



## **BAZELON CENTER ANNOUNCES EXPERT DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATE AS NEW MANAGING ATTORNEY**

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*Mark Murphy Brings 30 Years of Experience to National Legal Advocacy Organization*

**Washington, D.C** (Jan. 25, 2017)—The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, a national legal advocacy organization advancing the rights of people with mental disabilities, today announced a newly appointed managing attorney, Mark Murphy, formerly the director of the mental health advocacy program at Disability Rights New York, and the CEO of Disability Rights Pennsylvania, respectively.

“We’ve worked alongside Mark on disability cases over the years and are familiar with his caliber of advocacy work,” said Ira Burnim, Legal Director, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. “With disability rights being challenged now and in the coming months, we need a strong advocate like Mark to help support our current cases, as well as develop new cases and policy initiatives. We are confident that Mark brings the same level of passion and integrity that the Bazelon Center was founded on and are grateful to have his expertise as part of our advocacy organization.”

Murphy joins the Bazelon Center after holding senior positions at both the New York and Pennsylvania protection and advocacy programs, where he developed and managed litigation, policy, and other advocacy initiatives involving a wide range of disability issues, including matters involving the Americans with Disabilities Act; Rehabilitation Act; Fair Housing Act; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and state laws.

Murphy served as the director of the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program at Disability Rights New York. Murphy also served as the legal director and chief executive officer of Disability Rights Pennsylvania, where he was responsible for overall program, fiscal, and administrative management of a statewide organization providing legal and other advocacy services to persons with disabilities.

Previous to Disability Rights Pennsylvania, Murphy was the managing attorney, deputy executive director, and executive director of the Disabilities Law Project in Philadelphia. While at DLP, Murphy managed and implemented a contract with the National Disability Rights Network under which DLP, in partnership with the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, acted as a legal back-up center to all protection and advocacy (P&A) programs nationally on issues relating to community integration, housing discrimination, and Americans with Disabilities Act issues. He also conducted numerous trainings for P&A lawyers and advocates around the country and produced dozens of fact sheets and Q&A documents on wide range of disability law issues.



“My previous experience working alongside Bazelon’s lawyers exposed me to the groundbreaking and influential work they do on policy and legal issues in the mental health law field,” said Murphy. “I’m excited to have the opportunity to apply my experience working in New York and Pennsylvania to the high-quality work Bazelon does on a national level.” Murphy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a Juris Doctor degree from the University Of Pittsburgh School of Law.

**About The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law**

The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is a national legal advocacy organization protecting and advancing the rights of people with mental disabilities. The Center promotes laws and policies that enable people with mental disabilities to live independently in their own homes and communities, and to enjoy the same opportunities that everyone else does. For more information, visit [www.bazelon.org](http://www.bazelon.org).

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