



2021 Law & Disability Conference

Speaker Bios



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Joshua M. Spielberg, Esq.,



Joshua M. Spielberg holds the position of Chief Counsel at Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), where he directs the Health Care Access Project (HCAP). In this role, he both represents clients in individual cases and engages in systemic advocacy intended to maintain and expand Medicaid access for low income residents of New Jersey.

Prior to coming to LSNJ in 2006, Mr. Spielberg was in private practice for over 20 years, primarily representing plaintiffs in asbestos and medical negligence litigation, including HMO liability cases. During the course of his career, Mr. Spielberg has won a number of significant appellate cases in the New Jersey Supreme Court, the New Jersey Appellate Division, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, including two published New Jersey Appellate Division opinions in 2020 that vindicated the rights of Medicaid recipients.

Nkechi Okoli, MSW, LSW



Nkechi Okoli, MSW, LSW is the Senior Coordinator of Transition to 21 Education at the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Within her role, she works to ensure that individuals, and those who support them, are well informed about the steps to smoothly transition to the DDD service system through presentations, webinars, and the development of supplemental materials. Nkechi is also an ambassador for the Charting the Life Course Framework and a trainer of the Council on Quality and Leadership Personal Outcome Measure for DDD. Nkechi has worked within several units of the Division with a focus on quality improvement. Nkechi enjoys the work she does and its impact.

Gwen Orlowski, Esq., Executive Director



Gwen Orlowski is the Executive Director of Disability Rights New Jersey. Prior to joining DRNJ, Gwen practiced health law, with a focus on accessing long-term services and supports, at Central Jersey Legal Services. From October 2013 through April 2015, Gwen worked as a Senior Staff Attorney with Justice in Aging (formerly the National Senior Citizens Law Center) in its health group before returning to NJ in May 2015. Prior to her work at Justice in Aging, Gwen was the Chief Section Counsel and Supervising Attorney in the Senior Legal Rights Project at Legal Services of New Jersey. Previously, she was at LSNJ from 2002 until 2007, where she supervised both the Senior Legal Rights Project and the Anti-Predatory Lending Project. From 2007 until 2010,

Gwen served as the Director of Elder Advocacy and Director of Advocacy for People with Developmental Disabilities at New Jersey's Department of the Public Advocate until it was dissolved. In 2010, Gwen served as New Jersey's Statewide Long-Term Care Ombudsman. Gwen has taught Elder Law at Seton Hall University School



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Kenneth Morris, Jr., MHA, MA Vice President



Kenneth M. Morris, Jr., MHA, MA, is the Vice President of External Affairs at St. Joseph's Health, with campuses in Paterson, Wayne and Cedar Groove, New Jersey. Ken is administratively responsible for, Government Affairs, Community Outreach, the system's Regional Health Coalition, and WIC in addition to a portfolio of the System's real estate holdings. During his 40-year tenure at St. Joseph's, Ken has designed programs to improve access to healthcare for the poor and disenfranchised and residents throughout Passaic County. Ken led efforts to redevelop the geographical area surrounding the medical center by working with local developers to create jobs, market rate and affordable housing, and economic opportunities for area businesses, leading to the revitalization of the South Paterson Business district.

Ken was an elected member of the Paterson City Council where he served from 2002 to 2018, serving three consecutive terms as President, and the first person to ever be elected citywide for four consecutive terms. He also served as Chair of the Council's Community Development Committee, the Paterson Restoration Committee, and Chair of the city's Finance Committee for most of his term on the Municipal Council.

Dianna Maurone, Administrator



Dianna Maurone has served as an Administrator at the Division of Disability Services since 2012, where she oversees the Division's Information and Referral Services and, since June 2018, the administration of the Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP).

Having entered state service at the Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities in 2002, Dianna's diverse experience has included everything from case management and quality assurance to policy, planning and program implementation for individuals with disabilities.

Under her leadership, the Information and Referral team has been instrumental in promoting access to services and assistance programs through the annual publication of New Jersey Resources, a comprehensive guide outlining programs and services available to New Jersey residents, individuals with disabilities, caregivers, and advocates. Dianna holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from The College of New Jersey. She holds certification as a chemical dependency associate and is a nationally certified Community Resource Specialist (CRS) through the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS).

Gary Mazart, Esq.,



Gary Mazart contributes more than 35 years of experience to both Schenck Price's Estate, Gift and Charitable Planning Practice Group, of which he is co-chair, and the Elder and Special Needs Law Practice Group. In addition, he has taken a leadership role in a wide variety of professional, business, civic and charitable organizations, including the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA); American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC); the Alzheimer's Association; Market Street Mission, dedicated to helping people overcome homelessness, addictions, and disabilities; and Daytop NJ, an evidence-based, trauma-informed residential and out-patient substance and alcohol treatment program for adolescents, young adults and single mothers.