Annie Acosta
Director of Fiscal and Family Support Policy, Public Policy, The Arc

Annie Acosta covers budget and appropriations, education, Developmental Disabilities Act programs, autism, technology, prevention, and family support issues. She serves as a Co-Chair of the Consortium for Citizens (CCD) Task forces on Fiscal Policy, Education, and Developmental Disabilities, Autism, and Family Support. Prior to joining The Arc, Annie was the Director of Communications and Grassroots Advocacy for The Arc and UCP’s Disability Policy Collaboration and served as the Program Director for the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) and as a government project officer for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Peter Berns
Chief Executive Officer, The Arc

Berns has been at the helm of The Arc since 2008. Previously, Berns was the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations for 16 years. He also served as Chief Executive Officer of the Standards for Excellence Institute, Deputy Chief of Consumer Protection in the Maryland Attorney General’s Office, Assistant Attorney General and, earlier in his career, Staff Attorney/Fellow at the Institute for Public Representation at the Georgetown University Law Center. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member at Johns Hopkins University’s Institute for Policy Studies. Berns served on the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities from 2011 – 2017 and sits on Comcast NBCUniversal’s Joint Diversity Committee. He has been named six times to the Nonprofit Times’ Power and Influence Top 50 list. Berns received his JD, cum laude, from Harvard Law School and has an LLM in advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center. He received his BA in psychology, magna cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania.

Molly Burgdorff
Director of Rights Policy, The Arc

In addition to her role as the Director of Rights Policy, Molly serves as the policy lead on housing and transportation issues. Most recently, Molly was the Senior Policy Attorney at the Center for Public Representation. She previously served as a Civil Rights Analyst for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil
Rights, a Senior Advisor with the HHS Administration on Community Living, and a Senior Advisor for HHS in the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She also served as Congressional Legislative Consultant with the National Council on Disability.

Hannah Burkhart  
Documentation Control Specialist, The Arc of the Ozarks

Hannah Burkhart is Documentation Control Specialist at The Arc of the Ozarks. As a member of Quality Management, Hannah directs the implementation of electronic documentation and provides ongoing support. Last year, Hannah oversaw the implementation of electronic billing. She lives in Nixa, Missouri, with her husband, Mike and daughter, Adalynn.

Joy Dalton, MBA  
Provider Workforce Development Director, Amerigroup Community Care

Joy Dalton currently serves as the Workforce Development Director at Amerigroup Community Care in Tennessee, where she leads the highly innovative Workforce Development project in collaboration with TennCare. Joy also has former experience as a DSP, a dual Masters in Business and Human Resources, a Provider Relations leadership background, and a notable passion to make a difference in the lives of those Amerigroup serves and the individuals who support them.

Catherine Comer  
Director of Development & Communications, The Arc Central Chesapeake Region

Catie Comer is the current Director of Development & Communications for The Arc Central Chesapeake Region. She is a fundraising professional with six years of experience, including individual and corporate solicitation and event fundraising. Comer’s background includes communications, marketing, and linguistics.

Mike Damiano  
Chief Executive Officer, Allegany Arc

Mike Damiano is CEO of Allegany Arc and will become the Executive Director of the soon to be unified chapter, The Arc Allegany-Steuben in 2021. Mike is also Executive Director of Clarity Wellness Community, a non-profit organization providing outpatient mental health services, and is President of The Collaborative of New York.
Leigh Ann Davis
Director, Criminal Justice Initiatives, The Arc

Leigh Ann Davis has worked at The Arc for over 20 years and is the Director of Criminal Justice Initiatives at The Arc of the United States, where she oversees The Arc’s National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability® (NCCJD®).

Mildred Duprey de Robles
Conciliation Specialist, U.S. DOJ, Community Relations Service

Mildred Ivette Duprey de Robles is a Conciliation Specialist with U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Relations Service. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Mildred graduated from the University of Puerto Rico and awarded a commission with the U.S. Air Force. She completed her master’s in human resources development and Counseling from Webster University in Missouri.

Pam Fields
CEO and Founder, The Assistive Technology Training Center of CT (ATECH) & MidState Arc

Pam Fields is a leader in the field of assistive technology for independence for people with IDD. Pam founded ATECH to assure service providers have a place to gain knowledge and build capacity about assistive technologies that can create a world where each person can be as independent as possible.

Katelyn Fitzsimmons
Product Management Director, Anthem

Katelyn Fitzsimmons has worked in the field of disability services for over 10 years and has spent the past four years at Anthem working to support individuals with disabilities and their caregivers. She is a native New Yorker who spends her time between Long Island and the Catskills with her husband and one-year old son.

Lauren Frary
Executive Director, The Arc of Somerset County

Lauren started her career with The Arc of Somerset County in November of 1990 as a group home manager. For the past 26 years, Lauren has held a variety of positions with the organization. By working in various capacities at her chapter and rising through the ranks to Executive Director, Lauren is in a unique position to understand all levels of an organization. She uses this perspective and experience to positively influence the outcomes of the employees and the organization. In addition to her position at The Arc of Somerset County, Lauren is an adjunct professor at Raritan Valley Community College.
Dena L. Gassner  
**Board Member, The Arc**

Dena Gassner is an Adjunct Professor for Towson University and is in her dissertation phase at Adelphi University. She has served as the Chair of the National Council of Self-Advocates and on the Policy Committee on The Arc’s board. She has done consulting for the NYU NEST Program and has spoken in countries across the world, at the United Nations, a UN CRPD event on Autistic Motherhood, the International Agency for Autism Research, Fonden Samrådet (Denmark), World Autistic Organization International Congress, Autism Europe, NYU London, Mt. Sinai, and Columbia University. Key testimonies were shared with the IACC, the Government Accountability Offices in DC, and more. She has contributed to several publications on education and autism and “Spectrum Women Walking to the Beat of Autism.”

Nicole Jorwic  
**Senior Director of Public Policy, The Arc**

Nicole Jorwic is the Senior Director of Public Policy at The Arc. Prior to joining The Arc policy team, Nicole served as Senior Policy Advisor for the state of Illinois. Prior to that appointment, Nicole served as the CEO/President of the Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities where she continued the Institute’s mission to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Nicole is an accomplished special education attorney. Nicole is also a sibling; her brother Chris is 31 and has autism.

Elaine E. Katz  
**Senior Vice President Grants & Communications, Kessler Foundation**

Elaine Katz oversees Kessler Foundation’s grant-making and communications departments. During her tenure, the Foundation has awarded $49 million to community-based employment programs. She serves on the board of directors of JESPY House, New Jersey Association of People Supporting Employment First, Essex/Newark Disabilities Issues Committee, and the program committee of the Council of NJ Grantmakers. Elaine was a member of the Human and Children Services Transition Advisory Committee for Governor-elect Phil Murphy and is a member of Empower NYC Advisory Board, Workforce Matters National Steering Committee, ReelAbilities NY Advisory & Council, ReelAbilities 2020 Selection Committee and the NJ Veterans and Community Collaborative Network. She received the 2019 Humanitarian Award from Community Access Unlimited, the 2016 Jackson Drysdale Civilian of the Year Award from the GI Go Fund, and the 2015 Betty Pendler Award from Community Options, Inc.
Lukisha King has 17 years of experience working as a direct care professional. Ms. King has been the president of Lync Support Services Inc. for the past three years, which is a Medicaid Provider Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Lync Support Services Inc. offers homecare, companion and supportive living services. Lukisha also is a Sexuality Education trainer and has advised and offered training to several clients within the IDD community. She received her MBA in Healthcare Administration and Management from South University.

Bill Krebs is a disability self-advocate who has sat on a plethora of advisory boards and committees. He has been awarded certificates of recognition from Disability Rights Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Autism Project, the Pennsylvania Senate, and others for his work within the self-advocacy movement. Bill’s roots are very important to him, and as the Self-Advocacy Coordinator of Keystone Human Services, he is able to empower others with disabilities to become self-advocates and reach their full potential.

Matthew joined CRS in 2008 and holds a law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. While in law school, he was part of a mediation clinic at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Before joining CRS, he worked as an account manager at LexisNexis: the legal, news, and public records database where he was responsible for the account management, training, and marketing of large national and regional law firms in New York City.

Stephane Leblois leads the national employment initiative called The Arc@Work. In this role, Stephane has worked with a number of clients such as PWC, EY, Walmart, Sodexo, Advance Auto Parts, Microsoft and many others to create job opportunities for individuals with IDD. Since its inception in 2015, The Arc@Work’s programs have succeeded in supporting nearly 4,000 individuals to gain competitive and integrated employment. Stephane joined The Arc in 2016 after receiving a master’s degree from the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development at UMASS Boston.
Bethany Lilly
Director of Income Policy, The Arc

Bethany specializes in public policy related to Social Security, income supports, paid leave, and poverty. She co-chairs the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Social Security Task Force and the Financial Security and Poverty Task Force, coordinating the national disability community’s response to issues in these policy areas.

