

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

VICTOR ANDREWS, on behalf of himself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

– against –

BLICK ART MATERIALS, LLC,

Defendant.

AMENDED MEMORANDUM ON THE
COURT’S PREPARATION IN
ANTICIPATION OF THE SCIENCE DAY
HEARING

17-CV-767

FILED
IN CLERK’S OFFICE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.
★ **AUG 28 2017** ★
BROOKLYN OFFICE

JACK B. WEINSTEIN, Senior United States District Judge:

The court has scheduled a “Science Day” hearing to be held on October 18 and 19, 2017. See ECF No. 25. Its purpose is to assist the court in learning about technology and other factors relevant to the case.

In anticipation of this hearing, the court has begun its own research on some of the technical issues which may be raised with respect to blind people using the Internet to “see” for purchases and related matters. See *Andrews v. Blick Art Materials, LLC*, 2017 WL 3278898 (E.D.N.Y. Aug. 1, 2017).

Pursuant to good practice, when a court engages in such independent research, it should keep the parties fully informed.

“In [non-jury settings], . . . conferences can be used to allow the court to instruct itself from outside sources, and rules such as those limiting access to treatises have little applicability. What is vital, however, even in a bench trial, is that the parties be made aware of what information the judge is using and that they be given time to submit information to meet what they consider to be unreliable data.”

See Margaret A. Berger, et al., *Evidence Manual Student Edition* § 4.02, at 4-6 (9th ed. 2011).

The knowledge gained through this independent investigation is expected to aid in the efficient resolution of the case. It will help enable the court to more fully engage with the experts and materials the parties present.

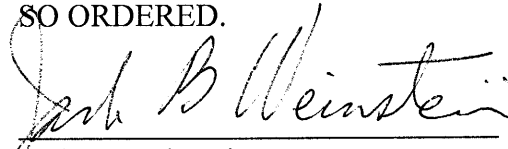
Thus far, the court has collected the following articles, papers, and abstracts for study:

1. Ravi Kuber, Wai Yu, and M. Sile O'Modhrain, *Evaluation of Haptic HTML Mappings Derived from a Novel Methodology*, ACM TRANSACTIONS ON ACCESSIBLE COMPUTING, Vol. 3, No. 4, Art. No. 12 (Apr. 2011)
2. Stéphanie Giraud, Pierre Thérousanne, and Dirk D. Steiner, *Conceptualization of a technical solution for web navigation of visually impaired people*, IHM '15 Proceedings of the 27th Conference on l'Interaction Homme-Machine, Art. No. 24 (Oct. 27, 2015)
3. Andrii Soviak, *Haptic Gloves for Audio-Tactile Web Accessibility*, W4A '15 Proceedings of the 12th Web for All Conference, Art. No. 40 (May 18, 2015)
4. Kirk Norman, Yevgeniy Arber, and Ravi Kuber, *How Accessible is the Process of Web Interface Design?*, ASSETS '13 Proceedings of the 15th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility, Art. No. 51 (Oct. 21, 2013)
5. Roberto Manduchi and James Coughlan, *(Computer) Vision Without Sight*, 55 COMMUNICATIONS OF THE ACM 1, 96-104 (Jan. 2012)
6. Andreas Hub, Tim Hartter, and Thomas Ertl, *Interactive Tracking of Movable Objects for the Blind on the Basis of Environmental Models and Perception-Oriented Object Recognition Methods*, ASSETS '06 Proceedings of the 8th international ACM SIGACCESS conference on Computers and accessibility, 111-18 (Oct. 23, 2006)
7. Jeffrey P. Bigham, Craig M. Prince, Sangyun Hahn, and Richard E. Ladner, *WebAnywhere: A Screen Reading Interface for the Web on Any Computer*, W4A '08 Proceedings of the 2008 international cross-disciplinary conference on Web accessibility (W4A), 132-33 (Apr. 21, 2008)
8. Jeffrey P. Bigham, et al., *VizWiz: Nearly Real-time Answers to Visual Questions*, UIST '10 Proceedings of the 23rd annual ACM symposium on User interface software and technology, 333-42 (Oct. 3, 2010)
9. Leah Findlater, et al., *Supporting Everyday Activities for Persons with Visual Impairments Through Computer Vision-Augmented Touch*, ASSETS '15 Proceedings of the 17th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers & Accessibility, 383-84 (Oct. 26, 2015)
10. Vikas Ashok, Yury Puzis, Yevgen Borodin, and I.V. Ramakrishnan, *Web Screen Reading Automation Assistance Using Semantic Abstraction*, IUI '17 Proceedings of the 22nd International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces, 407-18 (Mar. 7, 2017)
11. M. Claudia-Buzzi, Marina Buzzi, Barbara Leporini, and Caterina Senette, *Making Wikipedia Editing Easier for the Blind*, NordiCHI '08 Proceedings of the 5th Nordic conference on Human-computer interaction: building bridges, 423-26 (Oct. 20, 2008)

Substantial issues are raised in these materials respecting communication problems, changing technology, costs, etc.

At the Science Day hearings, a party may dispute any of the information in these publications it believes to be unreliable. The court may take judicial notice of the “facts” contained in these publications for purposes of case administration. Fed. R. Evid. 201. The parties may demonstrate in court the auxiliary aids and technology which blind individuals and businesses may need to use to enable website access. Because this is a putative class action which may have far-reaching effects, the parties may present briefing from amici curiae and testimony from putative class members before and during the Science Day hearings.

SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack B. Weinstein". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jack B. Weinstein
Senior United States District Judge

Date: August 28, 2017
Brooklyn, New York