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The Retail Litigation Center and the National Retail Federation today asked the U.S. Supreme Court to take a case that will enable the court to establish a reasonable, nationwide standard for evaluating website accessibility claims filed under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

At issue is whether a website is a "public accommodation" like a physical store within the meaning of the ADA. In a brief filed with the court, the RLC and NRF explained that the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stretched the definition too far by

deciding that websites and mobile applications must be judged under the "public

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Center and senior executive vice president and general counsel of the Retail Industry Leaders Association. "Unfortunately, the 9th Circuit's decision only invites private-party litigation that runs counter to the goals of the ADA, consumers and the retailers who serve them. If retailers are forced to comply with this standard, initiatives that might better meet the needs of customers with disabilities could get thwarted."

"The online environment was never intended to be covered by the ADA," NRF Senior Vice President and General Counsel Stephanie Martz said. "The ADA took effect before the internet as we know it today existed, and more than 25 years later there is no clear, objective guidance on what constitutes an 'accessible' website. Retailers are committed to making their websites accessible, but litigation only diverts resources and drives up costs for all consumers rather than allowing businesses to find a solution that works."

The case is Domino's Pizza LLC v. Guillermo Robles. The RLC and NRF filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court asking the court to grant the Domino's petition to take the case and eventually reverse the 9th Circuit's decision.

Small Business

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