

SDMNY DIRECTORS RECEIVE NATIONAL AND STATE AWARDS

Over the past two weeks SDMNY Founding Director Kris Glen, and new Director, Naomi Brickel have received significant awards, recognizing their work and the importance of SDM to advancing the rights of people with I/DD.



Kris and NCPJ President Judge Dianne Yamin of Connecticut

Last week, Kris received the National College of Probate Judge's (NCPJ's) Isabella Horton Grant Award for contribution to guardianship law and practice for her work in piloting and advancing SDM as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship. The award was presented at the spring conference of NCPJ, the national organization of Probate (in NY, Surrogate) Court judges.

Kris's remarks on receiving the award were received with great enthusiasm, with judges from several states requesting more information on how their jurisdictions might benefit from the work SDMNY has done in NY, and with invitations to speak to judicial organizations and other policy makers about introducing SDM facilitation to their states. The award provided a great opportunity to spread the word about how our state and SDMNY have actualized the promise of SDM to enhance the autonomy, self-determination and dignity of people with I/DD.

Continuing recognition of that promise, Naomi was named a "New York State Woman of Distinction" at a ceremony held at the State Capital this week. Naomi was nominated by State Senator Shelley Mayer who commended Naomi for a "career helping families navigate systems serving children with special education needs and developmental disabilities."

Accepting the award, Naomi noted that "[the] award represents a growing awareness and recognition of the intrinsic worth, dignity and human rights of people with disabilities," which she will surely continue to advance in her new position at SDMNY.



Naomi and State Senator Shelley Mayer

We are thrilled at the recognition these awards mean for SDMNY's work to advance everyone's right to make their own decisions, regardless of disability.

CONGRATULATIONS KRIS AND NAOMI!