

NEWS RELEASE  
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Contact: Anna Clark  
212-784-5715



## **New York Lawyers for the Public Interest Announces New Director of Disability Justice Program**

*Ruth Lowenkron, lifelong advocate for disability rights, appointed as Director of NYLPI's Disability Justice Program*

New York, NY, October 17, 2016 – New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), a leading civil rights advocacy group for New Yorkers in need, announced its appointment of Ruth Lowenkron as Director of its Disability Justice Program. Lowenkron brings with her more than 30 years of experience as a lawyer advocating for the rights of those with disabilities.

As Director of the Disability Justice Program, Lowenkron will lead and manage an interdisciplinary staff of attorneys, community organizers, advocates, and interns; guide the program's growth, its involvement in the community, and its advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities; and contribute to furthering NYLPI's mission as a prominent member of its leadership team.

"We are delighted to have Ruth join our team and lead our Disability Justice Program, which is a crucial component of NYLPI's efforts to dismantle barriers and make equality a reality for New Yorkers in need," said McGregor Smyth, Executive Director of NYLPI. "Ruth's impressive background as a disability rights advocate will be an invaluable asset to NYLPI. Ruth is the ideal person to lead the program and to build upon NYLPI's long record of advocating for the rights of people with disabilities, from education and de-institutionalization to access to government services and other public accommodations."

In her most recent role, Lowenkron was a senior attorney at Disability Rights New Jersey, litigating in the areas of special education, mental health, and vocational rehabilitation law. She also previously worked as a senior attorney at the Education Law Center in New Jersey, where she handled special education cases, and at New Jersey's Community Health Law Project, where she litigated on behalf of indigent clients with mental and developmental disabilities. Lowenkron's new role brings her full circle, having served in NYLPI's Disability Law Center from 1990-1999. Lowenkron demonstrated her passion for disability justice advocacy even before becoming a lawyer. Prior to graduating with the inaugural class of the City University of New York Law School, she worked as a legal assistant at Untapped Resources, Inc., providing direct services to people with disabilities. Currently, Lowenkron acts as an Impartial Hearing Officer at the New York City Department of Education and serves as an adjunct associate professor of Disability Law at Seton Hall University Law School.

"I'm excited to return to NYLPI in a new role that strongly aligns with my personal passion and long experience as a disability rights advocate," said Lowenkron. "NYLPI's dedication to fighting the injustices that people with disabilities face every day, along with other systemic inequalities in New York, is enormously inspiring. I look forward to lending my expertise to expand upon this important work."

NYLPI's [Disability Justice Program](#) works to advance civil rights and ensure equality of opportunity, self-determination, and independence for people with disabilities. The program's advocacy spans many areas, including housing, transportation, education, community integration, and equal access to programs and services in New York.

**About New York Lawyers for the Public Interest**

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) advances equality and civil rights, with a focus on health justice, disability rights and environmental justice, through the power of community lawyering and partnerships with the private bar. Through community lawyering, NYLPI puts its legal, policy and community organizing expertise at the service of New York communities and individuals in need. NYLPI's partnership with the private bar strengthens its advocacy and connects community groups and nonprofits with critical legal assistance. NYLPI is the recipient of The New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Awards.

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