

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Committee for Public Counsel Services  
**MENTAL HEALTH LITIGATION UNIT**

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TO: Mental Health Counsel  
FROM: Stan Goldman  
RE: New Unit Staff Attorney  
DATE: July 14, 2010

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It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Karen Talley as the Mental Health Litigation Unit's new staff attorney. Karen will begin on August 9<sup>th</sup>, and her office will be located in Brockton (specific contact details to follow). Among Karen's responsibilities will be to provide support and advice to counsel assigned to represent clients in mental health proceedings; to oversee the Unit's mentoring program; and to monitor attorney compliance with, and investigate complaints of noncompliance with, applicable CPCS Performance Standards.

A 1995 *cum laude* graduate of the New York Law School, where she studied under Professor Michael Perlin, a preeminent disability rights scholar, Karen has devoted her entire professional career to advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities. From 1995-1997, as managing attorney of a satellite office of the Disability Law Center of Utah, Karen represented clients with mental and physical disabilities, provided public education and supervision of paralegals and other staff, and participated in federal litigation in respect to involuntary treatment issues. As a staff attorney with the Center for Public Representation in Northampton from 1997-1999, Karen represented clients in DMH facilities and Bridgewater State Hospital. Then, as many of you may recall, Karen (*nee* Owen) came to the Mental Health Litigation Unit, serving as our very first staff attorney in 2001-2002. Since leaving us, she has served as a staff attorney with the Disability Law Center in Boston, providing individual and systemic advocacy to clients with mental disabilities, as well as training and technical assistance to consumers, agencies and other advocates. Over the years, Karen has written and co-authored several law review and other articles, and has spoken at several local, national and international conferences, on disability rights issues. She also currently teaches mental disability law as an adjunct professor at the New York Law School.

Please join me in welcoming Karen back to CPCS and the Mental Health Litigation Unit.