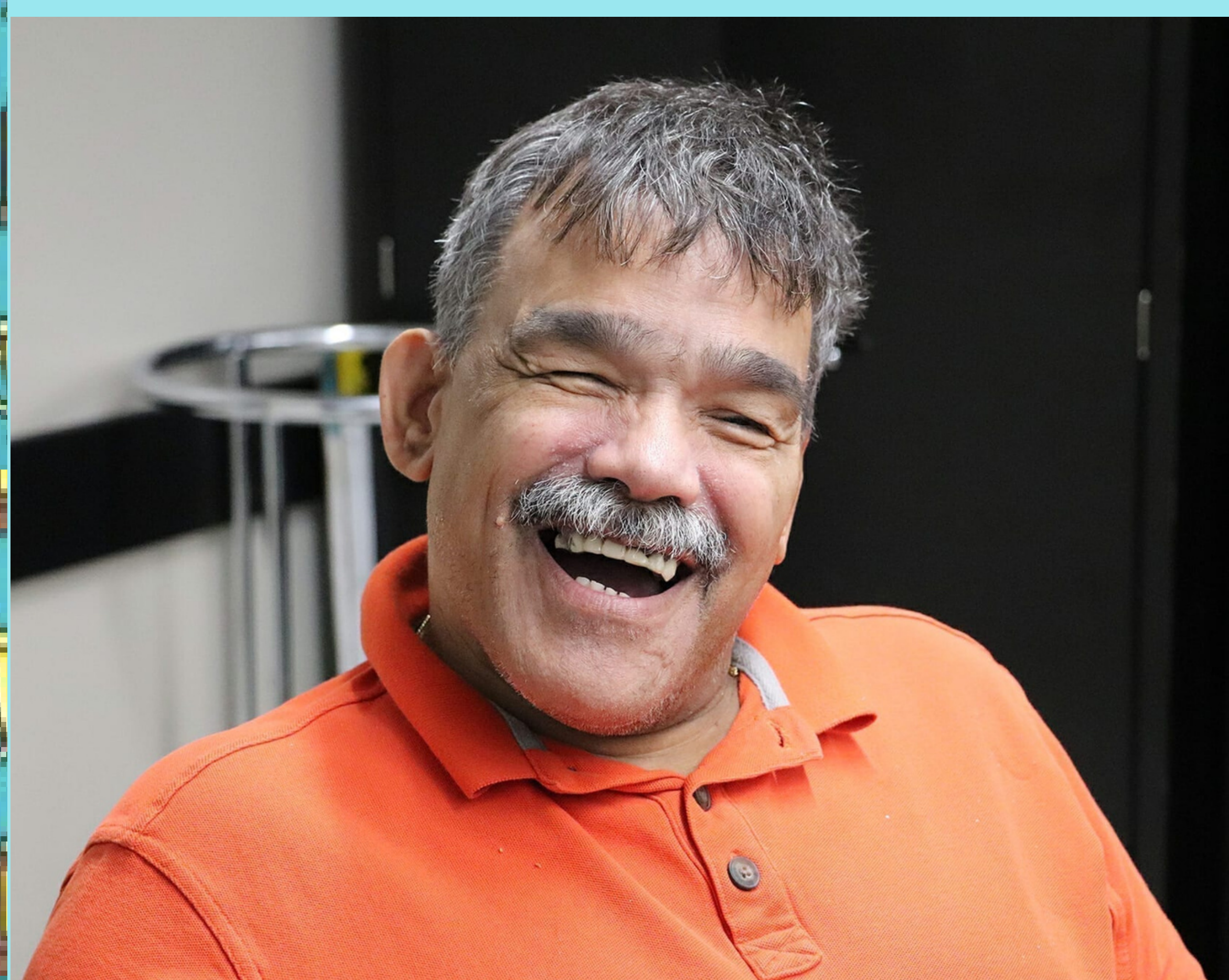


STATE BAR GIVES ADVOCACY AWARD TO SDMNY DIRECTOR

This is the annual “New York State Bar Week”, and yesterday the NYSBA Committee on Disability Rights presented the Bernard Carabello Award to SDMNY Director Kris Glen. The meeting was remote, and the award itself, a beautiful engraved vase, was delivered to Kris’s apartment earlier this week, so the (Zoom) picture below is not what we would generally expect for an award ceremony. The event and the award, however, are no less exciting or important, as they recognize the importance of the work SDMNY (and, of course, Kris) has done to raise awareness of the human right of everyone to make their own decisions regardless of disability, and of the value of supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship.



Bernard Carabello

There is even more significance to the award and its affirmation of SDMNY. It is named after Bernard Carabello, a Willowbrook survivor who worked to expose the horrors of that institution, and who has been a leading self-advocate for the rights of people with I/DD over the past 40 years. In accepting the award, Kris acknowledged Bernard as one of her heroes, and he is surely one of ours. And, we’re proud to say, he is also a part of the SDMNY family. He has served on our Advisory Council from the beginning, and spoke movingly at the kickoff event for the Advisory Council at Hunter’s Roosevelt House in Manhattan six years ago. (To learn more about Bernard and a recent appearance he made, click [here](#))

There’s even more connection. The first recipient of the award was Sheila Shea, Director of Mental Hygiene Legal Services (MHLS) for the Third Judicial Department. Sheila has also been a member of our Advisory Council from the start, and a trusted (and oft-consulted) advisor. If you read Good News [1/6/2023] you know about the wonderful decision in the *Grace J.* case that sent SDMNY a new Decision-Maker, affirmed the human right of legal capacity and the value of supported decision-making and SDMNY. That case was brought and argued by MHLS and reflects Sheila’s brilliant work incorporating supported decision-making into the culture and advocacy of that agency.

WE CELEBRATE THE STATE BAR AWARD AND ITS AFFIRMATION OF KRIS AND ALL SDMNY HAS DONE FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES