

## PRESS RELEASE

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“COMPANY ON THE SIDE OF RESTAURANTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FRIVOLOUS ADA LAWSUITS FOR A CHANGE...”

Finally, a company works on the side of the restaurant owners versus the individuals who have threatened their very livelihoods. Thousands of lawsuits (citing noncompliance with the federal statutes in the Americans with Disabilities Act, commonly known as ADA) have caused severe hardship to many restaurant owners and, in some cases, have driven some nearly out of business in the already highly competitive restaurant industry.

Although some states have their own policies and guidelines; the federal ADA law “ sets out accessibility guidelines for buildings and facilities to ensure that they are readily accessible and usable by people with disabilities.” (See Class Action Lawsuits.com for details of litigation against a prominent East coast Italian restaurant) Under the ADA guidelines, “no place of public accommodation shall discriminate against an individual, on the basis of such individual’s disability with regard to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations at that place of public accommodation.” Also, consider this fact: anywhere there are or will be tables, people, food being consumed or served, should be ADA compliant, including employment breakrooms, school cafeterias and even tables at catered events - all should be ADA compliant.”

A Clovis, California company, QUALITY OF LIFE PRODUCTS, LLC, is stepping in to help restaurants comply with the ADA law regarding an essential physical restaurant feature that was virtually impossible to fix – the tables. Yes, that’s correct - RESTAURANT TABLES! If you’ve ever spent any amount of time in a wheelchair, you know what I mean: “A primary goal of the ADA is the equal participation of individuals with disabilities in the “mainstream” of American society. The major principles of mainstreaming include the following: 1) Individuals with disabilities must be integrated to the maximum extent appropriate; 2) Receipt of benefits in the most integrated setting appropriate.” Translated: individuals in wheelchairs should be allowed to sit anywhere they like. (ADA Law, Section III Para. 3.4000 – Separate Benefit/Integrated Setting)

In most cases, restaurant tables that are too low or are supported by a post in the middle of the table that makes it an ordeal for people in wheelchairs to do something that most of us take completely for granted - eating out. In most cases, the wheelchair bound person cannot get close enough to the table to avoid dropping food on himself or spilling his beverage because of the distance (often nearly 2 feet) between his plate and his mouth. Worse yet, it would cost the restaurant owner thousands of dollars to either retrofit the restaurant’s existing tables to make them fully accessible or buy new “adjustable” tables. Consequently, restaurant owners “take the chance of not being in compliance and hope no one reports them or files a lawsuit.” Due to that set of circumstances, the wheelchair bound potential customers don’t eat out as often as they would like, causing the restaurant industry to lose a significant share of the market of “over 54 million disabled citizens holding more than 221 billion dollars of disposable income to spend. (2011 On-Line Article, “Inclusion = Solutions.” )

That “inaccessible table situation” is alleviated by attaching Quality Of Life Products’ “Portable Tabletop Extension.” This simple but practical device attaches to the restaurant table in well under a minute to give the patron in the wheelchair an additional 2-3 inches of adjustable height and adds approximately 10 inches in depth that extends away from the table’s edge directly over his lap and allows the person to literally have his plate directly in front of him, so that he can enjoy his meal in comfort and with confidence, without the worry of dropping or spilling: the half-inch ridge around the unit is designed to “catch” liquids such as a soup or beverage.

For those who deal with limited mobility of their arms and/or hands, there is another device that QOL calls the “Plate Rotator” which allows the customer to “spin” her plate to the item that she wants to eat. For persons with disabilities, QOL has additional accessories to make dining out (or at home) the treat that it was intended to be.

QOL products are not limited to restaurants or to those who are in wheelchairs. Citizens who have illnesses such as Parkinson’s Disease, Tremors, Multiple Sclerosis and Cerebral Palsy, or anyone who just needs a little extra table space can take advantage of the Portable Tabletop Extension. The general public can also purchase the unit and utilize it for a variety of projects besides eating. For example: it allows the individual to sit in a much more upright ergonomic position for such activities as arts & crafts, cake decorating, making fishing lures, figurine painting (when coupled with the plate rotator), etc. - are some of the uses displayed on the company’s website. It appears that there are dozens of uses, limited only by the owner’s imagination.

QOL products were developed by the late Curt Austin of Fresno, California and his friend since childhood, Anthony Morrison. Since birth, Mr. Austin had been stricken with Muscular Dystrophy (MD). The two eventual good friends met in junior high school and their friendship lasted over 30 years.

Dating back to the early nineties, Curt’s father was a master tinkerer who always wanted to find ways for Curt to participate in as many activities as possible in order to “mainstream” his lifestyle. Consequently, Curt’s father designed a device to enable Curt to have dinner at the dinner table with the rest of the family: Thus, the Portable Tabletop was born!

In 2007, Mr. Austin asked Mr. Morrison to partner with him in the development of the invention; in early 2008, a prototype was created, but the effort was tragically foiled by “The Great Recession.” With no ability to get a loan and no investors willing to take on a new project, the dream was delayed temporarily, but not extinguished.

In early 2010, Mr. Austin became very ill and was hospitalized. During one of Anthony’s visits, Curt whispered to him, “If anything happens to me, will you finish this...?” Anthony replied, “Absolutely! If God provides a way for me to do it, I’ll do it...” Unfortunately, during the summer of 2010, Curt passed away. In 2015, Anthony acquired the resources that enabled him to continue the project that had been placed on hold in 2008: Anthony began the work to fulfill his promise to make Curt’s dream and his dream a reality.

The Portable Tabletop Extension or “PTE” was a hit at the 2016 National Restaurant Association show recently held in Chicago: the QOL Team met many well-known restaurant chains and introduced to them the “PTE” – the product which gives all restaurants, large or small, the ability to meet the ADA’s standards for table accessibility while serving an essentially new market demographic and making more money to boot. Added to the restaurants new found accessibility and marketability is a 50% IRS Disabled Access Credit (Form 8826) of up to \$10,000 to help cover the costs for restaurants making a net profit of less than one million dollars.

Another unique feature of QOL Company is its commitment to give back to the community it serves: the Company provides employment opportunities- product fulfillment services - for the personnel at “The Arc” and the QOL Company donates units to various non-profit organizations who service persons with disabilities.

The Portable Tabletop Extension, the Plate Rotator and all of the other products of QOL can be seen at the company’s website: [www.yqol.biz](http://www.yqol.biz) or the long name, [www.yourqualityoflifeproducts.com](http://www.yourqualityoflifeproducts.com). Everyone is either related or knows someone in a situation that can benefit from these products: the Company’s motto is very fitting, “Access for all... it’s the right thing to do...” Check them out.