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THE SILENT AUCTION?

*30th Anniversary  
Celebration*

OCTOBER 10, 2024

THE BOATHOUSE AT MERCER LAKE  
WEST WINDSOR, NEW JERSEY

THE SILENT AUCTION IS OPEN AND WILL  
CLOSE BEFORE THE END OF THE EVENT



SCAN THE  
QR CODE  
TO  
REGISTER  
& BID

DISABILITY  
RIGHTS  
NEW JERSEY

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

# Welcome

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### COCKTAIL HOUR ON THE PATIO

Music Provided by Blue Light Program

### WELCOME REMARKS

Tasha Jones, Secretary of the Board of Directors  
Gwen Orłowski, Executive Director  
Marlene Sallo, Executive Director at NDRN

### VIDEO: 30 YEARS OF DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY

### STAFF RECOGNITION: 5, 10, & 20+ YEARS OF SERVICE

### A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSMAN ANDY KIM

### 2024 DISABILITY RIGHTS IMPACT AWARDS PRESENTATION

*Sarah W. Mitchell Exceptional Staff Award:*  
Maritza Williams, Director of Intake and Self-Advocacy

*Joseph B. Young Excellence in Legal Advocacy Award:*  
Ryann Siclari, Attorney at Porzio Bromberg & Newman

*Barbara H. Coppens Advancing Olmstead Award:*  
Nancy Feldman, Founder of the Youth Justice Project

### SILENT AUCTION CLOSING

30  
YEARS OF SERVICE



CELEBRATE OUR

*Honorees*

### **SARAH W. MITCHELL EXCEPTIONAL STAFF AWARD**

*Named for our founder and first executive director of Disability Rights NJ, Sarah W. Mitchell, honoring a staff member who has consistently demonstrated excellence, commitment, passion, and loyalty to the work of the Protection and Advocacy system.*

RECIPIENT:

**MARITZA WILLIAMS**

*Director of Intake and Self-Advocacy*



Maritza, an immigrant of Colón, Republic of Panama at the age of 15, graduated from Rider University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in both Administration and Spanish. Maritza became the first Black, Hispanic, female Commencement Speaker in the school's history, delivering key parts of her speech in Spanish and English, embracing two admired authors, Langston Hughes, and Jorge Luis Borges.

Her passion for helping others, especially those often 'not seen or heard' led to her work for the Greater Trenton Mental Health's Center for Adolescent Partial-care Services (C.A.P.S.) with adolescents diagnosed with psychiatric, emotional/behavioral disabilities, where, as an advocate, she attended school meetings, court hearings, and family meetings. Maritza's career brought her to the NJ Department of the Public Advocate, first as an investigator in the Citizen's Complaints Hotline and then, in 1993, for the Division of Advocacy for the Developmentally Disabled (DADD) still under the Public Advocate, focused on cases involving special education and accessing services through the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

When Governor Christie Todd Whitman moved the agency out of state government and designated the non-profit then known as New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Maritza became the Intake Coordinator of the newly privatized organization, later renamed as Disability Rights New Jersey. Since 2020, Maritza has served as the Director of Intake and Self-Advocacy, training and supervising a team of three staff and providing an invaluable wealth of resources to callers and clients on a variety of cases spanning the agency's breadth of assistance, through advice, short-term intervention, and guidance for self-advocacy.

CELEBRATE OUR

*Honorees*

### **JOSEPH B. YOUNG EXCELLENCE IN LEGAL ADVOCACY AWARD**

*Named for our second Executive Director, Joseph B. Young, honoring an individual who demonstrates excellence in legal advocacy to advance the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities.*

RECIPIENT:

**RYANN SICLARI**

*Attorney at Porzio Bromberg & Newman*



Ryann is a Principal with the law firm Porzio, Bromberg, and Newman. In 2008, she received her Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and in 2011 graduated from Widener University School of Law, both magna cum laude. Expanding her expertise, Ryann obtained her Master of Laws (L.L.M.) in Elder Law in 2017 and her certification as a Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA) by the ABA accredited National Elder Law Foundation in 2021.

Ryann concentrates her practice on a wide range of elder and disability law issues including long term care, government benefits planning, estate planning and estate/trust administration. Ryann counsels people who are aging or disabled, or their families, with respect to how they can accomplish their goals, including having sufficient health coverage and aging in place.

Ryann has a long history of supporting legal services organizations and their causes. In 2019, Ryann joined Central Jersey Legal Services as a staff attorney specializing in Medicaid. In her role, she regularly collaborated with other advocacy organizations including Disability Rights New Jersey and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Office.

In 2021, Ryann returned to private practice but took great pride in continuing the valued participation in initiatives to improve the lives of people with disabilities, regularly taking pro-bono cases and providing educational seminars to fellow advocates and the community. Ryann volunteers her time with Disability Rights NJ on their Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Advisory Council, is member of the board of trustees for the Community Health Law Project, and a member of the board of the Progressive Center for Independent Living.

As Chair of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, she advocates for legislation which benefits people with disabilities, frequently collaborating with Disability Rights NJ, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and AARP.

