

# NDALC NEWS

Ten-Year Issue

## Board President's Message

What a privilege and honor it is to be associated with the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC). Before my involvement with NDALC, I knew many people with disabilities, and I was aware of some of the difficulties these individuals had in receiving assistance. Through my association with this agency, my eyes have been opened to the enormous task of ensuring that all people have equal access to and are able to enjoy the many benefits that society has to offer.

I have seen firsthand that the NDALC staff have the skills, knowledge, and responsibility to protect and advocate for the rights, interests, and welfare of Nevadans with disabilities. They are truly a group of dedicated individuals whose primary concern is the well being of individuals with disabilities. The growth and positive improvements that NDALC has made within Nevada over the past ten years has shaped the future for equality of all citizens throughout Nevada.

I am excited to observe, oversee, and be involved in the continued growth and success of NDALC. **Sheila King**



## Executive Director's Message

This issue celebrates NDALC's ten years of success. In 1994, I was asked to join in the effort to develop a new nonprofit organization to house the programs under the State of Nevada Office of Protection and Advocacy. This was the beginning of NDALC.

NDALC has grown from those early days to become one of the top leaders in addressing the rights of individuals with disabilities in Nevada.

This newsletter offers its readers many aspects of NDALC, including a chronological history demonstrating the growth and transformation of NDALC's programs and services over the past ten years; an introduction to the diverse individuals who make up the staff, Board of Directors, and PAIMI Advisory Council; program highlights accomplished through advocacy efforts from the past fiscal year; a list of NDALC's current service priorities; and an invitation to attend the Annual Advocacy Awards Ceremony.

There will always be new issues and challenges to overcome, but with the collaboration between NDALC, other dedicated organizations, and consumers and their families we can continue to uphold the rights of individuals with disabilities. **Jack Mayes**

## Who & What Is NDALC?

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## NDALC NEWS

A publication of the Nevada Disability  
Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC)

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(Additional Information on Back Page)



**Jack Mayes**  
Executive Director  
(Reno)

I have been the Executive Director since December 1997. At the age of ten, I was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis and have been

involved with disability rights since 1983; initially with the Disabled Student Organization while attending Oregon State University. After graduating with a degree in Health Care Administration, I moved to Reno and became an Independent Living Advocate for the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL) for four years and Executive Director for four years. I am currently a member of the Nevada Developmental Disabilities Council, the Nevada 211 Development Committee, and the State of Nevada Disability Strategic Plan Accountability Committee.



**Tom Allman**  
Rights Advocate (LV)

I grew up in Massachusetts & worked there for almost ten years for the Rehabilitation Commission, as a counselor and later as Director of the Corrections Office, providing vocational rehabilitation services to adult and juvenile offenders with disabilities. Later, I worked as Director of Student Affairs/ADA Coordinator for Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. I have worked at NDALC for 3-1/2 years as an Advocate for Protection & Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA). I organize the annual staff training and have worked to remedy access issues focusing on federal buildings. I am an avid Boston Red Sox and Boston College Eagles Fan.

# HISTORY & MILESTONES

## 1995

- The Office of Protection & Advocacy (OPA) was originally located under State government until a process began with private citizens and other organizations expressing concerns to State and Federal oversight officials about the viability and independence of OPA. This led to a critical review of the agency by Federal officials. In March 1995, Governor Bob Miller signed an Executive Order proclaiming Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center (NDALC) a separate entity within the State of Nevada to provide protection and advocacy for the rights of individuals with disabilities.
- Travis Wall was the first Executive Director of NDALC
- (June) Lois Johnson hired (Deputy Director )

## 1996

- NDALC proceeds with its independence to hire staff, establish offices, and implement procedures under the new entity.
- (Aug) Maria Wyatt hired (Receptionist, later became Intake Coordinator)

## 1997

- (Sept) Jack Mayes hired (Executive Director)
- NDALC severed its contractual ties with the State of Nevada due to conflicts over litigation.

## 1998

- NDALC received its first significant legal victory in **Parry v. Crawford**, 990 F. Supp. 1250 (1998). *(As a result, the number of individuals on service waiting list was reduced and the overall number of individuals served throughout the state was increased).*
- Community Unity Coalition was developed (currently known as Human Services Network). NDALC was one of the original members of the Coalition which was developed in response to homeless mental health "street sweeps."
- NDALC joined the newly-formed northern NV "Legal Services Providers Group"
- Southern NDALC office relocates to Eldora Avenue in Las Vegas
- (Feb) "Why Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Won't Work For Nevada" was presented by NDALC to the Legislative Interim Finance Sub-Committee.
- (Mar) Lisa Lee-High hired (Communications Coordinator)
- (Mar) Yvonne Brueggert hired (Rights Advocate)
- (July) NDALC's Website developed and posted online
- (Aug) NDALC staff participated in a panel discussion for the NBC, nationally-televised program, "The Leeza Show," to discuss civil commitment abuse in Nevada in the segment "Held Against My Will."
- A Federal Audit of NDALC is conducted; with no adverse findings. All previous issues found to be resolved.

## 1999

- NDALC spearheaded a collaborative effort to unite disability advocates, agencies, and individuals when Nevada's Attorney General took the lead in a position adverse to the disability community in the **Olmstead v. L.C.** case. *(As a result, a group of individuals formed a strong and unified coalition and*

became a dynamic stakeholder as the state formulated its plan for implementation of the *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision.)

- NDALC filed *Jane Roe v. State Board of Nursing* in Federal district court in LV, against the NV Nursing Board and its members, alleging violations of the due process clause of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution. (As a result, the Nursing Board was required to change its previous order which mandated inappropriate disclosure of Ms. Roe's psychiatric disability.)
- NDALC was active in securing Mental Health Parity Legislation which ensures equal insurance benefits for mental health and physical health.
- (Jan) Newly-funded program: "IOLTA" from the Nevada Law Foundation
- (Mar) New guide published by NDALC: "*The Duty of Health Care Professional to Provide Sign Language Interpreters*," with funding from the Comstock Sertoma Club. (Reprinted with funding from Las Vegas Paradise Sertoma.)
- (May) NBC's "*Dateline*" featured NDALC's intensive investigation efforts to provide critical information to various licensing bodies as well as to law enforcement and private counsel regarding the victimization of a 45-year-old woman with a chronic history of dissociative disorder by a case manager.
- (Dec) Lynne Bigley hired (Rights Attorney)

