

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

(609) 989-2182

CHAMBERS OF  
FREDA L. WOLFSON  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Clarkson S. Fisher Federal Building  
& U.S. Courthouse  
402 East State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

October 2, 2017

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**RE: *Disability Rights New Jersey, Inc. v. Velez***

**Civil Action No.: 05-1784 (FLW)**

Litigants and Counsel:

Please accept this letter as my belated response to the parties' correspondence regarding the State's substantial compliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement reached in this case. I write to congratulate and commend everyone involved for their efforts in achieving this milestone in the development of New Jersey's mental health service system. Indeed, as a result

of your collective efforts, thousands of individuals with mental disabilities will be assured access to supportive housing within New Jersey.

When this case came before me, I recall the multitude of significant issues facing the parties. But for the parties' and counsel's diligent efforts in working towards an amicable resolution of those disputes, time and resources would have been diverted to time-consuming litigation. Instead, by reaching an agreement, the parties ensured that New Jersey citizens with mental illness received the necessary support in an efficient manner. Your hard work has greatly benefitted these often forgotten members of our community, and will continue to pay dividends going forward.

In our adversarial system, I was inspired to see litigants working together to further this worthwhile cause. I hope when you reflect on this case, you feel a bit of pride that your efforts contributed to this tremendous outcome.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Freda L. Wolfson  
Hon. Freda L. Wolfson, U.S.D.J.