

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

If you are a person with a disability in New Mexico, one agency has federal authority to protect and expand your human, civil and legal rights ó Disability Rights New Mexico (DRNM).

DRNM is the state-designated and federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System agency in New Mexico. The P&A System was established in response to the horrendous conditions exposed by Geraldo Rivera at the Willowbrook institution for people with developmental disabilities in New York in the seventies. DRNM is part of a network of sister agencies in each state - the National Disability Rights Network which is based in Washington, D.C.

- For 30+ years, the DRNM public policy team has spent numerous hours in Santa Fe ó fighting to prevent the State's drastic cuts to Medicaid ó the social safety net for people with disabilities.
- DRNM advocates and attorneys have spent countless hours in schools all over the state, fighting to obtain mandated special education services for children with the most severe disabilities.
- DRNM has helped hundreds of people with disabilities remove restrictive guardianships, so they can determine the course of their own lives and become independent.
- DRNM advocates and attorneys have represented hundreds of clients of the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to obtain an education and pursue gainful employment.
- When an individual with a disability is threatened with the loss of services from a Medicaid Community-Based Waiver program, DRNM attorneys fight to retain those services in fair hearings with the New Mexico Departments of Health and Human Services.

Times are tough. No social service agency has remained unscathed in the current national economy. The well-established 30+ years of federal support for the Protection and Advocacy System can no longer be considered an indicator of continued level funding. Everything is on the table in Congress at this time.

Please consider a donation to the [DRNM Annual Fund](#). You can choose your level of support and the accompanying recognition. If you are a colleague in the **legal community**, you can be a "**Legal Eagle**" with a **gift of \$250**. Every donation is greatly appreciated and publicly acknowledged at our Albuquerque office, on our website and in our publications.

Disability doesn't discriminate – it occurs in every sector of our society. You can help us continue to uphold the human, civil and legal rights of New Mexicans with disabilities with your donation.

Sincerely,



James Jackson
Executive Director