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## 2000

- "*Access 2000 Campaign*:" NDALC devoted considerable resources toward fulfilling this Campaign to eradicate the barriers to inclusion faced by persons with disabilities and maintain the momentum of the ADA in the workplace, public programs, and public and private facilities.
- "*Comprehensive Strategic Planning*:" As a result of focused advocacy prior to and during the 2000/2001 legislative session, Assembly Bill No. 315 was introduced by and passed into law to appropriate \$800,000 to the Department of Human Resources for the development of four long-term strategic plans concerning the health care needs of Nevada citizens. NDALC began to actively monitor and support the recommendations for the Strategic Plan for Persons with Disabilities.
- Under the PAIMI program, new guidelines allow NDALC to conduct community-based advocacy.
- (Feb) NDALC hosted a VISTA Volunteer (continuing for approx. 1-1/2 years)
- (Sept) Began using Disability Advocacy Database System (DADS) as the client database (DADS is administered by the National Disability Rights Network)
- (Nov) Northern NDALC office relocates to McCarran Blvd. in Sparks

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## 2001

- The City of Reno hired an Inclusion Specialist as a result of NDALC's advocacy efforts regarding recreational support in Nevada.
- (Feb) William Heavilin hired (Rights Attorney)
- (May) 1st Annual "*Advocacy Awards Ceremony*" held in Las Vegas.
- (Aug) Anita Frantz hired (Rights Advocate)
- Newly funded program: "Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security" (PABSS)

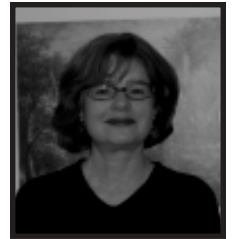
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## 2002

- (May) 2nd Annual "*Advocacy Awards Ceremony*" held in Reno.
- (July) *NDALC v. Dudley*. NDALC filed a complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief in federal district court against certain Nevada State employees in the official capacities on behalf of all patients held at Lake's Crossing Center for the Mentally Disordered Offender with respect to defendants' extended seclusion practice defined as the Protective Intervention Program. (*The Court*

### **Janet Belcove-Shalin, Rights Attorney (LV)**

This past February marked my one-year anniversary with NDALC. I work primarily in the areas of special education and Medicaid law where I advise clients of their rights and represent them at administrative hearings and school district meetings. Prior to joining NDALC, I worked with the Nevada ACLU and for a law firm specializing in employment rights. Before attending law school, I was employed in the nonprofit sector and also at several universities where I taught anthropology. I received my Ph.D. from Cornell University, after studying the anthropology of religion and completing a dissertation on Hasidim.



### **Helen Bernal Rights Advocate (LV)**

I moved to Las Vegas in 2001 from my hometown of Tucson, Arizona. I am Native American and have been with NDALC for three years. I serve the Las Vegas area as a Rights Advocate

for individuals with mental illness. I have had the opportunity to participate in Criminal Mental Health Court to observe the proceedings with some of our clients. Recently, I have been involved with children's issues and their needs. I speak Spanish fluently and, when needed, I interpret for clients. I have enjoyed my years with NDALC.



### **Lynne Bigley Rights Attorney (Reno)**

I graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1984 with a B.A. in International Politics after I completed a year of study abroad at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I received my J.D. from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles in 1988 and worked as an associate with the law firm of Wilson Kenna & Borys before relocating to Reno in 1994. I worked as a staff attorney with Washoe Legal Services, practicing poverty law from 1994 until 1999 when I was hired as a Rights Attorney with NDALC. While at NDALC, I have practiced in a variety of disability law areas and have found the work both challenging and rewarding.





**Brian Burke**  
**Rights Attorney (LV)**

I have been at NDALC for little over 2-1/2 years, after moving here from Pennsylvania. I work primarily in the area of mental health under the PAIMI grant but also have

been involved in issues involving all of our grants. What I particularly enjoy about working at NDALC is the ability to both work on systemic issues as well as individual cases. I get a great deal of satisfaction helping individuals with disabilities obtain needed services that they might have not received otherwise.



**Yvonne Brueggert,**  
**Rights Advocate**  
**(Reno)**

I have been an advocate for people with disabilities for over 25 years, and I have worked for NDALC for the past eight years. I began this career path

when my younger son was first diagnosed as having a developmental disability. I realized, at that time, that the best way I could help my son to reach his full potential was through effectively advocating on his behalf. I thoroughly enjoy my work and the opportunity it gives me to know and work with such wonderful people. I am especially grateful for the friendships I have had over the years with the many individuals and families we represent.



**Elizabeth Cannon-Lynch,**  
**Rights Attorney (Reno)**

I have lived in Nevada since 1983, with the exception of the time I was out of state attending law school. I have been working in the area of

disability and civil rights law since 1995 and have been with NDALC for just over a year. I thoroughly enjoy my work and working with the NDALC staff. My work most often involves school districts that have excluded or denied appropriate services for children who have disabilities. My inspiration consistently comes from watching the great spirits of the people we represent. We may not be able to change the entire world, but together we definitely can change our little part of it.

# HISTORY & MILESTONES

*(Continued from previous page)*

*(2002 continued from previous page)*

*granted plaintiff's request for a permanent injunction finding the seclusion policy violated LCC clients' fourteenth amendment due process rights.)*

- (Aug) *Allen et. al. v. Crawford*. NDALC and Lionel Sawyer & Collins represented eligible Nevada medicaid recipients in a class action lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court of the District of NV. The lawsuit alleged the State of NV failed to provide adequate notice and fair hearings to medicaid recipients and failed to process claims in a timely manner. *(Plaintiffs and state defendants settled the suit by entering into a Stipulated Final Judgment and Order for Permanent Injunction which was formally approved by the court.)*
- (Sept) Tom Allman hired (Rights Advocate)

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## 2003

- (April) Helen Bernal hired (Rights Advocate)
- (May) 3rd Annual "Advocacy Awards Ceremony" held in Las Vegas.
- NDALC co-sponsored a one-day presentation in Las Vegas by the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law.
- (Aug) Caroline Taylor hired (Rights Advocate)
- (Aug) Newly funded program: Protection & Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA)
- (Sept) Brian Burke hired (Rights Attorney)
- (Sept) Newly funded program: Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)
- (Sept) Charles Wilber hired (Accounting Assistant)

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## 2004

- (Jan) Lorrie Smith hired (Rights Advocate)
- (May) 4th Annual "Advocacy Awards Ceremony" held in Reno.
- (Aug) Lorraine Daniel-Palmer hired (Rights Advocate)
- (Sept) NDALC hosted "Between Two Worlds: A Native American Health Care & Disability Summit," a three-day collaborative event, which brought together Tribal leaders throughout Nevada to provide a statewide forum for the discussion of health care and disability-related issues/needs. (See additional information on Page 14 of this newsletter.)

