



# 2022 ANNUAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

*National Association for  
Rights Protection and Advocacy*

*October 26-29, 2022*

*Newark, New Jersey*

*Program for the Annual Rights Conference*

The Annual Rights Conference of the  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy  
Wednesday, October 26 to Saturday, October 29, 2022  
DoubleTree by Hilton Newark Airport

## **NARPA Mission Statement**

NARPA's mission is to promote policies and pursue strategies that result in individuals with psychiatric diagnoses making their own choices regarding treatment. We educate and mentor those individuals to enable them to exercise their legal and human rights with a goal of abolition of all forced treatment.

### **NARPA Board of Directors**

**Kwamena Blankson, President**  
**Noel Hunter, Vice President**  
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**Arthur Baer**  
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**Tamar Lavy**  
**Anita Szigeti**

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**narpa4rights@gmail.com**  
**<https://www.narpa.org>**

**And on Facebook**  
**and YouTube!**

**Bill Stewart, 2022 Conference Committee Chairperson**  
**Ann Marshall, NARPA Administrator**

# **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL ATTENDEES**

**As stated in all pre-conference materials, upon registration all registrants attending any face-to-face conference activities agree to show Proof of Vaccination and also agree to abide by any posted rules regarding safety protocols including masking and/or social distancing.**

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## **OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

### **Continuing Legal Education Credits (CLEs)**

Please check in at Registration Desk regarding certificates for CLE-eligible workshops.

### **Evaluation Forms**

Please leave completed forms in the box at the Registration Desk.

### **Name Badges**

If you wish to recycle your badge, leave it in the box at the Registration Desk.

### **Internet Access**

Please check with the registration desk if you are having problems with access.

For our future NARPA generations,  
NARPA wishes to “go green” and be ecologically responsible.

For the NARPA program with times and locations, scan the QR code at the Registration Desk. The schedule is also available with workshop descriptions, presenter bios, and other details on the website at [www.narpa.org](http://www.narpa.org). For those without this technology, please ask for the information at the Registration Desk.

Some workshop handouts are on the NARPA website conference schedule now and, if provided by speakers, others will be added to website after the conference.

Text in **blue font** will link to full descriptions of workshop and keynote presentations and to brief presenter biographies.

## DAILY SCHEDULES AND WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Workshop descriptions, biographical information about presenters, and handouts (if provided) are listed in the Full Conference Schedule on our website at [www.narpa.org](http://www.narpa.org).

### Wednesday, October 26, 2022

**3 – 5 PM**

*Mercer/Salem/Warren*

**Pre-Conference Institute for PAIMI Council Members**

**2 – 6 PM**

*Mercer/Salem/Warren*

**Conference Registration Desk Open**

**6 - 7:30 PM**

*Upper Terrace 1*

**Reception**

**Welcoming Remarks**

[Kwamena Blankson](#), NARPA President

[Bill Stewart](#), Conference Chairperson

### Thursday, October 27, 2022

**8 AM – 4 PM**

*Camden/Hudson*

**Registration Desk Open**

**7:30 – 8:30 AM**

*Camden/Hudson*

**Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 – 9:45 AM**

*Camden/Hudson*

**Opening Remarks**

**Presentation of the Pearl Johnson Award**

**Keynote Address**

[Vesper Moore](#), Chief Operating Officer, Kiva Centers, Indigenous political activist, leader, organizer and educator in the psychiatric survivor and disability rights movements

**[Reimagining Crisis Response in a Culture of Surveillance](#)**

**9:45 – 10 AM**

**Break**

**10 - 11:30 AM**

*Passaic/Morris*

**Workshops**

[Tom Behrendt](#), [Kwamena Blankson](#), and [Bill Stewart](#)  
**[NARPA Chat](#)**

Conference attendees who are participating in their first or second annual event are sometimes overwhelmed and confused by the amount of information available. Long term NARPA members tend to use verbal shorthand in references to cases, books or agencies. This workshop is an informal discussion of the history, mission and current status of the organization. Questions and comments are encouraged. Bill Stewart and Tom Behrendt are former board members and Kwamena Blankson is the current president.

*Bergen Room*

[Martin Cirkiel](#), J.D., L.M.S.-AP, and [Robin Petty](#), L.M.S.W  
**The Airing of Grievances of Discrimination in Public School Settings**

*Mercer/Salem/Warren*

[Cory Bernstein](#), J.D., and [Eileen O'Grady](#), Research & Campaign Manager, Private Equity Stakeholder Project  
**Private Equity Investment in Behavioral Health Facilities: What It Means and How to Combat It**

*Atlantic/Burlington/  
Hunterdon*

[Nina Loewenstein](#), J.D., and [Lisa Volpe](#), J.D.  
**Is There a Role for Supported Decision-Making for People with Mental Health Histories?**

**11:30 AM – 1 PM**  
*Camden/Hudson*

**Luncheon**  
**Keynote Address**

[Deborah Dorfman](#), J.D., Executive Director of Disability Rights Connecticut with 30 years' experience litigating individual and class actions, as well as systemic reform cases, in the areas of disability and related law

**Exercising Autonomy, Dignity and Choice: The Role of Supported Decision-Making for People with Psychiatric Diagnoses**

**1 – 2:30 PM**  
*Passaic/Morris*

**Workshops**

[Bill Brooks](#), J.D.

