



Stephanie Ortoleva is the Founding President and Executive Director of [Women Enabled International](#) (WEI), which works at the intersection of women's rights and disability rights through a powerful human rights advocacy program that amplifies the voices and advances the leadership of women and girls with disabilities. Working in collaboration with women with disabilities rights organizations and women's rights organizations globally, WEI fosters cooperation across movements to increase worldwide attention to and strengthen international and regional human rights standards on issues such as gender-based violence; sexual and reproductive health and rights; discrimination, stigma and stereotyping; accountability and access to justice; and participation and inclusion.

WEI is recognized as innovative and ground breaking and serves as a prime resource for disabled women's rights advocates globally. Under Stephanie's leadership WEI has expanded and now has a growing staff and an increasing budget. At WEI, she manages the organization, supervises the staff, engages in fund raising, and leads the conceptualization, design and implementation of its work and special projects, including WEI's innovative *accountABILITY Toolkit*, among other projects. As a woman with a disability herself she brings the development, academic and legal perspectives to her work as well as her personal experience as a woman with a visual disability.

Prior to founding WEI, Stephanie served as an attorney at the U.S. Department of State, where she was awarded the prestigious Franklin Award in 2009 for her outstanding work on human rights matters. Women's E-News recognized Stephanie as a leader for women's rights for the 21st Century in 2016 and Hofstra University School of Law recognized her as an Outstanding Women in Law awardee for 2017.

Stephanie has authored numerous scholarly publications and policy papers regarding women's rights and disability rights. Her papers can be found on the [Social Science Research Network at http://ssrn.com/author=1875099](#) and on Women Enabled International's website at: <http://www.WomenEnabled.org/publications.html>. She is the former founding Co-Chair of the American Society of International Law's International Disability Rights Interest Group, served on the American Bar Association's Commission on Disability Rights and serves on the Board of Directors of several women's rights and disability rights organizations. She graduated from Hofstra University School of Law with outstanding honors, served on the Hofstra Law Review and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and in the State of New York.

