

# Unraveling the Nuances of ABLE Accounts with Real-Life Examples

**Ashley Melero, MSW**

Education and Outreach Manager  
The Arc of Texas Master Pooled Trust  
[amelero@thearcoftexas.org](mailto:amelero@thearcoftexas.org)

**Peter J. Wall**

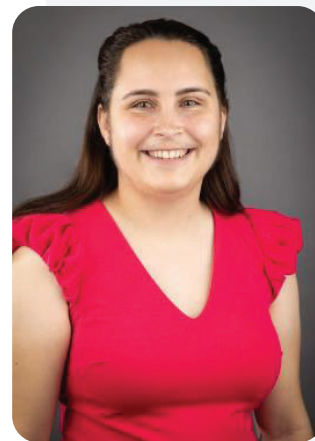
Director, Fiduciary Services  
True Link Financial Advisors,  
LLC  
[peter.wall@truelinkfinancial.com](mailto:peter.wall@truelinkfinancial.com)



## Ashley Melero, MSW

Education and Outreach Manager, The Arc of Texas Master Pooled Trust

- Earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech University in Social Work. WRECK EM TECH
- Joined The Arc of Texas in 2018
- Texas ABLE Advisory Committee Member
- Created and directs the Future Planning 101 training series which teaches individuals and families how to start future planning while they are still in school.
- Loves teaching social workers and other interns about both the MPT and disability services.
- Served as a direct care manager and collaborated with care managers across the state to navigate quality of life issues for beneficiaries.
- As a person with a disability, and a professional in the field, she is passionate about advocacy, inclusion, and equality for all people with disabilities.



**Ashley Melero, MSW**

The Arc of Texas  
MASTER POOLED *trust*

# Peter J. Wall

Director, True Link Financial Advisors, LLC

## Prior to joining True Link Financial Advisors, LLC

- Developed and helped lead a dedicated Elder Law and SNT division of an \$80B nationally chartered trust bank
- Past President of the Centennial Estate Planning Council
- Member of the Board of Directors for Easter Seals
- Past President of VSA Access Gallery
- Member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners

## Special needs trusts, estate planning, taxation, & trust administration faculty member, presentations include

- 2020, 2021 & 2022 PFAC Annual Conference
- 2022 Schwab IMPACT™
- 2019, 2020 & 2021 National NAELA Conference
- 2019, 2024 Special Needs Alliance Conference
- 2017 and 2021 National Conference for National Guardianship Association
- 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 Stetson National Conference on Special Needs Planning & Special Needs Trusts
- 2019 - 2024 UT Law SNT
- 2015 46th Annual Autism Society National Conference
- 2013 National Down Syndrome Congress
- CBA 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017 & 2022 Elder Law Retreat
- 2019-2024 National PLAN Alliance



**Peter J. Wall**

20+ years of professional trust administration – Focus in Elder Law & SNT planning



# ABLE Basics

- Signed into law in 2014, provides individuals with special needs a tax-free savings account
- Accounts are authorized and under the jurisdiction of the IRS not the Social Security Administration
- States began offering the accounts in 2016
- Today, 45 plans are available and additional plans are forthcoming



## ABLE Basics

- One account per individual
- Individual's disability must have been diagnosed prior to age 26
- Can only be opened by beneficiary or an authorized individual
- You do not have to be receiving SSI or SSDI to be eligible to open an account

5



5



## ABLE Basics

- Annual contribution limit per account is \$18,000 per year
- Funding can come from individual, others, or rollover of 529 Plan (subject to annual contribution limits)
- Maximum account sizes differ by state, but most tied to the state's College 529 Plan limit

6

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](http://utcle.org/elibrary)

## Title search: Unraveling the Nuances of ABLE Accounts with Real-Life Examples

Also available as part of the eCourse

[Unraveling the Nuances of ABLE Accounts](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual Changes and Trends Affecting Special Needs Trusts session  
"Unraveling the Nuances of ABLE Accounts with Real-Life Examples"