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## 2005

- (Feb) Janet Belcove-Shalin hired (Rights Attorney)
- (Feb) Elizabeth Cannon-Lynch hired (Rights Attorney)
- (Mar) Al Mumford hired (Rights Advocate)
- (Apr) NDALC's Out-of-State Monitoring Project initiated.
- (May) 5th Annual "Advocacy Awards Ceremony" held in Carson City.
- (Sept) Anna Maria Carini hired (Office Coordinator)

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## 2006

- (Feb) "Nevada 211" launched. NDALC was one of the Coalition Agencies that assisted in the program's design & development.
- (Feb) Iraqi delegates met with Northern NDALC staff. (See additional information on Page 15 of this newsletter.)
- (Mar) Norman Liwanag hired (Fiscal Manager)
- (May) 6th Annual "Advocacy Awards Ceremony" to be held in Las Vegas

# WHAT IS NDALC?

## WHAT IS NDALC?

The Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center (NDALC) is a private, nonprofit organization serving as Nevada's federally-mandated protection and advocacy system for the human, legal, and service rights of individuals with disabilities. NDALC was designated as Nevada's protection and advocacy system by the Governor in March, 1995 and is funded by Federal grants and charitable, tax-deductible contributions of private citizens.

Services provided by NDALC include:

- information and referral;
- education and training;
- negotiation or mediation;
- investigation of reported or suspected abuse or neglect;
- legal counsel, technical assistance, and litigation services; and
- technical assistance about policy, administration, and legislative developments.

NDALC has offices in Reno/Sparks and Las Vegas with services provided statewide. All services are offered at no cost to eligible individuals in accordance with NDALC's available resources and service priorities. (For contact information, please see back page of this newsletter.)

## MISSION:

- Protect and advocate for the human and legal rights, interests, and welfare of Nevadans with disabilities.
- Promote, support, and assist Nevadans with disabilities in understanding and controlling those systems and processes which directly affect their lives.
- Foster the development, availability, and accessibility of services which increase the opportunities available to Nevadans with disabilities to live their lives as fully, independently, and productively as possible.

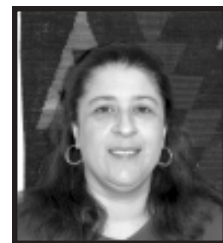
## FUNDING:

NDALC receives funding from the following federal entities:

- Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (PAIMI)
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (PADD, PAVA)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (PATBI)
- Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (PAIR)
- Department of Education, National Institute on Disability & Rehabilitation Research (AT)
- Social Security Administration, Office of Employment Support Program (PABSS)
- The Nevada Law Foundation (IOLTA)

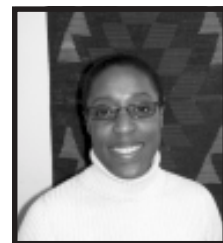
## Anna Maria Carini, Office Coordinator (Reno)

I was born and raised in San Francisco. I have been the Office Coordinator for the Reno office for the past eight months. I am responsible for the initial intakes and entering them into our client database system, ordering office supplies, and creating and maintaining spreadsheets. I also coordinate travel arrangements for the staff as well as the board and council members. Prior to coming to NDALC I worked for a major property and casualty insurance company as an administrative assistant and claims representative for 15 years. I have enjoyed working with the staff and clients and look forward to the years ahead.



## Lorraine Daniel-Palmer, Rights Advocate (Reno)

I have worked with NDALC as a Rights Advocate since August 2004. My work involves investigating allegations of abuse and neglect and monitoring facilities in- and out-of-state, in order to ensure that living environments of individuals with disabilities are safe and free of abuse and neglect. I thoroughly enjoy the variety and challenge that investigations and monitoring affords me on a daily basis. Prior to joining NDALC, I worked in the nonprofit and education sectors. Originally from Birmingham, England, I moved to Nevada from Vancouver, Canada. I enjoy traveling around the world and meeting people of other cultures.



## Anita Frantz Rights Advocate (LV)

After receiving my bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Northern Iowa, I was a Case Advocate and the Empowerment Project Coordinator for the Iowa Protection and Advocacy Services. I relocated to Las Vegas in June 2001 and became a Rights Advocate at NDALC in August. Currently, I work on a variety of NDALC priority areas, including providing advocacy to individuals returning to work, as well as working on Medicaid-related issues to provide advocacy for individuals in need of assistive technology. I am the Chairperson for the Committee on Cultural Competency for Systems Advocacy and a member of the Resource and Advocacy Committee with National Disability Rights Network.





**William Heavilin  
Rights Attorney (LV)**  
I have been working for disability rights since 1994 when I joined the Iowa Protection and Advocacy Services as a staff attorney. When I relocated to Nevada in 2001, I

continued working in the disability law area when I began working as a Rights Attorney at NDALC. Currently, I am the supervising attorney in the Las Vegas office where I have the opportunity to work on many challenging legal issues and to assist people with disabilities to improve their lives and rectify discrimination. During the past five years at NDALC, I have enjoyed working with a great staff who are all committed to providing quality legal services and advocacy.



**Lisa Lee-High  
Communications  
Coordinator (Reno)**  
I have worked in the disability field for over 16 years. Prior to relocating to Reno, I served for seven years as Director of Informa-

tion and Dissemination at Virginia's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, VCU. I have worked at NDALC for the past eight years as Communications Coordinator. In this position, I develop the NDALC newsletter, brochures, and publications; oversee the management of the client database system; maintain the website; coordinate federal grant applications and reports; and organize the Annual Advocacy Awards Ceremony. I feel very fortunate to be associated with NDALC.



**Norman Liwanag  
Fiscal Director (LV)**  
After being born and raised in Hawaii, I received my BBA in accounting at the University of Hawaii, and was simultaneously commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the U.S.

Army. I was honorably discharged eight years later as a Captain and worked in the hospitality industry in Hawaii for nearly 20 years. I moved to the Bay Area when I was offered the position of Director of Accounting at The ARC. Five years later, I moved to Las Vegas where I have lived for nearly two years. I love it here, so much so that I've convinced my recently widowed mother to leave the Islands and move here.

# ADVOCACY SERVICES - PAIMI -

## **PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS (PAIMI)**

**Administered by:** Center for Mental Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Established by:** PAIMI Act of 1986. Agencies are mandated to:

- Protect and advocate the rights of individuals with mental illness; and
- Investigate allegations of abuse and/or neglect in facilities that care for or treat individuals with mental illness.

### **FY2005 Program Highlights:**

**NDALC v. Brandenburg.** NDALC brought an action in the United States District Court on behalf of all pre-trial detainees in the state of Nevada who have been found incompetent to stand trial and who are committed to the custody of the State for restorative treatment. NDALC alleges delays in receiving prompt restorative treatment violate the substantive and procedural due process rights of detainees. Defendants acknowledge significant delays exist. Settlement negotiations are ongoing.

**NDALC v. Willden (Access Case).** TD and JL were two adults who died while at the state mental health facility. NDALC initiated investigations into the deaths of both individuals and requested all the clients' records, including any serious incident reports or investigative reports. The state refused to produce the serious incident reports or investigative reports. NDALC filed an action for injunctive relief against the state for its refusal to provide NDALC with all requested records. Since filing the litigation, the state has agreed to produce all documents requested pursuant to an ongoing investigation conducted by NDALC, including serious incident reports and internal investigative reports, and the parties are in the process of preparing a final settlement document. NDALC received the records for TD and JL. Based upon NDALC's review of the records, the investigations were closed.

In July of 2004, Clark County declared a state of emergency regarding the number of individuals with mental health needs being treated in emergency rooms. NDALC wrote a report investigating the crisis, the reasons for its existence, the responsibilities of the state, county, and local hospitals in providing services to individuals, and how providing sufficient community-based services can help to alleviate the problem. The report was presented to the Nevada State Legislature during the 2005 legislative session and was useful in showing the need for substantial increases in the state mental health budget. As a result of NDALC's effort, as well as many others, the budget was increased by over 50%, one of unprecedented proportions in Nevada.

# ADVOCACY SERVICES

## - PADD -

### PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (PADD)

**Administered by:** Administration on Developmental Disabilities of the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Established by:** Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights (DD) Act of 1975 to:

- Pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies under all applicable federal and state laws to protect and advocate for the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.

#### FY2005 Program Highlights:

NDALC continued to advocate on behalf of infants and toddlers eligible for services under Part C of the IDEA. As a member of the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), NDALC provided input on state-level policy to Part C programs in NV. NDALC advocated for the development of uniform training materials and additional training for all Part C staff on the Parental Prior Written Notice requirements of the IDEA. NDALC has advocated for Part C programs to collect data on why some children are determined not eligible for Early Intervention Services. NDALC also advocated on behalf of children who are eligible for special education under Part B of the IDEA. NDALC successfully worked for retaining in the Nevada Administrative Code requirements that IEP's contain measurable short-term objectives and for transition plans to be in place beginning at the age of 14. NDALC continues to participate on a state advisory committee to monitor the implementation of Nevada's Olmstead Plan.

AW is a 16-year-old with ADHD and cardio-inhibitory syncope. AW's high school prohibited her from continuing in the International Baccalaureate program because she needed reasonable accommodations. After requesting accommodations, school district engaged in various retaliatory actions against AW and her mother. NDALC represented AW by filing a case in federal court alleging violations of IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehab. Act. The case settled with AW receiving monetary settlement and NDALC receiving approximately \$2,000 in attorney fees.

JG and NG are twin three-year-old brothers with autism. A rural school district in northern Nevada delayed evaluating them for special education services. When services were finally provided by the school district they were not designed to meet the brothers' unique needs. NDALC is representing the brothers in appeal in the federal district court after due process hearing officer found in favor of the school district on several important issues.

TS is an eight-year-old girl with mental retardation who needed special low protein food due to metabolic disorder. TS was required to get the proper nutrition through a feeding tube every night. There were special low protein foods which she could eat that would allow her not to have a feeding tube. Nevada's Medicaid agency denied paying for food stating that the agency's policy was not to pay for table food. NDALC represented TS in Medicaid Fair Hearing process arguing under EPSDT that the state Medicaid agency was required to pay for such food. As a result of NDALC's advocacy, Nevada Medicaid agreed to pay for TS's special low protein food.

#### Al Mumford Rights Advocate (Reno)

I recently celebrated my one-year anniversary at NDALC. My family and I relocated to Nevada from Florida in 2005. For 28 years, I've worked with individuals with disabilities; primarily as a provider. I feel this year as an advocate has been the most rewarding and feel I can make a difference in someone's life. My goal is to dispel two long-standing myths: You have to be "special" to work with people with disabilities and people with disabilities have "special" rights. One does not have to be "special" just "human" and not "special" rights, but "their" rights. I look forward to the years ahead.



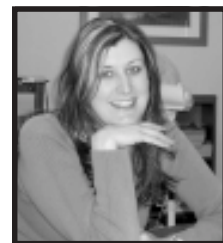
#### Lorrie Smith Rights Advocate (LV)

It has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated and dynamic group of colleagues. I have discovered, after two years of advocating for people who have sustained a traumatic brain injury and their caregivers, that there is MUCH yet to accomplish. I would like to see an emphasis given to the areas of public awareness and a Chartered Affiliate of the Brain Injury Association in Nevada. During my many outreach events and while attending conferences, it has been an education to meet and gain insight to the area of Traumatic Brain Injury. I want to thank NDALC and its Board of Directors for giving me this opportunity to provide advocacy services.



#### Caroline Taylor Rights Advocate (LV)

After spending most of my life surrounded by people with disabilities, I was thrilled to accept a position as a Rights Advocate for NDALC in 2003. Before joining NDALC, I worked as an advocate for Opportunity Village. I often think I was meant to spend my life advocating for people with disabilities. I have a twin sister who has a developmental disability, and I find great joy working with people of all abilities. I look forward to my future with NDALC and advocating for people with disabilities in Southern Nevada.





**Charles Wilber**  
**Accounting Assistant (LV)**

Before retiring to Las Vegas in 2001, I held a number of accounting positions in Denver, Colorado where I landed after attending the University of Colorado in Boulder. After graduation, I spent a couple of years with a National CPA firm before becoming Controller of a large Denver hospital. After 12 years in the hospital business, I established and operated my own CPA practice until a client asked me to help manage a new casino he was building in Central City, Colorado. The job was fun, but not the commute in the winter. Therefore, I retired and moved to Las Vegas. My wife, also from Denver, wanted to work a few more years, so I found the almost-perfect job at NDALC. I enjoy working part-time, and I like all the people I work with. At this point, I'm in no hurry to retire permanently.



**Maria Wyatt**  
**Intake Coordinator (LV)**

I was born in Brazil and lived in Salvador, Bahia until I was 23 years old. I went to the University of Bahia and took Languages as my major. I married an American doctor and relocated to Los Angeles, California. In 1968, I moved to Las Vegas, remarried, and had two daughters. I have worked many jobs in the casino industry (including ticket sales, tourism, and casino representative). I started working for NDALC in 1996 as a receptionist. I am currently the Intake Coordinator.



**Sheila King** President,  
**Board of Directors & Chair, PAIMI Advisory Council (Reno)**

I became a foster parent in Reno 15 years ago. My husband and I have had some part in the rearing of over 100 children, most of whom had disabilities. We have four biological children and one adopted son. I have been an advocate for quite some time but didn't realize it until I was asked to be on the PAIMI Advisory Council. I have attended many great conferences and training days, courtesy of NDALC, for which I am truly grateful. I have sat on the PAIMI Council, been Chair of the Council, Vice-President of the Board and President of the Board. I plan on working with the people at NDALC as long as they will allow.

# ADVOCACY SERVICES

## - PAIR -

### PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS (PAIR)

**Administered by:** Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education

**Established by:** Congress as a national program under the Rehabilitation Act in 1993 to:

- Protect and advocate for the legal and human rights of persons not covered by other programs - such as those with visual or hearing impairments or those with physical disabilities acquired as an adult.

#### FY2005 Program Highlights:

AG is a 63-year-old woman who has a mental illness and physical/orthopedic disabilities and who had been denied eligibility for paratransit services. NDALC contacted representatives from the Regional Transportation Commission and successfully negotiated an expedited re-evaluation which resulted in paratransit eligibility for AG.

SM was a 46-year-old woman with various physical impairments who wanted to install a shower grab bar because of episodes where she had fallen in the shower. After meeting with the landlord to get permission to install them, the landlord in writing refused to let SM install the grab bars and informed SM that her disability was too severe for her to live independently in the apartment. The landlord then issued a 30 day no-cause eviction notice to SM. NDALC assisted SM with filing a complaint with HUD and represented SM in the administrative hearing proceeding. The case settled and SM received monetary compensation and NDALC received attorneys fees.

CS was an elderly man with physical disabilities and dementia. As a result of NDALC's out-of-state monitoring activities, NDALC became aware of CS' death within several weeks of being transported from an acute care facility in NV to a facility in Utah at the request of CS' guardian. NDALC is collaborating with the state of Nevada's Elder Rights Attorney regarding CS' death and circumstances surrounding his transfer to the out-of-state facility. The investigation is ongoing.

HUD v. McClendon, et al. NDALC represented a woman with a physical disability in a HUD fair housing administrative proceeding after HUD determined there was cause to believe she was discriminated against by her landlord who refused the client to make reasonable modifications to her unit and subsequently attempted to evict the client from the unit because she was "too disabled" to live in the unit. A settlement was negotiated between HUD, the landlords and our client. A consent order was then signed by all the parties and the administrative law judge regarding the settlement. In January, our client received \$4000.00 in damages and her moving expenses from the landlord. NDALC also received \$670.00 in attorney fees. The landlords will also be required by HUD to attend training's on the Fair Housing Act and also keep a log which must be available for inspection by HUD of all reasonable accommodation and modification requests.

# ADVOCACY SERVICES

## - PAAT -

### PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (PAAT)

**Administered by:** Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education

**Established by:** Created in 1994 when Congress expanded the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act (Tech Act) to:

- assist individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives in accessing technology devices and assistive technology services through case management, legal representation, and self-advocacy training.

#### **FY2005 Program Highlights:**

Due to the initiative of an individual with a severe disability, NDALC conducted legal research as to whether other states had statutes allowing the use of a rubber signature stamp for people with physical disabilities who were unable to write their names. The individual had experienced problems signing in at election polling places, signing real estate contracts, and other signature-related instances. At the request of the NV Legislature, the individual and NDALC staff presented the results of the research at Legislative Committee Hearings. As a result, the NV Legislature drafted Senate Bill 23 authorizing the use of a signature stamp for all purposes for people with physical disabilities who were unable to write their name. The bill was passed by the NV Senate and Assembly and signed into law by the Governor, (as Chapter 283). NDALC is currently working with the NV Office of Disability, who has the responsibility for drafting the regulations to implement the law. NDALC is developing a plan to notify consumers with disabilities regarding the law and regulations.

NDALC assisted a student with a visual impairment to receive the appropriate assistive technology through the Clark County School District. A laptop computer and large print books were included in his individual education plan (IEP), but never implemented. With NDALC's intervention, the student received the appropriate assistive technological devices that are critical in providing him an appropriate education.

#### **Yolanda Roesner** Vice-President, Board of Directors (LV)

I live in Las Vegas with my husband and 11-year-old daughter, Megan. Megan had a stroke at birth and has cerebral palsy, seizures, and ADD. My commitment to helping people with disabilities came when she was born. My husband and I are committed to making Nevada a better place for people with disabilities, including positive systemic changes. Whenever we have had some type of appeal with anyone regarding Megan's services and needs, I always try to see how I can make what we are fighting for beneficial not only for Megan, but all individuals. I am a past graduate of Partners in Policymaking and currently on the Board of Advisors of Family Ties.



#### **Lori Lucas** Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Directors (Reno)

After working as a recreation therapist in California, I moved to Reno in 1991 and began working in the area of independent living skills training and advocacy for persons with disabilities. In 1998, I became a CPA and now work at Albright, Persing and Associates. I am able to bring to NDALC not only my belief in equal rights and the advocacy involved in getting them, but also my accounting knowledge to assist as needed. NDALC is a very effective force in the community for persons with disabilities, and I am very proud to be on the board.



#### **Laura Daviton** Board of Directors (Reno)

I am currently a special education aide for a student who is deaf at an elementary school. I worked for the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living as a Deaf Services Advocate, then Deaf Services Coordinator, and later Operations Manager for 16 years before my position was eliminated in 2003. I was interested in volunteering for the Deaf Community including a new agency, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Advocacy Resource Center. I joined NDALC's Board as a liaison between NDALC and the Deaf Community. I became a Board member for Nevada Association of the Deaf last summer.





**Jason Guinasso, Esq.**  
**Board of Directors**  
**(Reno)**

I was born in Long Beach, CA and grew up in Reno. I graduated from University of Nevada, Reno and studied law at University of Oregon School of Law. I am admitted to practice law in Nevada and California. Presently, as an associate with the law firm of Thorndal, Armstrong, Delk, Balkenbush and Eisinger, my primary practice area is workers' compensation defense. As a law clerk for NDALC in 2002, I assisted in efforts to ensure that providers delivered quality services to people in assisted living homes. I am married, have two children, and we enjoy outdoor activities such as skiing, biking, and hiking.



**Lauraleigh Mikula**  
**Board of Directors (LV)**

I was born in Lynn, Massachusetts and have lived throughout the United States. I relocated to Las Vegas 16 years ago. By trade, I was an OSHA and Worker's

Compensation Manager and worked with individuals with disabilities. I was injured in an automobile accident and had to learn to walk again. I am currently the President of the Destination Services Association which markets Southern Nevada as a destination to the world. I am on the Board of Directors for the Museums and Attractions in Nevada (MAIN), a past Co-Chair of Las Vegas Territory and past President of NDALC. My time on the NDALC Board has been invaluable to me, because I have learned about other abilities and how to work through road blocks so individuals with disabilities can live a productive life.



