I present, "My Life with Assistive Technology," as a theatrical presentation showcasing the many assistive devices I have used in 20 years of living with a disability. I utilized a Power Point presentation, with appropriate slides and sound, humor and my own experience to highlight how important the ever improving assistive technology is to those who live with disabilities.

With humor and practicality I point out that assistive technology does not have to be electric or connected to a computer. Two of my most useful, "assistive devices" have been a stick and a rock. I who -- through my own example -- how every day demands creative problem solving when one lives with a disability. I show the importance of not limiting the way in which the individual and their network looked at assistive technology as well as perceived limitations. Assistive technology exists to make our lives simpler, fuller, life enhancing and to promote participation and independence. To embrace assistive technology is life changing. I want to point out that most assistive technology and accommodations ultimately help everyone. The classic example is the curbcut used by bicyclists, people pushing strollers, carts and any other wheeled device that finds itself on a sidewalk. Just as no one knows you're a dog on the internet, no one knows you have a disability either. Most jobs can be accommodated for many individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. The presentation alone has affected people profoundly to say nothing of the assistive technology.

BRIAN SHAUGHNESSY
Attorney-At-Law & Presenter