



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Special Needs Alliance Joins Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities**

July 9, 2012 (Tucson, Arizona)--The Special Needs Alliance (SNA) has been chosen for membership in the [Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities \(CCD\)](#) , a coalition of national advocacy organizations committed to the full integration of individuals with disabilities into mainstream society. SNA is a national nonprofit comprised of attorneys who focus on disability and public benefits law.

“We’re honored to join forces with the country’s largest coalition of disability organizations,” explains SNA Vice President Marielle Hazen. “Since CCD’s founding, nearly 40 years ago, it has built a reputation as the go-to resource for questions concerning special needs policy. As an organization that concentrates on the financial independence of people with disabilities, we believe SNA can make a significant contribution to CCD’s work. Our focus on public benefits such as Social Security and Medicaid should prove particularly relevant to the ongoing national dialogue concerning budget priorities.”

Established in 1973, CCD brings together 100 national disability groups representing the interests of the nation’s 54 million individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. Its goals are to educate Congress, make public policy recommendations and encourage people with disabilities and their families to advocate for their rights. The coalition sponsors 20 active task forces addressing such issues as education, employment, fiscal policy, health and housing. Membership in CCD requires an active presence in Washington, D.C., in order to contribute to its ongoing deliberations and to testify before Congress.

SNA membership is based on a combination of relevant legal experience, direct family experience with disability, active participation with national, state and local disability advocacy organizations, and professional reputation.

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