Liz Mahar
Director of Family & Sibling Initiatives, The Arc

Before joining The Arc, Liz was a Managing Supervisor for Fleishman-Hillard, managing stakeholder relations for government-funded public health campaigns on topics including binge drinking, drug abuse, and chronic diseases. She brings social policy expertise from five years of working on Capitol Hill. Liz is the sibling of a younger sister with IDD.

Claire Manning
Director of Advocacy & Mobilization, The Arc

Claire Manning brings 15 years of experience in grassroots organizing, campaigns, and issue advocacy. She works closely with chapters across the country to support grassroots engagement on key issues for people with disabilities and their families.

Kim L. Milstead
Conciliation Specialist, U.S. DOJ, Community Relations Service

With over 28 years of federal service, Kim joined CRS in 2012. Prior to joining CRS, Kim served as a Special Agent, Criminal Investigator with IRS, Regional Attorney with GIPSA and Alternative Dispute Resolution Specialist with VA. She is licensed to practice law by the State Bar of Texas and holds an LLM in Employment Law. Kim is a credentialed mediator and a certified coach in the cadre of available Federal Internal Coaches.

Amy Rubin Mindell
Director of Community Outreach & Assistive Technology, The Assistive Technology Training Center of CT (ATECH) & MidState Arc

Amy Mindell brings over 30 years of experience and passion as an AT specialist, an AT assessor, and in professional development to the operation of ATECH. Amy has developed assistive technology solutions for students and adults with disabilities, including the CAST Universal Design for Learning Principles that support all people.
Fred Misilo has devoted 37 years to The Arc’s mission, including six years on the national board. He is also the Immediate Past President of The Arc of Massachusetts and a longstanding board member of that chapter. He has a long history of advocacy within the legislative and executive branches of Massachusetts government, including the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services. Fred is an Officer and Chair of the Trust and Estate Department and Chair of the Elder Law and Special Needs Practice Group at the law firm of Fletcher Tilton PC.

Mike Nagel currently contributes to several initiatives at The Arc, including federal public policy, advocacy, the 2020 Census, and a grant project for The Arc Wisconsin. His primary policy focus areas are emergency management and employment. He joined The Arc as a Paul Marchand Public Policy Intern in 2015 before entering his current position in 2016. Prior to working at The Arc, Mike was an intern for US Senator Kent Conrad in Fargo, N.D. and US Senator Heidi Heitkamp in Washington, DC. Additionally, he served as Assistant Sergeant at Arms of the North Dakota Senate during the 2015 legislative session.

Joel Moffatt is the Principal Product Manager and Customer Experience Lead for Comcast’s Accessibility Team. He helps drive the team’s Inclusive Experience strategy through engagement with disability community thought leaders, fostering product knowledge within the Accessibility Customer Support Center, managing the Comcast Accessibility Lab, and ensuring that inclusive design and accessibility are integrated into Comcast’s culture.

Pat is a Disability Policy Engagement Director at Anthem conducting stakeholder engagement in states implementing managed care models for people with IDD, foster children, older adults, and others. She has been engaged in working on solutions to support caregivers for several years. Pat previously worked at ACL, the U.S. Senate, and the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. She is also Mia’s Mom.
Elizabeth Obrey
Family Advocate, The Arc of the Ozarks

Elizabeth Obrey is a Family Advocate, which allows her to not only keep current on resources and technology, but the needs of people and families looking for supports. Working directly to help overcome barriers to success, she works to evaluate the situation and bring tools, information, and direct support to overcome these barriers. Elizabeth is a co-founder of Ozarks Inclusion Partnership, which was awarded Collaboration of the Year in 2018 by Southwest Center for Independent Living.

Angela Perryman
Family Advocate, The Arc of the Ozarks

Angie Perryman worked as a Parent Educator for 20 years specializing in disability resources. At The Arc of the Ozarks, Angie worked in the autism residential program as a direct care staff and as a supervisor. Currently a Family Advocate, her work includes teaching the self-advocacy class, Project STIR. She oversees the formation of the People Educating and Empowering People Group. Angie is a co-founder of Ozarks Inclusion Partnership. Angie assists with the in-house assistive technology department development. During The Arc of Missouri Educational Summit in 2018, Angie was presented with the Human Services Provider Award.

Chloe Rothschild
Member, The Arc Board of Directors

Chloe Rothschild is a young adult with autism on a mission to make a difference and help teach others about autism by sharing her own experiences. Chloe advocates through writing, speaking, and social media. She currently serves on various boards in the Ohio area and has been involved with autism advocacy for over five years. Chloe spoke at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence Conference, the Autism Research Institute Annual Conference, Milestones Autism Resource Conference and the Autism Society of America National Conference. Chloe has shared her experiences with parents, school districts, health providers, and the larger public.

