

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania Announces New Chief Executive Officer and Legal Director

Harrisburg, PA (August 22, 2011) - Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania today announces the appointment of Mark Murphy as Chief Executive Officer and Kelly Darr as Legal Director. Murphy was selected by the Board of Directors to fill the role after longtime CEO Ilene Shane made the decision to move to part-time status. "I am very confident that Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania will be strong and successful under Mark's leadership," Shane said. "I am happy to remain a part of the organization working on policy and systemic advocacy issues."

Murphy previously held the position of Legal Director of Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania and was responsible for leading the organization's litigation efforts and other legal programs. Murphy received his Bachelor of Arts and his Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and has practiced exclusively in the area of civil rights for persons with disabilities for nearly 25 years. He has represented clients in numerous cases involving a wide range of disability law issues, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, the rights of persons in institutions, the right to community-based services, employment discrimination, guardianship and consent, and architectural barriers. Murphy lectures frequently at continuing legal education seminars and has made many presentations to consumer, family, advocacy, and professional groups on the legal rights of persons with disabilities. In addition, Murphy also served as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he taught classes on disability discrimination law and mental health law.

"I am grateful to the Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to be the CEO of Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania," Murphy said. "Ilene has done a great job as CEO, and I look forward to working with her in her new role. I also am pleased to be leading an outstanding group of dedicated employees who work hard every day to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities."

Kelly Darr, previously a staff attorney at Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania, moves into the position of Legal Director. Darr has represented clients in a range of disability-related matters, with a particular emphasis on special education and other issues affecting children. Darr is a graduate of Ohio State University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

"Kelly will do a great job as Legal Director of Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania," Murphy said. "She is a talented lawyer who is passionate about ensuring that the legal rights of people with disabilities are advanced and protected."

For more information visit www.drnpa.org. Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania works to advance, protect, and advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

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