

**DIANA MTK AUTIN**  
**SPAN PARENT ADVOCACY NETWORK**  
**35 HALSEY STREET, NEWARK, NJ 07102**

**EDUCATION**

J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1977.

B.A., University of Michigan, History with Honors, 1974.

Revson Fellowship, Columbia University, 1987-1988.

Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow, Harvard University Law School (1993).

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CERTIFICATION**

Member, Michigan, New York, and Federal Bar.

**EMPLOYMENT**

***Executive Co-Director, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN).*** 4/95-current

Co-executive officer for non-profit education and health advocacy parent-led organization housing NJ's federally-designated Family-to-Family Health Information Center (16 years), Parent Training and Information Center (over 30 years), RSA Parent Information and Training Center (5 years); NJ affiliate for Family Voices, Parent to Parent USA, and the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (FFCMH); National Center for Parent Information and Resources and National RAISE Transition Parent TA Center. SPAN's Military Family 360 Support program is embedded on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Co-manage 65 staff who provide information, individual assistance, support, leadership development and training to families and professionals. Engage in public policy research and advocacy with U.S. and New Jersey Departments of Education, Health, Human Services, and Children and Families.

*National:* Senior Consultant & Member, Wisdom Council, National Center for Cultural Competence. Member, National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Board.

*State:* Member, New Jersey Council on Young Children. Expertise in inclusion, family involvement and leadership development across systems, organizational capacity-building, wrap-around supports in systems of care, program planning, implementation and evaluation, fundraising, public policy advocacy, data analysis, strategic planning, positive behavior supports, school climate, early intervention and early childhood, urban education, and cultural/linguistic responsiveness in outreach, involvement, and services. Oversee PTI Stakeholder Board, Community of Care Consortium for Children and Youth with Special Needs.

***Family Voices' National Center for Family-Professional Partnerships.*** 2005-current. Provide technical assistance and support to F2Fs and Family Voices Affiliates, first as a Regional Coordinator, then as a National TA Coordinator, and since 2016 as Co-Director of the National Center for Family Professional Partnerships. She will continue in this role in the Leadership in Family-Professional Partnerships project funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA, US Department of Health and Human Services.

***Director, National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment.*** 7/15-current. Direct national organization dedicated to building the capacity of family-led organizations to participate more effectively at policy tables.

***Co-Director, REACH for Transition Partnership.*** 10/14-current. Co-Direct RSA-funded Parent Information and Training Center focused on transition and adult services for youth with disabilities, in collaboration with parent centers and adult system leaders in 9 NE states.

***Co-Director, NE-PACT/Region A Parent Technical Assistance Center.*** 10/03-current. Co-direct Region A Parent TA Center, providing support to 26 federally-funded Parent Center in 12 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands to assist them to enhance services to families of children with special needs from early intervention through special education and transition to adult life. Member, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium/Equity Assistance Center Advisory Council; Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting Stakeholder Board; National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness Family Technical Work Group. TA Consultant for the National Center for Systemic Improvement (Data Use Team; Early Intervention Family Outcomes Cross-State Learning Collaborative; and Community of Partners/Leading by Convening Workgroup).

***Managing Attorney, Advocates for Children of New York.*** 3/88 - 7/95.

Chief legal officer for this non-profit educational advocacy organization. Supervised fifteen advocates and attorneys who provided information, training, technical assistance and legal representation to families and students. Engaged in class action litigation and public policy advocacy re: special education, discipline, Title 1, and school reform/improvement.

***Revson Fellow on the Future of New York, Columbia University.*** 9/87 - 5/88.

Researched issues of economic redevelopment and urban policy.

***NYC Bureau of Labor Services. General Counsel & Director, Construction Division,*** 2/87 - 1/88. Served as chief legal officer of this NYC equal employment contract compliance agency. Planned and developed Bureau's legal and training program, ensuring effective enforcement of relevant City, State, and Federal equal employment laws and regulations. Represented the Bureau in public hearings and negotiations. Supervised operations of Construction Division.

***Deputy General Counsel,*** 11/85 - 8/87. Supervised legal research and writing of legal memoranda and contract language; redrafted Bureau's regulations. Coordinated litigation; prepared testimony and witnesses for hearings. Reviewed and commented on proposed civil rights legislation. Represented the Bureau in complex negotiations. Supervised the investigation of labor and discrimination complaints. ***Research Coordinator,*** 10/84 - 11/85. Coordinated Bureau legal research; supervised Bureau attorneys. Served as liaison with civil rights groups.

