


Photo of a white man with a mustache in a gray suit

John D. Kemp is an American disability rights leader who co-founded the American Association of People with Disabilities and is currently the president and chief executive of the Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham, Alabama.

Owing to a congenital anomaly he was born without arms and legs and uses four prostheses, and he is widely respected for inspiring and empowering people with disabilities. He has occupied several top posts in the leading disability and nonprofit organizations. In 2011 he was hired as president and CEO of the Viscardi Center and the Henry Viscardi School.

In 1991, he received the Horatio Alger Award of Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. In 2006, he received the Henry B. Betts Award, America's top award in disability leadership. In 2014, his contributions were recognized with the Dole Leadership Prize by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

Sara Klein



Photo of a smiling white woman with reddish-brown hair in a black button down

Sara Ramseyer Klein is an attorney at TKlein Associates, Inc. Her practice focuses on general commercial and IP transactions, including drafting and negotiating outbound and inbound software and trademark license agreements, SaaS agreements, vendor agreements and nondisclosure agreements, and counseling companies on general commercial and IP law issues. Sara is also Adjunct Professor of Law at John F. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill, CA, where she teaches the core Intellectual Property Law courses at the College of Law and the College of Undergraduate Studies.

Sara was previously Senior Corporate Counsel at Genentech, Inc., and an associate in the international trade department at the Baker & McKenzie law firm. Sara obtained her JD from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law and her undergraduate degree from Middlebury College. During law school, Sara was a member of the Thurston Society (top 5% of the class after first year) and served as a member and articles editor of the Hastings Law Review.

Sara is a member of the California Bar Association, and of the Intellectual Property section of the bar.

Matan Koch



Photo of a white man with glasses and a beard wearing a yarmulke

Matan A. Koch is the Director of California and Jewish Leadership at RespectAbility, a nonprofit organization fighting stigmas and advancing opportunities so that people with disabilities can participate in all aspects of society. His lifelong history of disability advocacy began at age four with a presentation to several hundred young people, continued with a term as the president of Yale University's student disabilities community, and reached its most recent high point with his appointment by President Barack Obama to the National Council on Disability, for a term which concluded in 2014.

During these decades of advocacy, Matan has been privileged to support, serve and advise a myriad of organizations on inclusion, from national Jewish bodies to individual synagogues, to local nonprofits and bar associations, as well as working closely with his corporate and law firm employers, Procter & Gamble and Kramer Levin throughout his legal career.

While grateful for his formal education at Yale University and Harvard Law School, Matan considers life experience to have been his greatest source of learning on universal inclusion. First, his summers spent at URJ camps Eisner and Kutz demonstrated a type of inclusion that would plant the seeds for the idea itself. Then, in his time working with both the product marketing teams at Procter & Gamble and its disabilities inclusion network, he developed the perspectives on consumer power and talent maximizing jobs for people with disabilities at the heart of the business case for universal inclusion that he teaches today.

Fae Rasmussen LaBonte



Photo of a non-binary white femme wearing a pink dress and holding flowers outside

Fae is Abilicorp's Executive Assistant. Fae brings their background as a graduate in Gender and Ecology studies, experience as a Personal Attendant, and a passion for social justice to their position. Fae was raised in Brooklyn, NY, and is a recent transplant to the Bay Area.