Michelle Saunders
Assistant Director of Business Development, Therap

Michelle has over 20 years in services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities ranging from direct support to executive administration. At Therap, Michelle assists providers with implementation of Therap’s EHR designed for IDD services while also working on Therap’s EVV implementation and multi-state provider implementation.
Joanna Scocchi  
**Director, The Arc Rhode Island**

Joanna brings years of public policy experience and dedication to her role. In 2014, she founded Rhode Island Advocacy for Children, dedicated to providing families with trained professionals to become Special Education Advocates. The organization continues to build capacity to address the critical need for special education reform. Joanna has started and sold two successful businesses and was a leader in the national women business owners association. She was also a New Jersey Legislator who authored two important legislative bills during her tenure: Megan’s Law and Call Before You Dig. Both laws went on to become legislation throughout the country.

Mike Semel  
**President, Semel Consulting**

Mike Semel is a noted thought leader, speaker, blogger, and best-selling author. He owns Semel Consulting, which is focused on compliance and cybersecurity. Mike has experience working with chapters of The Arc and understands your special needs. He is the best-selling author of How to Avoid HIPAA Headaches.

Ariel Simms  
**Senior Program Manager & Attorney, The Arc**

Ariel Simms (she/they) is the Senior Program Manager & Attorney for Access, Equity, & Inclusion at The Arc. Ariel works to ensure that The Arc’s advocacy is intersectional and responsive to the needs of multiply marginalized communities. Ariel also teaches at American University. Ariel completed their Juris Doctorate at Harvard Law School.

Michelle Sipple  
**Vice President, Achieva Family Trust, Achieva**

Michelle Sipple has worked in the field of disability for over 20 years and has provided Benefits Counseling in her role at Achieva Family Trust for the last five years. During her tenure at Achieva, the Benefits Counseling service has grown from a grant-funded project to a billable service with one full-time and two part-time staff.

Brian Siracusa  
**Executive Director, The Arc Tampa Bay**

Brian was selected as the Executive Director of The Arc Tampa Bay in March 2020, after 19 years with the agency. Brian graduated from Boston College with a BA in Communications and received his masters of Nonprofit Management (MNM) from Regis University.
Maureen van Stone  
Director, Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute;  
Director, Project HEAL

Maureen is the Director of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute and the founding Director of Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law), a MCDD community-based program. Project HEAL is Maryland’s only comprehensive medical-legal partnership, which provides advocacy and legal services to children with disabilities who receive services at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

Gina Turner  
Director, Employment Services, The Arc of San Diego

Gina Turner possesses over a decade of experience working with individuals with disabilities including direct service, case management, and her current position as the Director of Employment Services at The Arc of San Diego. In her spare time, she is pursuing a graduate degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling at San Diego State University.

Lyndee Waldbauer  
Marketing and Communications Coordinator, The Arc Southern Maryland

Lyndee has been in the non-profit world working with people with disabilities for over two decades. She began her non-profit career working directly in programming as Director of Vocational Services. This experience helps immensely in her current role as Marketing and Communications Coordinator at The Arc Southern Maryland. One of the biggest tasks she faces is raising funds to sustain the programs offered. Having first-hand knowledge of running these programs and a heart for the people supported go hand-in-hand in a successful fundraising campaign. Lyndee resides in Prince Frederick, MD with her daughter.

Shira Wakschlag  
Senior Director, Legal Advocacy & General Counsel, The Arc

Shira is The Arc’s Senior Director of Legal Advocacy & General Counsel. She leads a disability rights litigation practice on issues including education, community integration, criminal justice, and more. Since March, Shira has worked with chapters to file 12 complaints nationwide challenging medical discrimination against people with disabilities during COVID-19.
**John White**  
Co-Founder/President, TruFit LLC

John provides a unique approach to achieving wellness within all ages of the IDD community. He brings creativity, compassion, love, and understanding combined with over 18 years of experience and training with four years of dedicated work with The Arc of San Diego and with San Diego Disability and Adaptive Sports organizations.

**Tom Wlodkowski**  
Vice President of Accessibility, Comcast

Thomas J. Wlodkowski is Vice President of Accessibility at Comcast. In this role, Tom is responsible for driving the design and development of inclusive experiences through product innovation and superior customer support. His vision to empower and delight people of all abilities with world-class entertainment, communications, and smart home experiences has brought Comcast to the forefront of the accessibility space.