**Providing Effective Legal Representation to Individuals Facing Involuntary Hospitalization**

*Bergen Room*

[Anita Szigeti](#), J.D.

**The Impact of Contributing the Client Voice North of the Border: 20 Years of Unprecedented Intervention by Psych Survivors in Precedent Setting Cases in Canada's Top Court**

*Mercer/Salem/Warren*

[Aaryce Hayes](#), M.S.W.

**Please note this is a two part presentation.**

**How to Review Investigations of Serious Incidents**

In the first session, the focus is on understanding how to review and evaluate investigations often performed by regulatory entities.

**(Seclusion and Restraint) – Part 1**

*Atlantic/Burlington/  
Hunterdon*

[Mitzi Sky](#), Advocacy Unlimited

**Compassionate Activism Training**

Attendees and facilitators will explore advocacy for human rights with the intention for transformation, equity, inclusion, and liberation in all areas where injustices occur. The purpose of CA training is to build awareness for transformation.

**2:30 – 2:45 PM**

**Break**

**2:45 – 4:15 PM**

*Passaic/Morris*

**Workshops**

[Arthur Baer](#), J.D., and [Dennis Feld](#), J.D.

**When State Courts Fail: The Use of Habeas Corpus to Vindicate Constitutional Rights**

*Bergen Room*

[Brandon Booth](#), J.D., Disability Rights South Dakota

**Alternatives to Guardianship**

*Mercer/Salem/Warren*

[Aaryce Hayes](#), M.S.W.

**How to Review Investigations of Serious Incidents (Seclusion and Restraint) – Part 2**

The second session of this workshop will further illuminate information from Part I and apply concepts taught to an actual case the participants will walk through in an interactive process.

*Atlantic/Burlington/  
Hunterdon*

[Paul Acker](#), The Housing Collective, and [Leigh Nathan](#), M.D.

**Should Danger to Self Statutes Be Repealed and Replaced by Capacity Evaluations? A Discussion between a Psychiatrist and a Person with Lived Experience**

**5 – 6 PM**

*Camden/Hudson*

**NARPA Board Meeting**

**Friday, October 28, 2022**

**7 - 8 AM**

*Monmouth Room*

[Virginia Knowlton-Marcus](#), J.D.

CEO Disability Rights North Carolina

**Accessible Yoga for Advocates:  
Manage Stress, Improve Mental Health**

A workshop for improving head and heart space with accessible yoga. Virginia completed her RYT-200 yoga instructor training in 2016 and became involved in the accessible yoga movement, advocating to make yoga practice accessible to everybody.

**8 - 4 PM**

*Camden Hudson*

**Registration Desk Open**

**7:30 – 8:30 AM**

*Camden Hudson*

**Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 – 9:45 AM**

*Camden/Hudson*

**Keynote Address**

[Rob Wipond](#)

Investigative Journalist, Author of “*Your Consent Is Not Required: The Rise in Psychiatric Detentions, Forced Treatment, and Abusive Guardianships*”

**911 and 988: Both Help and Horror on Everyone’s Speed Dial**

**9:45 – 10 AM**

**Break**

**10 – 11:30 AM**

**Workshops**

*Passaic/Morris*

[Dennis B. Feld](#), J.D., and [Arthur A. Baer](#), J.D.

**Round Up the Usual Suspects: The Use of Involuntary Outpatient Treatment to “Fight Crime” and the Rights of Patients to Challenge Such Treatment**

*Bergen Room*

[Chris Hansen](#), Intentional Peer Support

**Non-Coercive Approaches To Difficult Situations - Drawing From Our Own Experiences and Resources Through the Lens of Intentional Peer Support**

*Mercer/Salem/Warren*

[Claire Stanley](#), J.D., National Disability Rights Network

**The Expansion of the Suicide Prevention Hotline to Crisis Intervention Services: What People with Disabilities Should Know about 988**

*Atlantic/Burlington/  
Hunterdon*

[Kristina Kapp](#), Chair, Ohio PAIMI Council, and [Shawn Terrell](#), Administration for Community Living

**The Culture of Commodization**

Presenters will review the history of person-centered planning and current PCP standards and share tools that can be used by administrators and advocates to help providers develop services focused on shared humanity and deemphasized professional roles.

**11:30 AM – 1 PM**

**Luncheon**

*Camden/Hudson*

**Keynote Address**

[Ruth Lowenkron](#), J.D., Director, Disability Justice Program of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

**Mental Health Services vs. Mental Health Crises**

**1 – 2:30 PM**

**Workshops**

*Passaic/Morris*

[Brian Dimmick](#), J.D., American Civil Liberties Union

**Coercion Not Care: California’s New and Misguided Attempt to Address Mental Illness through Coerced Treatment**

*Bergen Room*

[Ann Kasper](#), M.A., P.S.S.