**Rilo Weisner**  
**Board of Directors (LV)**

I have lived in Nevada for most of my life. I am married and have four adult children. My volunteer involvements include being the Past President of the American Psychiatric

Nurse Association; a Conceptual Member of the Nevada State Board of Nursing's Disability Advisory Committee, and a Board Member of the Center for Independent Living (which provides services for abused, neglected, and homeless youth, ages 16-21). Professionally, I have been a psychiatric nurse for 26 years with a Masters Degree in counseling. I have worked also as a nurse psychotherapist and as an administrator. My hobbies include reading, writing, cooking, golf, and poker.

# ADVOCACY SERVICES

## - PABSS -

### PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY (PABSS)

**Administered by:** Social Security Administration

**Established by:** Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 to:

- Assist social security beneficiaries with disabilities in obtaining information and advice about receiving vocational rehabilitation and employment services; and to provide advocacy or other related services that beneficiaries may need to secure or regain gainful employment.

#### **FY2005 Program Highlights:**

Case of MZ, a 34-year-old, African American man who is deaf and an SSI recipient, was terminated from his employment as a cook at a restaurant. NDALC assisted the individual in filing a civil rights complaint with the state agency which handles employment discrimination and making sure the process for doing so was accessible. NDALC advocated to have a sign language interpreter at his interview with the investigator for the employment discrimination agency and are continuing to monitor the progress of the case.

# ADVOCACY SERVICES

## - PAVA -

### PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR VOTING ACCESS (PAVA)

**Administered by:** Administration on Developmental Disabilities of the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Established by:** Created in 2002 when Congress enacted the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to:

- Secure election access for a wide range of individuals with disabilities, pursuant to Congress' broad mandate to ensure the full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places.

#### **FY2005 Program Highlights:**

NDALC conducted 33 outreach meetings throughout NV, participated in six public meetings, and inspected 53 polling places statewide. At two different presentations (one in Clark County and another in Washoe County), NDALC invited the Election Departments to demonstrate new voting machines with adaptive software required to enable individuals with visual and cognitive disabilities to vote independently.

# ADVOCACY SERVICES - PATBI -

## PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (PATBI)

**Administered by:** U.S. Human Resources and Services Administration

**Established by:** Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act authorized as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000 to:

- Provide advocacy services, information and referral, and self-advocacy training to individuals who face a loss of legal rights as a direct result of TBI; and works to increase and improve systems of support for people impacted by TBI.

### FY2005 Program Highlights:

Case of PV, a 38-year-old African American man with TBI, who was found incompetent to stand trial and was released from jail to a homeless shelter. The state agency providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities was refusing to act on PV's request for services so he could have an appropriate community living arrangement, despite considerable evidence that he had received his brain injury before the age of 22. NDALC was contacted by the public defender's office regarding this situation. NDALC contacted the state attorney general's office and the developmental disabilities service agency on behalf of PV. As a result of NDALC's advocacy, the state agency providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities approved PV's application for services; provided an appropriate community living arrangement; and developed a program plan for PV. These advocacy efforts have resulted in PV no longer being homeless and he now receives appropriate support services.

# ADVOCACY SERVICES - IOLTA -

Nevada Law Foundation has granted NDALC IOLTA funds since 2001 for the provision of services to individuals with mental illness. IOLTA funds have enabled NDALC to better coordinate with other agencies for the provision of legal, educational, and outreach services to individuals with mental illness to address housing discrimination. In 2005, NDALC conducted outreach to the rural mental health clinics in Winnemucca, Fallon, Fernley, Dayton, and Carson City, NV. NDALC also met with Lovelock, Battle Mountain, and Mesquite mental health administrators to discuss mental health programs and agency protocols. In Washoe County, NDALC continues to work collaboratively with Silver State Fair Housing Council, the Northern Nevada fair housing agency, in cases involving housing discrimination against persons with mental illness. NDALC continues to conduct outreach efforts to clients residing in mental health facilities, group homes, and board and care homes and shelters. NDALC works closely with the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living to advocate on behalf of individuals inappropriately institutionalized. Also, NDALC works closely with mental health professionals at Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services and Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Institute in development and monitoring of discharge planning for persons with mental illness returning to the community from mental health institutions.

### **Bob Bennett, PAIMI Advisory Council (Reno)**

I am the Director of *Approach to Balance*, a small nonprofit, which provides peer and family education. I am a consumer of mental health services and I believe in the possibility of recovery. In the past, I was homeless and was thrown into jail on a regular basis. As the Mental Health Coordinator for Nevada ACLU, I served on the committee which helped form Nevada's first Mental Health Court. I was appointed to the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council by Governor Guinn. My book, *Mental Illness: A Guide to Recovery*, was favorably reviewed by Boston University's Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal.



### **Vic Davis, PAIMI Advisory Council (LV)**

I am currently the President of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Southern NV. I retired to Las Vegas in 1996. I have three family members suffering from mental illness and became involved with NAMI on a volunteer basis. As I became aware of the serious deficiencies in services for individuals with mental illness in NV, I was committed to seeing that these much needed services were made available. I was involved with the establishment of the LV Metro Police CIT Program, am co-chair of the Southern NV Mental Health Coalition, work with the state Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, and testify before the legislature to help obtain expanded services for persons with mental illness.



### **Alana Klumpp, PAIMI Advisory Council (Reno)**

As a clinical social worker with 30 years experience, I have seen many of the ills society visits upon humanity. I've seen children having children, children suffering from abuse, and women beaten down and unable to protect themselves or their children. I see people using drugs/alcohol to make it through life and fetal alcohol kids acquiring disabilities only because their mothers could not make it without drugs/alcohol. For the past eight years I have counselled senior citizens who are depressed, anxious, schizophrenic, or bipolar. Serving on the PAIMI Council allows me to help society continue to improve how we care for each other, and I thank NDALC for allowing me to do so.





**James Osti, PAIMI Advisory Council (LV)**  
I have worked as an analyst for the Southern NV Health District, Division of Community Health for the past 2-1/2 years. I have a nursing background and have

been a clinician, teacher, and administrator. I have always been concerned about persons with disabilities, especially those who are mentally ill. I have lived in LV for five years; the last two years I have been married to the most amazing and special person in the world. Kate has a visual disability, but that doesn't stop her or me. She works fulltime and I am her chauffeur "James." I have become much more involved in seeking services for those in need. In addition to the PAIMI Council, I am a member of the Strategic Plan Accountability Committee (SPAC).



**Ann Marie Smith  
PAIMI Advisory Council (LV)**

I have been involved with NDALC since its beginning; when I worked to privatize Nevada's Protection and Advocacy agency and create NDALC. I am Presi-

dent of the Board of Directors of Caminar, a nonprofit agency providing services to persons with disabilities in Nevada and California, and a member of the League of Women Voters. I have been an advocate for persons with mental illness since my son was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 1989. I am a past State President of NAMI of Nevada and a member of the Nevada Legislative Task Force on Mental Health. My husband and I own and operate CCS, a foreign language translation service located in Las Vegas.

