

## **Civil Rights Counsel Anne Raish Joins the Bazelon Center as Senior Staff Attorney After Serving as Principal Deputy Chief at the U.S. DOJ's Civil Rights Division**

**(September 4, 2025 - Washington DC)** — The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is thrilled to welcome **Anne Raish** as Senior Staff Attorney. Raish brings 15 years of experience at the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division, where she served for much of that time as Principal Deputy Chief of the Disability Rights Section.

“I am honored to join the Bazelon Center,” says Raish. “The Center’s deep civil rights expertise and outstanding lawyering are critically important today, and I’m proud to help advance litigation and policy that protect the rights of people with mental health disabilities.”

As Principal Deputy Chief of the Civil Rights Division’s Disability Rights Section, Raish led the Section’s work enforcing the **integration mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act** and negotiated statewide agreements securing community-based housing and employment services for thousands of individuals.

Raish's work at the Department also focused on combating discrimination against individuals with mental disabilities in the context of higher education, professional licensing, elementary and secondary schools, and employment. She negotiated several agreements eliminating discriminatory barriers to education and employment for people with mental disabilities. In addition to her ADA enforcement work, Raish led several interagency working groups addressing a range of disability rights issues and worked on guidance and rulemakings implementing disability rights laws.

“Anne has worked closely with the Bazelon Center team over many years on pivotal cases that helped shape disability rights,” says **Holly O'Donnell**, CEO of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. “Her proven litigation talent and deep commitment to justice will expand and accelerate our ability to secure meaningful results for people with mental health disabilities.”

**Eve Hill**, a leading Civil Rights Attorney and Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Bazelon Center, states, “Anne brings a wealth of wisdom and experience to the Bazelon Center and will be a tremendous asset to our clients as we seek justice for people with disabilities.”

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Prior to joining the Justice Department, Raish was a litigator at a large, international law firm, where she served as co-counsel with the Bazelon Center in a major trial against the State of New York, securing community-based housing opportunities for thousands of unnecessarily institutionalized individuals.

Raish has a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

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*Since 1972, the [Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#) has advocated for the civil rights, full inclusion and equality of adults and children with mental health disabilities. The Bazelon Center accomplishes its goals through a unique combination of litigation, public policy advocacy, coalition building and leadership, public education, media outreach and technical assistance — a comprehensive approach that ensures we achieve the greatest impact.*