

Elizabeth L. Sammons  
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**LANGUAGES AND SPECIAL SKILLS:**

- \* Professional fluency in English, French, and Russian.
- \* Conversational fluency in Hungarian and German.

**EXPERIENCE:**

**OHIO REHABILITATION SERVICES COMMISSION**

Columbus, OH

Program Administrator

2011 - present

- \* Conduct cross-state research comparing agency policies.
- \* File federal reports with the Rehabilitation Services Administration
- \* Represent ORSC on various state-wide taskforces and policy groups.
- \* Read widely in periodicals, listserves and social media to convey significant communications to top staff.  
Legislative Liaison 2005 - 2011
- \* Wrote feature articles and reports on bills, laws and policy.
- \* Responded verbally and in writing to legislative, business and public inquiries.
- \* Researched state and national legislation and policy affecting this agency and its consumers.
- \* Met with legislators and governor's staff to discuss budgetary and consumer issues.

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

Columbus, OH

Public Affairs Specialist

2003 - 2005

- \* Generated speaking opportunities regarding Social Security with professional and lay audiences.
  - \* Contacted organizations dealing with mutual claimants to discuss improving client satisfaction.
- \* Sought media mention of Social Security and opportunities to contribute news items or feature stories.
- \* Organized public exhibits and seminars.

Claims Representative

2000 - 2003

- \* Interviewed people for retirement and disability claims in an urban office.
- \* Initiated all follow-up actions needed for case processing with claimants, family members, other organizations, and payment centers using detailed agency guidelines.
- \* Interpreted live disability appeals from Russian-language claimants before administrative law judges.

**COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM**

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Corporate Research Specialist

1998

- \* Pursued non-governmental and business groups interested in charitable activities.
- \* Wrote appropriate brochures and follow-up correspondence.
- \* Set up symposia, press conferences and other media events.
- \* Trained local staff in Western-style presentations and business etiquette.
- \* Represented Counterpart in both large-business and governmental settings.

**INTERNEWS**

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Acting Director

1997-98

- \* Supervised an office of ten professionals.
- \* Administered multiple projects and budgeted for more than \$1 million in grants.
- \* Wrote regular reports and frequent articles, keeping in daily contact with home office and funders.
- \* Researched media activities through travels around Central Asia.
  - Planned logistics for travel, visas and needs of both incoming and outgoing international guests.

#### WHEELED MOBILITY CENTER

Novosibirsk, Russia  
Regional Project Coordinator  
1994-96

- \* Oversaw wheelchair manufacturing and joint projects with a disabilities sports club.
- \* Organized international seminars and news events.
- \* Resolved conflicts between Western and Russian professionals, making delicate cultural judgment calls.
- \* Designed contracts and leases as needed.

#### UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS

Sarvar, Hungary  
Peace Corps Volunteer  
1991-92

- \* Taught English at an academic high school.
- \* Organized two English clubs, one for local English teachers, another for community members.

#### UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

USSR (Moldova, Kazakhstan,

Siberia)  
Exhibit Guide  
1990

- \* Traveled with "Design USA", a federal citizens exchange exhibit on American life.
- \* Duties included simultaneous interpreting, answering questions from thousands of visitors each day, setting up and curating exhibits and participating in numerous promotional receptions.

#### **EDUCATION:**

##### THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Columbus, OH  
M. A., Journalism

- \* Focus on writing/editing.

\* 40 hours mediation training, Capital University

June, 2009

##### EASTERN NAZARENE COLLEGE

Quincy, MA  
B. A., French and Communication Arts  
\* Double major in three years, summa cum laude.

#### **APPOINTMENTS, AWARDS AND VOLUNTEERING:**

- \* Mentor, Ohio State School for the Blind, various high school students. 2007 - present
- \* Interpreter, Columbus Council on World Affairs. 2009 - Present
- \* Appointee, Ohio Speaker of the House, Commissioner, Ohio Legal Rights Services, 2004.
- \* Gubernatorial appointee, Council member, Ohio Council on People with Disabilities, 2003.
- \* Alumnus of the Year 1993 for outstanding professional and service leadership, Eastern Nazarene College.
- \* Key note speaker Ohio Rehabilitation Association October, 2008
- \* Graduation speaker, Ohio State School for the Blind June, 2009