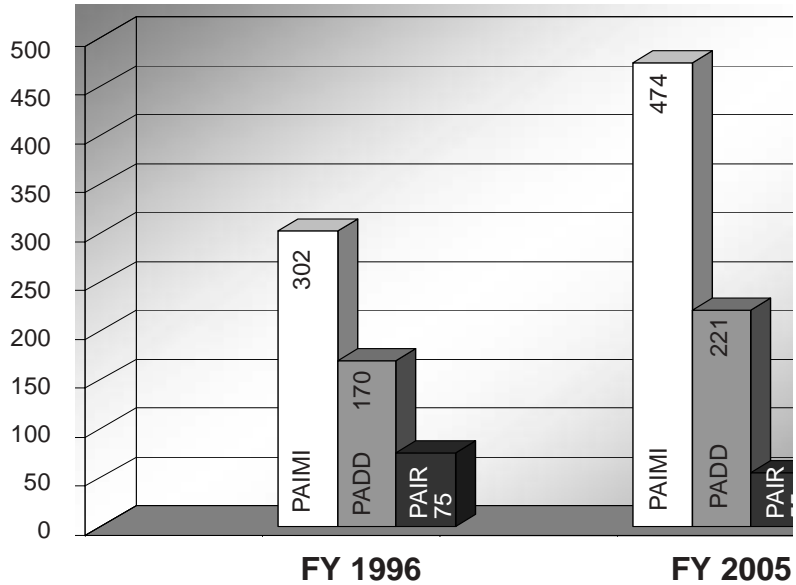


**Alyce Thomas  
PAIMI Advisory Council (LV)**

I am very honored to serve as a PAIMI Council Member. Advocacy is near and dear to my heart. Being a person with different abilities and

with having the pleasure of parenting eight children, two being my natural children (all with different abilities), I know firsthand the trials of STIGMA. I have been an advocate for children for over 20 years. I now also advocate for adults. I am the current chair of the State of Nevada's Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council (MHPAC), a member of the State's Juvenile Justice Commission, and the HWIAA (Medicaid Ticket To Work Advisory Council). I look forward to many years of service to NDALC.

## NUMBER OF CASES HANDLED



*This graph compares the number of Client Cases within three of NDALC's original grants. The drop in PAIR cases is attributable to successful resolution of most ADA issues in Nevada. The increased PADD and PAIMI numbers reflect population growth and our focus on systemic issues.*

## MONITORING & INVESTIGATIONS

In the past year, NDALC has increased its investigation and monitoring activities. Allegations of abuse and neglect have ranged from the inappropriate use of restraints to wrongful death. Investigation work is time consuming due to the serious nature of the allegations which require intensive fact finding through document review and staff interviews, as well as detailed research and analysis. When appropriate, NDALC may refer abuse and neglect complaints to other regulatory bodies that have jurisdiction over the particular facility, and NDALC monitors the thoroughness of the investigation.

An important component of NDALC's mandate is to monitor facilities and other living arrangements of individuals with disabilities to ensure living environments are free from abuse and neglect. NDALC became aware that an increasing number of Nevada residents were being placed in out-of-state facilities because no facility in the state of Nevada would provide services. NDALC expanded its monitoring to include out-of-state facilities where Nevada citizens reside. Staff conducted monitoring of three facilities in Utah, three facilities in Idaho, and one facility in California. The objectives of NDALC's out-of-state monitoring project are to identify and remedy any serious rights violations and/or facility deficiencies, determine whether Nevada citizens living in out-of-state facilities are residing in the most integrated setting, and to identify and advocate for Nevada citizens who are not residing in the most integrated setting. As a result of these monitoring activities, NDALC is advocating for the return of several individuals back to Nevada and placement in the community with proper supports. NDALC continues to monitor mental health facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and other living arrangements in Nevada.

# ADVOCACY AWARDS CEREMONY

You are invited to attend the  
**6th Annual NDALC Advocacy Awards Ceremony**

**Wednesday, May 10, 2006**

(South Coast Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV)

**6:00pm:** Reception

**7:00pm:** Awards Ceremony

## Honoring

*Legal Advocate Award*

**Christy Craig**

*Family Advocate Award*

**Regina McDade**

*Self Advocate Award*

**Santa Perez**

*Volunteer Advocate Award*

**Cheryl Delhagen**

*Legislative Advocate Award*

**Senator Barbara Cegavske**

*Professional Advocate Award*

**Gary Olsen**

*Special Recognition Award*

**John Miller**

**Judge Jackie Glass**

**Judge John McGroarty**

*Lois Johnson*

*Administrative Advocate Award*

**Dr. Jonna Triggs**

To RSVP or for additional information, please call the northern NDALC office:

775/ 333-7878 or 1-800/ 992-5715 (Toll free)

## Previous Award Recipients

### SELF ADVOCATE AWARD

Brenda Allen ..... 2001  
James Ross ..... 2002  
Karen Wheeler ..... 2003  
Elizabeth Downie ..... 2004  
Carlos Ramirez ..... 2005

### PROFESSIONAL ADVOCATE

Mary Evilsizer ..... 2001  
Lisa Erquiaga ..... 2002  
Rilo Weisner ..... 2003  
Katherine Copeland ..... 2004  
Robert Desruisseaux ..... 2005

### LEGAL ADVOCATE

Rodney Jean ..... 2001  
Kathleen O'Leary ..... 2002  
Alda Anderson ..... 2003  
Jon Sasser ..... 2004  
Emily J. Reeder ..... 2005

### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

Senator Raymond Rawson ..... 2001  
Sheila Leslie ..... 2002  
Senator Dina Titus ..... 2003  
Senator Randolph Townsend ..... 2004  
Senator William J. Raggio ..... 2005

### VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE

Ann Marie Smith ..... 2001  
Kelley DeRiemer ..... 2002  
Joy Sawyer ..... 2003  
Kathryn Crawford ..... 2004  
Wendi Fauria ..... 2005

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Michael Melner ..... 2001  
S. Travis Wall ..... 2001  
Rose McKinney-James ..... 2002  
Honorable Scott Jordan ..... 2002  
Brian Lahren ..... 2003  
Challenger Newspaper ..... 2003  
Nevada Association of the Deaf ..... 2003  
Michael J. Willden ..... 2004  
Honorable Kenny C. Guinn ..... 2005

### FAMILY ADVOCATE

Cheryl Jung ..... 2001  
Lisa Rogers ..... 2002  
Diane Monahan ..... 2002  
Cheryl Dinnell ..... 2003  
Toni Richard ..... 2004  
Christiane Dumas ..... 2004  
Stephanie Yates ..... 2005  
Diane Butler ..... 2005

“NDALC is a wonderful agency. I’ve learned so much and have a better understanding of how to fight for my son’s rights. I can’t praise you enough.”

