



DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE NEW LEGAL DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL



DRNY is proud to announce that Jennifer J. Monthie, Esq. has been appointed as Legal Director. Ms. Monthie has spent the last 14 years representing individuals with disabilities, joining Disability Advocates, Inc., (DAI) in 2003 as a staff attorney, before advancing to senior staff attorney and then as DRNY's Director of the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PADD), P&A for Assistive Technology (PAAT), and P&A for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI) programs. Her efforts have strengthened the rights of people with disabilities to make their own life choices, learn and live in their community and be free from abuse and exploitation. Ms. Monthie brings her tremendous energy and unwavering commitment to DRNY's mission of advocating for the civil and legal rights of New Yorkers with disabilities. "It has been an incredible honor to be a part of this important civil rights organization for the last 14 years. I am privileged to be given an opportunity to serve as DRNY's Legal Director."

After twenty-seven years of dedicated service, Cliff Zucker, Esq., will step down as Legal Director and continue his service to DRNY as General Counsel. From 1989 until March 2013 he was the founding Executive Director of DAI before DRNY transitioned to the Statewide Protection and Advocacy System for New York State. Mr. Zucker has served as Legal Director and General Counsel of DRNY since 2013. Mr. Zucker has a long and distinguished litigation career with several landmark disability rights cases. He was a lead counsel in two lawsuits against New York State to enforce the integration mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act on behalf of thousands of persons with mental illness in nursing homes and adult homes which resulted in settlements that will give thousands of people the opportunity to live and receive services in supported housing and other integrated setting in the community. He also represented DAI in litigation against the State of New York which resulted in greatly expanded mental health treatment for state prisoners with serious mental illness and created humane and secure treatment settings for many prisoners with serious mental illness who had suffered in Special Housing Units (solitary confinement). "I'm looking forward to continuing to work with DRNY to advance the rights of people with disabilities."



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