

5th Annual Disability and Civil Rights Clinic Roundtable - Facilitator Biographies

Amber Decker, OPWDD & Recent Changes in Service Delivery: Ms. Decker is a Senior Family Peer Advocate. After 3 years of serving as a freelance advocate, she started Special Support Services in 2017 with the aim of providing direct 1:1 peer support for parents of children with disabilities. Previously, she spent 8 years preparing medical, human resources and judicial reports, organizing evidence and records for administrative hearings, fair hearings and reviews as well as mentoring dozens of parents of students with disabilities. Ms. Decker is a coalition member of Medicaid Matters New York, Steering Group; on the Advisory Council for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI); and a current elected member of the Citywide Council on Special Education for the New York City Department of Education. She is a graduate of Hunter College, a product of the NYC public school system, and a native New Yorker. She lives in Brooklyn with her son who has Autism Spectrum Disorder and their dog, Andy.

Lynn Decker, OPWDD & Recent Changes in Service Delivery: Ms. Decker is the co-parent of two young men with Autism. She has worked in the I/DD field as a Medicaid Service Coordinator, Without Walls Day Program Director and Broker for Self-Direction. She currently works as a non-attorney Health Care Advocate at Center for Independence of the Disabled (CIDNY) as part of the Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN). She is a member of the Executive Committee of NYC Family Advocacy and Information Resource (NYC FAIR).

Amy Mulzer, Right to Family: Ms. Mulzer is a staff attorney for Law and Appeals in the Family Defense Project at Brooklyn Defender Service. Prior to that, she was an outstanding Clinical Instructor in Brooklyn Law School's Disability and Civil Rights Clinic, where she supervised students on a range of matters representing low-income New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Her work included advocacy on the trial and appellate level on behalf of parents with intellectual disabilities and their right to reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ms. Mulzer previously represented parents at the trial level as a staff attorney at the Bronx Defenders, and on appeal as a member of the 18B appellate panel for the Appellate Division, Second Department. Ms. Mulzer received her JD from Columbia University School of Law and her BA from Bard College.

Prianka Nair, Criminal Justice: Ms. Nair joined DRNY in September 2014 as a staff attorney. While at DRNY, Ms. Nair has represented individuals in guardianship and special education proceedings, has filed anti-discrimination claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and investigated allegations of abuse and neglect in nursing facilities, group homes and prisons across New York State. Prior to this, she worked as an attorney practicing intellectual property, property and healthcare law on behalf of the Australian federal government. Ms. Nair received a Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Laws (with honors) from the University of New South Wales (in Australia) in 2011. She also completed a Masters of Law (LL.M) in 2014, and graduated summa cum laude, from Columbia University.

Joseph A. Rosenberg, 17-A and Supported Decision Making: Professor Rosenberg teaches at the City University of New York School of Law where he is a Supervising Attorney in Main Street Legal Services, the law school's clinical program (Community & Economic Development Clinic and Elder Law Clinic). He is co-author of the practice treatise *New York Elder Law*. His law review articles have explored a variety of topics, including adult guardianships and the vulnerable elderly, using online instruction to teach lawyering skills, supplemental needs trusts for people with disabilities, and professional responsibility issues in elder law practice. Joe currently serves on the Board of Directors of Queens Legal Services and is a member of the Elder Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. Professor Rosenberg's current work includes expanding the role of technology in the law school curriculum, law practice, and to promote access to justice; protecting the rights of vulnerable adults in adult guardianship proceedings; and exploring supported decision making as an alternative to guardianships.

Consuelo Senior, Relationships & Sexuality: Ms. Senior is the Assistant Coordinator of Sex Education at YAI in the Learning & Talent Development Department. She also works as a Mental Health Clinician in the Center for Specialty Therapy Clinic, an Article 16 Clinic. Ms. Senior has been providing sex education for people with disabilities, families and support staff for 16 years. Ms. Senior brings a myriad of experience from a variety of areas within the field; teacher, staff trainer, Medicaid Service Coordinator, administrator, direct support professional (residential, day program, employment), psychotherapist and consultant. Ms. Senior develops curriculum for a wide range of populations within the disability field, including Autism, Dual Diagnosis-Mental Illness and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Profound Disabilities). Ms. Senior is also an Adjunct Lecturer at City College of New York and Adelphi University. She has presented at numerous conferences, symposiums, radio programs and panel discussions as an expert mental health clinician. Ms. Senior is an agency representative to the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council and is published in *The Autism News*.

Ashley Sizemore, Education & Disability: Ms. Sizemore is a Coordinating Attorney in NYLAG's Special Education Unit (SEU), where she advocates on behalf of low-income students with disabilities attending traditional public and charter schools throughout New York City, and supervises pro bono counsel providing special education representation in collaboration with SEU. She has also served as a Mentor Attorney for the Disability and Civil Rights Clinic at Brooklyn Law School, supervising law students providing special education representation on behalf of adolescents with intellectual disabilities. Ms. Sizemore graduated from the University of Michigan Law School where she was a Dean's Public Service Fellow and Managing Editor of the *Michigan Journal of Law Reform*. Prior to law school, she taught third grade in Detroit as a Teach For America corps member. She earned her Master's in Education from the University of Michigan Graduate School of Education, and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Matthew Smith, 17-A Guardianship and Supported Decision Making: Mr. Smith is the Senior Project Coordinator of Supported Decision-Making New York (SDMNY), a five-year consortium project between Hunter College/CUNY, New York State Association of Community and Residential Services Agencies (NYSACRA), and the Arc of Westchester and funded by the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC). He has worked on pressing disability rights issues in the United States and abroad (Mexico, Argentina, and Bangladesh) and serves as a Research Associate at the Harvard Law School Project on Disability. He has authored amicus briefs in cases involving the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and his research has appeared in journals (*ABA Journal of Labor & Employment Law*, *Arizona Journal of International & Comparative Law*, *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*) and books (*Derechos Humanos: Retos y Perspectivas*, *Oxford University Press* (forthcoming)). He received his Juris Doctor from American University and his Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University. Most importantly, Mr. Smith is the proud brother of a college graduate with Down syndrome.

Michelle Walton, Criminal Justice: Ms. Walton joined DRNY in August 2018 as PADD's Criminal Justice Fellow. She works on systemic criminal justice issues facing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Prior to DRNY, she clerked at the Civil Service Employees Association, interned at Albany Law School's Family Violence Litigation Clinic, and interned at the NYS Public Employment Relations Board. In Summer 2017, Ms. Walton received Albany Law School's prestigious Sandman Fellowship in Health and Aging Law Policy where she examined and co-published a paper on guardianship and privacy rights of individuals in health care facilities. In August 2018, Ms. Walton published a book review in *Albany Government Law Review* entitled *Marijuana Law, Policy, and Authority* by Robert A. Mikos, Professor of Law, *Vanderbilt University Law School*. Ms. Walton received her Juris Doctor from Albany Law School in 2018; her Master of Arts in Teaching from Clarkson University; and her Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, double majoring in Political Science and History from the University at Albany.