

Disability Rights New Mexico Welcomes New Chief Executive Officer

Disability Rights New Mexico (DRNM) is pleased to announce the hiring of Gary Housepian as our new Chief Executive Officer, as of April 2, 2018. Gary will succeed Jim Jackson, who is retiring as of March 31.

“We are very pleased that Gary will be leading DRNM,” said Jeanne Hamrick, DRNM Board President. “We are fortunate to have Gary, a committed leader with great vision and passion to serve the disability rights community, come to the Land of Enchantment.”

Mr. Housepian comes to DRNM after a long career committed to advocacy on behalf of underserved individuals and groups to protect and promote their legal rights. For the past ten years, he has served as Executive Director of Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, which serves about half the state of Tennessee with a \$7.5 million budget.



From 2002-2007, Gary was Managing Attorney of the protection and advocacy program in Tennessee, DRNM’s sister agency which is now called Disability Rights Tennessee. In that capacity he was lead counsel in a class action lawsuit that resulted in more than 3,000 individuals with developmental disabilities getting off of the waiting list and moving into services through their DD waiver program. He received the Arc of Tennessee Outstanding Community Leadership Award in 2005.

Housepian was once a staff attorney at the Tennessee Justice Center and went on to become General Counsel for two state agencies. He is a graduate of Houghton College and a 1977 graduate of the University of Detroit Law School.

Jim Jackson has served as DRNM’s Executive Director/CEO for over 38 years since its establishment in 1979. He will continue to do some public policy work on behalf of DRNM on a part-time contractual basis.