(Client satisfaction survey response)

## NDALC PUBLICATIONS

- [NDALC Brochure](#)
- [Flyers on Specific Grant Programs:](#)  
(PADD, PAIMI, PATBI, PAVA)
- [NDALC News](#)
- [PABSS Brochure](#)
- [PAVA Informational Packet](#)
- [NDALC FY2006 Service Priorities](#)
- [Ten Steps to Self Advocacy](#)
- [The Duty of Health Care Professionals to Provide Sign Language Interpreters](#)
- [Your Rights When You Are in a Facility Which Provides Care or Treatment](#)
- [Rights Poster](#)
- [Report on the Mental Health Crisis in Southern Nevada](#)

These publications are available by contacting either NDALC office listed on the back page of this newsletter or on the NDALC website: [www.ndalc.org](http://www.ndalc.org).



*“Between Two Worlds”  
A Native American  
Health Care & Disability Summit*

September 26-28, 2004  
Boomtown Hotel/Casino  
Reno, Nevada

*Two hundred and six individuals attended this Summit to bring together Tribal Leaders throughout Nevada to provide a statewide forum for the discussion of health care and disability related issues/needs and to develop a collaboration between providers, American Indians and Alaskan Natives to develop strategies to meet those needs.*

A collaborative effort between:

Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center  
Nevada Council on Dev. Disabilities  
Nevada Health Division  
Nevada Indian Commission  
Northern Nevada Literacy Council  
So. Nevada Center for Independent Living



# SERVICE PRIORITIES

## - FY 2006 -

*NDALC sets annual service priorities based on input from individuals with disabilities. Below is a condensed list of the priorities for fiscal year 2006. For a complete list of our priorities (which includes objectives and actions), please contact one of the offices listed on the back page of this newsletter.*

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**PAAT:** Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology  
**PABSS:** Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security  
**PADD:** Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities  
**PAIMI:** Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness  
**PAIR:** Protection & Advocacy for Individual Rights  
**PATBI:** Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury  
**PAVA:** Protection & Advocacy for Voting Access

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### ACCESS

1. NDALC will assist individuals with disabilities to secure greater physical and programmatic access to entities covered under Title II or Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). **(PAIR, PATBI, PAVA)**

### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

1. NDALC will work with individuals with disabilities, their families, and others to obtain needed and appropriate assistive technology devices and services, and to ensure that such devices and services are provided on a timely basis. **(PAAT)**

### EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

1. NDALC will advocate to ensure that children with developmental disabilities obtain appropriate and timely early intervention services and transition services. NDALC will only provide direct representation at Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings in select cases that address egregious systemic issues. **(PADD)**

### EDUCATION

1. NDALC will advocate for students with disabilities who are being denied the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive environment with the appropriate supportive and related services. NDALC will only provide representation at select individualized education plan (IEP) meetings. **(PADD, PAIMI)**

2. NDALC will advocate for students to receive appropriate transition planning services from the school district. NDALC will only provide representation at select individualized education plan (IEP) meetings. **(PADD)**

**FACILITY MONITORING**

1. NDALC will monitor facilities and other supervised living arrangements of individuals with disabilities to ensure healthy and safe living environments, free from abuse and neglect. **(PAIMI, PADD)**

**GUARDIANSHIPS**

1. NDALC will advocate for individuals under a guardianship who want to live more independently. **(ALL)**

**HOUSING**

1. NDALC will work with individuals with disabilities to prevent discrimination in housing and will assist such individuals in obtaining reasonable accommodations and/or modifications in housing. **(PAIMI, PAIR)**

**INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS**

1. NDALC will advocate to ensure that the rights of individuals with psychiatric disabilities are not denied without them first being afforded due process of law. **(PAIMI)**

**INSTITUTIONS**

1. NDALC will advocate for the personal rights, mandated by federal and state law, for individuals in institutional settings. **(PADD, PAIMI)**
2. NDALC will advocate for the development of comprehensive, consumer-driven and appropriate discharge plans for individuals with psychiatric disabilities. **(PAIMI)**

**INVESTIGATIONS**

1. NDALC will investigate incidents involving death or serious bodily injury to persons with disabilities in public and private facilities. **(ALL)**

**JUVENILE JUSTICE**

1. NDALC will advocate for juveniles with disabilities in the juvenile justice system to ensure they receive appropriate treatment and services. **(PADD, PAIMI)**

**MOST INTEGRATED SETTING**

1. NDALC will advocate to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of individuals with disabilities so that they can live in the community of their choice. **(PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PATBI)**

**RETURN TO WORK**

1. NDALC will advocate on behalf of individuals with disabilities, who receive social security disability benefits, to remove barriers preventing them from obtaining or maintaining employment. **(PABSS)**



IN LOVING MEMORY  
**LOIS JOHNSON**  
(1942 - 2006)

Lois Johnson was one of NDALC's original employees. She was hired as the Finance Director and was later promoted to Deputy Director. She celebrated her ten-year anniversary with NDALC in December 2005. Lois oversaw the daily operations of the Las Vegas office and was responsible for the agency's grants' management and fiscal integrity.

You will be dearly missed.

**IRAQI DELEGATES  
VISIT NORTHERN  
NEVADA**

In February of this year, NDALC was honored to meet with a group of delegates from Iraq under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program. The meeting was arranged through the Northern Nevada International Center. The group included six Iraqi women leaders from various professional backgrounds. Staff from the Northern NDALC office and the Iraqi delegates exchanged information regarding disability laws, policies, and issues effecting their respective countries

**Nevada Disability  
Advocacy and Law Center**  
1311 North McCarran Blvd., #106  
Sparks, NV 89431

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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RENO, NV  
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## Return Service Requested

*The Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) is Nevada's federally mandated protection and advocacy system for the rights of individuals with disabilities. NDALC is a private, nonprofit organization funded by federal grants and charitable donations. If you would like this document in an alternative format, please call either office below.*

**4 / 2 0 0 6**

### MAIN OFFICE

**6039 Eldora Avenue, Suite C, Box 3  
Las Vegas, NV 89146**

702/ **257-8150** (Telephone)

♦

702/ **257-8160** (TTY)

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702/ **257-8170** (Fax)

♦

888/ 349-3843 (Toll Free)

♦

ndalc@ndalclv.org (E-mail)

### NORTHERN OFFICE

**1311 North McCarran Blvd., Suite 106  
Sparks, NV 89431**

775/ **333-7878** (Telephone)

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775/ **788-7824** (TTY)

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775/ **788-7825** (Fax)

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800/ 992-5715 (Toll Free)

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reno@ndalc.org (E-mail)

**NDALC Website: [www.ndalc.org](http://www.ndalc.org)**