***Adjunct Professor, Cornell Industrial Labor Relations School.*** 1985 - 1994.

Taught Labor Law, Collective Bargaining, and Labor History.

***Executive Director, Fund for Open Information and Accountability.*** 12/81 - 3/84.

Developed and implemented legislative strategies to maintain effective Freedom of Information Act. Extensive lecturing, writing and media appearances. Negotiated with federal, state, and city agencies for release of information.

***Associate Director/Attorney, Downtown Welfare Advocate Center.*** 10/79 - 11/81.

Performed and supervised welfare, food stamp, and Social Security advocacy.

***Attorney/Business Agent, Transportation Employees Union. (Michigan).*** 6/77 - 9/79.

Supervised staff of ten stewards. Developed and conducted steward and officer training. Prepared and represented Union and individual members in grievances, arbitrations, unfair labor practice cases and negotiations. Monitored employer compliance with labor, equal employment, and health and safety regulations.

## **AWARDS**

Reclaiming Children Award, Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (2018)  
Rose Annussek Inclusive Child Care Award, Map to Inclusive Child Care (2014) (*SPAN*)  
NJ Citizen Action Advocacy Honoree for Advocacy in Healthcare (2014).  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities Multicultural Council Award for Leadership in Diversity (2012) (as member of NJ Cultural Competence Collaborative) (*SPAN*)  
Neighborhood Development Corporation Community Outreach Award (2013) (*SPAN*)  
Rose Annussek Inclusive Child Care Award, Map to Inclusive Child Care (2011)  
Collaboration on behalf of Maternal & Child Health Award, NJ Department of Health (2010)  
Art of Novel Partnership Award, Genetic Alliance (2010). (*SPAN*)  
Outstanding Family Leadership Achievement Award, National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (2010)  
Best Practices in Reducing Health Disparities Award, NJ Department of Health (2009). (*SPAN*)  
Un Mundo Para Todos: One World for All Advocacy Award, El Club de Padres (2008).  
Winning Angels Award, Winning Angels Latina Parent Support Group (2007).  
Parent Leadership Fellow on Urban Education, Alliance for Parent Centers (2005-2006).  
Association for Special Children and Families Advocate of the Year (2004).  
Family Service League National Family Week Family Advocate of the Year (2003).  
Distinguished Service Award, New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2002).  
Next Generation of Leadership Fellowship, Rockefeller Foundation (2001-2002).  
Chair, Leadership for a Changing World Regional Selection Committee, & Member, National Selection Committee, Advocacy Institute (2001-2002).  
Al Harrison Public Health Award, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (1999).  
Advocacy Institute Senior Leadership Fellow (1994).  
New York State Advocate of the Year, Disabilities Awareness Coalition (1993).

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

Healthcare Financing Parent Guide & Fact Sheet Series (2018).  
Helping Families Navigate the Education System: A Guide for Family Success Centers (2018).  
Transition Resources for Health Practitioners (2018).  
Education & Language Access Rights of Immigrant Students & Families (2018).  
The Role of Parent Centers in Systems Change: A Parent Center Guide (2018).  
Parent Centers & State Lead Agencies: Partners in Improving Outcomes through State Performance Plans & Annual Performance Reports: A Parent Center Guide (2007)  
Contributor, Still Separate and Unequal: Special Education in New Jersey, Council on Developmental Disabilities of New Jersey (2004).  
The Grassroots Guide to Public Policy Advocacy, Unitarian Universalist Association (2002).  
Contributor, The Road to Inclusion: Community Awareness and Access to Inclusion, Council on Developmental Disabilities of New Jersey Education Committee (1999).  
The Map to Inclusive Child Care: Finding our Way Together, New Jersey Department of Human Services (1998).  
Contributor, Report Card on The Education of Students with Disabilities, Council on Developmental Disabilities of New Jersey Education Committee (1996).  
Segregated and Second-Rate: "Special" Education in New York, Advocates for Children (1992).  
Contributor, Freedom At Risk: Secrecy, Censorship, and Repression in the 1980's (1988), recipient of 1989 H.L. Mencken Award, Free Press Association, and 1989 Outstanding Book Award, Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in the United States.