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ADA complaints and lawsuits

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"Find out if you have a problem, and get it fixed. It keeps your legal fees under control. There is no way to win one of these lawsuits." Blackseth echoes Bowles' advice to make sure that the handicap parking section is properly marked and properly signed.

Should a company be cited, essential in the defense of its case is an assessment of the business by a California Certified Access Specialist, who understands the

applicability of state and federal construction-related accessibility standards. A CASp assessment runs \$2,500, and Lifson said that an assessment was recently completed on the building that houses the Lafayette Chamber.

Blackseth said that the ADA-claims industry is growing at 14 percent a year, with website lawsuits the fastest growth area. "Websites are an extension of your brick and mortar store - courts have gen-

erally held this," he said.

Impaired users rely on screen readers or dictation machines, Blackseth said. Text must meet contrast ratios. The website must be navigable by keyboard only or with screen reader software for the visually impaired.

"Most people want to do the right thing," Blackseth said. "Showing the effort goes a long way. It's the right thing to do. And it's the law."

Las Trampas partners with LAMA

... continued from page A3

"We're thrilled to work with Lamorinda Gives Back again this year," says Las Trampas Executive Director Daniel Hogue. "Events like Cards for Humanity are an investment in a community that is welcoming and inclusive for all and we're so grateful to everyone who came out to support our work."

Brian Britton is president of Lamorinda Gives Back, known as LAMA, an acronym derived from the combination of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. He says that Las Trampas is a remarkable organization with great leadership that makes real differences

for adults with developmental disabilities on a daily basis.

"We at Lamorinda Gives Back were pleased to assist Las Trampas host the 'Cards for Humanity' poker event on June 8," says Britton. "LAMA is grateful for the support from our members and the attendees from across the East Bay who participated at this event and helped raise money for this worthwhile cause. A special thank you to 1515 Restaurant, Lost Republic Distillery, and those who donated prizes for all the generous support."

All of the proceeds are going to Las Trampas. Development

Director Kris Jachens says that this year, the gap between the fees they receive from the state of California and what their services actually cost to provide is more than \$2,500 per program participant for the year. "This will help bridge that gap for four people," notes Jachens.

"Cards for Humanity is an event that LAMA came up with. This is the second year that they've partnered with a local nonprofit to host it and we're thrilled that they approached us this year," Jachens says.



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