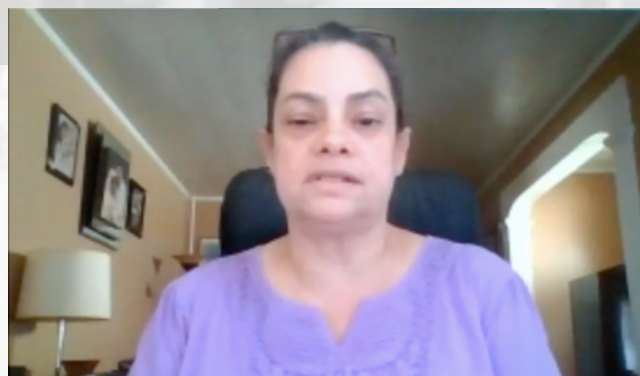


Working with the Surrogates Court

We have been fortunate to have three Surrogate Judges, the Clerk of the Surrogates Court in Manhattan, and the Guardianship Clerk in Richmond County as members of our Advisory Council. Their input, and that of the Surrogates Association, has been invaluable in thinking how best to make SDM a viable alternative to guardianship for people with I/DD.

Since we began in 2016, we've been honored to do presentations on SDM and SDMNY for the Surrogates Association, and for the NYS Judicial Institute. SDMNY Director Kris Glen, herself a former Surrogate, was invited to do a presentation for this summer's Judicial Institute and thought it might be useful to demonstrate some of the ways our collaborations with Surrogates Courts have been successful. In the best of all possible worlds (which, given Covid-19, it is not), we would have brought Decision-Makers and Supporters to tell their stories, but like so much else, the program had to be shot remotely.



In short order, however (and, as always, with the generous contribution of their time by members of our community), SDMNY's amazing team was able to put together a short video that you can watch by clicking on the link at the bottom of this email. It illustrates how Guardians ad litem (GALs), appointed to assist the Court in guardianship cases, and how even the Surrogates themselves, have been referring persons with I/DD to SDMNY, because they see that, with support, they will be able to make their own decisions, and avoid losing their rights through guardianship. A professor at Brooklyn Law School whose students often serve as GALs, the mom of a young adult already under guardianship, and a family who were encouraged to try SDM by the GAL assigned to their case, are the best possible advocates for what SDMNY is doing, and the valuable resource we are providing to our Surrogates Courts. Check out what they had to say, [here](#).

Thanks Professor Sarah, Mom Jackie, Decision-Maker Luisa, and parents Nicola and Nuno!