CELEBRATE OUR

*Honorees*

**BARBARA H. COPPENS ADVANCING OLMSTEAD AWARD**

*Named for our esteemed staff member, Barbara H. Coppens, who embodies self-determination, advocacy, and living her best life, honoring an advocate or attorney who has dedicated their career to the principles enshrined in the Olmstead decision – inclusion in the most integrated setting with services and supports that maximize integration into all facets of community life.*

RECIPIENT:

**NANCY FELDMAN**

*Founder of the Youth Justice Project*



Nancy is a graduate of Wesleyan University and NYU School of Law. Early in her career, she served as Director of the Office of Inmate Advocacy in the State Office of the Public Defender and represented prisoners in class-action lawsuits challenging unconstitutional conditions. Her special focus on youth at juvenile facilities continued while working at Advocates for Children of New Jersey.

Nancy's work at Disability Rights NJ on children's mental health and juvenile justice issues began in 1998 and continued for over 20 years. Her first project was The Brisbane Report: White paper on the Arthur Brisbane Child Treatment Center, which contributed to the decision to close the hospital.

A principal focus of Nancy's time at Disability Rights NJ was developing and implementing initiatives to keep justice-involved children with special education needs off of the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Nancy developed Disability Rights NJ's first Special Education & Juvenile Justice Project and was instrumental in obtaining start-up funding through the MacArthur Foundation Models for Change Initiative. In 2019, Nancy was named Disability Rights NJ's Juvenile Justice Team Leader and, with the support of Director Gwen Orlowski, led the launch of Disability Rights NJ's new Youth Justice Project.

Nancy is enjoying her retirement. She and her husband, Ross Lewin, live in Hopewell, NJ with their Standard Poodle, Lily.

*Staff*

SERVICE RECOGNITION ★★★★★



10

20

Barbara Coppens  
Nicole Fowler  
Susan Head  
Edris Walrond

Yeida Castellano  
Mary Ciccone  
Marie Davis  
Jill Hoegel  
Denise Lugo Fowler  
Robert Robinson  
Maritza Williams

Michael Brower  
Cathy Coryat  
Jaye De los Santos  
Katie Kirkwood  
Elena Kravitz  
Naomi Leibowitz  
Mike Marotta  
Christopher Miller  
Gwen Orlowski

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# NAMI New Jersey

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

*NAMI New Jersey congratulates Disability Rights New Jersey on their 30th Anniversary Celebration and its honorees!*

### NAMI Signature & Homegrown Programs:

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National Alliance on Mental Illness

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National Alliance on Mental Illness

 **NAMI Basics**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

 **NAMI Family Support Group**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

 **NAMI Connection**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

 **NAMI Smarts**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

 **NAMI Hearts & Minds**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

 **NAMI Family & Friends**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

 **NAMI Ending the Silence**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness



National Alliance on Mental Illness of New Jersey (NAMI NJ) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. Through education, support, advocacy and public awareness programs NAMI NJ fosters understanding, confronts stigma, advocates for public policies, and promotes research. Our 19 affiliates serve communities in all 21 New Jersey counties.

Learn more at [www.naminj.org](http://www.naminj.org)

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[info@naminj.org](mailto:info@naminj.org)



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# You Are Not Alone.

*Congratulations*  
to

**Disability Rights New Jersey**

on

*30 years of service*

Your unwavering commitment to promoting self-determination, independence, and inclusion has made a lasting impact on countless lives.

We are grateful for your dedication to ensure that people with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of community life.



800.4.AUTISM  
[www.autismnj.org](http://www.autismnj.org)



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Maritza Williams**

Warmest congratulations on your award.  
So well deserved!!

It has been a true honor working with you for all these years!!

Barb	Denise	Marie	Robert
Cathy	Edris	Mary	Susan
Chris	Jill	Nicole	Yeida



Cocktail hour music presented by

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Disability Rights NJ on  
30 Years of Service!**

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**MHANJ Salutes  
Disability Rights  
New Jersey  
on your 30th Anniversary!  
Thank you for all you do!**



**Congratulations Honorees:**

**Maritza Williams  
Director of Intake  
and Self-Advocacy at DRNJ**

**Ryann Siclari  
Attorney at Porzio  
Bromberg & Newman**

**Nancy Feldman  
Founder of the  
Youth Justice Project**



**Mental Health  
Association in  
New Jersey, Inc.**

**We're excited to celebrate  
DRNJ's 30 years of success  
and support their ongoing  
mission for disability rights.**

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Congratulations to DRNJ  
 on 30 years of exceptional service  
 and advocacy to people with disabilities  
 and their families.

We join you in recognizing the 2024 Honorees

- Ryann Siclari
- Nancy Feldman
- Maritza Williams



Kevin Sturges, President  
 Thomas Baffuto, Executive Director  
 www.arcnj.org ~ info@arcnj.org

**CONGRATULATIONS DRNJ  
 AND THANK YOU FOR**



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 MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.**



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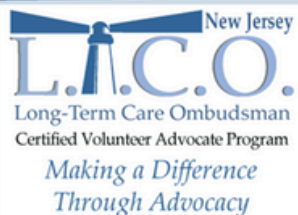
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 NEW JERSEY  
 ON 30 YEARS  
 OF SERVICE!**



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- MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NJ
- PRINTWORX
- RESTORE SALON SERVICES
- SPEAK CREATIVE
- THE ARC OF CAMDEN COUNTY
- THE ARC OF NEW JERSEY

*Best  
Wishes*

**DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY  
ON YOUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY**

*Joyce and Tom DiPaola*

AS A REMINDER  
THE SILENT AUCTION  
WILL CLOSE AT 8:30PM