**Digital and Technology Rights in Psychiatric Care**

*Mercer/Salem/Warren*

[Ruth Lowenkron](#), J.D., and [Marinda van Dalen](#), J.D., Disability Justice Program at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, with an organizational plaintiff in the litigation and a Peer Advocate

**A Discussion of Recent Efforts to Remove Police from Mental Health Emergency Calls through Litigation, as well as On-Going Legislative and Community Advocacy for Establishment of Peer-Led Crisis Response Systems**

*Atlantic/Burlington/  
Hunterdon*

[Robyn Linscott](#), The ARC of the USA  
**Stop the Shock - The Judge Rotenberg Center and Aversive Interventions**

**2:30 – 2:45 PM**

**Break**

**2:45 – 4:15 PM**

*Passaic/Morris*

**Workshops**

[Jalyn Radziminski](#) and [Lewis Bossing](#), Esq., Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; [e.v. yost](#), esq., Queer Crisis Response Unit; and [Vania Mendoza](#), San Francisco’s Street Crisis Response Team

**People with Lived Experiences as First Responders: Successes and Challenges**

*Mercer/Salem/Warren*

[Ebony Flint](#), Wildflower Alliance  
**Advocacy, Activism, and Peer Support Through an Anti-Oppression Lens**

*Atlantic/Burlington  
Hunterdon*

[Sarah Yousuf](#), J.D., [Phillip Kassel](#), J.D., [Ivy Moody](#), J.D., and Matt Cregor, J.D., Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee

**Policing Mental Health in Our Schools and on Our Streets**

**4:15 - 5:15 PM**

**Caucuses**

*Mercer/Salem/Warren*

**Racial Justice**

Discussion led by [Kwamena Blankson](#), J.D., NARPA President

*Passaic/Morris*

**Treatment over Objection**

Discussion led by [Arthur Baer](#), J.D., and Robert Hernandez, J.D.

**7 - 9 PM**

*Camden/Hudson*

**“For Life”**

**A film presentation of this mini-opera about forced treatment**

With Composer [Dawn Sonntag](#), D.M.A., and Librettist [Kermit Cole](#), filmmaker and co-founding editor of [Mad in America](#)



**Saturday, October 29, 2022**

**8 AM – Noon**  
*Camden/Hudson*

**Registration Desk Open**

**7:30 – 9 AM**  
*Camden/Hudson*

**Continental Breakfast**

**9 – 10:15 AM**  
*Passaic/Morris*

**Workshops**

[Jennifer Mathis](#), J.D.  
**Disability Rights Priorities of the U.S. Department of Justice**

*Mercer/Salem/Warren*

[Noël Hunter](#), Psy.D.  
**Mental Health Epidemic or Normal Response to Abnormal Circumstances: Mental Pain in Context**

**10:15 - 10:30 AM**

**Break**

**10:30 – 11:45 AM**  
*Camden/Hudson*

**Closing Keynote Address**

[Robert Dinerstein](#), J.D.  
Professor of Law and Director of the Disability Rights Clinic  
American University's Washington College of Law

**Significant Developments in Mental Health Law – 2022**

This presentation, always a popular one at NARPA, will review and analyze leading mental health law and ADA cases of the last year. The discussion will center on potentially successful areas of litigation in the coming year, important legal issues that remain to be resolved, and the kinds of arguments that are likely to be persuasive with courts at this time.

**11:45 AM - Noon**  
*Camden/Hudson*

**Closing Remarks**

[Kwamena Blankson](#), J.D. and NARPA President

**Conference Adjourns**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO**  
**THE PEARL JOHNSON AWARD RECIPIENT**

NARPA presents this award to advocates of color exemplifying the spirit of Pearl Johnson, one of the nation's leading psychiatric survivor activists and a passionate supporter for the rights of individuals of color.

**This year the Pearl Johnson Award is presented to**  
**Mathias Pagan**

Mathias has been selected for this honor by Disability Rights New Jersey for advocating for people labeled with psychiatric illnesses.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

**NARPA Wishes To Thank**  
**Connecticut Legal Rights Project**  
**and**

**The Darby Penney Trust**

**For invaluable assistance in providing scholarships for**  
**individuals with lived experience to attend our**  
**New Jersey Conference**

**and to**

**Disability Rights New Jersey**

**For their assistance and support in making this**  
**conference possible**

**In Honor of Our Long-Time Friend  
and NARPA Board Member**

**THE PAT RISSER  
EMPOWERMENT  
SCHOLARSHIP**



**IN HONOR OF THE LIFELONG DEDICATION TO LEARNING  
AND ADVOCACY EMBODIED BY FORMER PAIMI ADVISORY  
COUNCIL MEMBER AND DISABILITY RIGHTS OHIO BOARD  
MEMBER PAT RISSER, DISABILITY RIGHTS OHIO CREATED  
THIS SCHOLARSHIP WHICH WILL SEND ONE PAIMI  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY  
(NARPA) CONFERENCE EACH YEAR.**



<https://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/>