

About the Faculty

KATE SYMMONDS joined Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) as a health law attorney in February, 2020. Through policy advocacy, community education and training, and litigation, Kate's work concentrates on ensuring that children, elders, and other low-income people have access to health care. Prior to joining MLRI, Kate spent 6 years as a trial attorney working in civil litigation. Her practice focused on representing low-income clients enrolled in both Medicaid and Medicare, who were abused or neglected in long term care and skilled nursing facilities. (2020)

MAJDA ABBAS is a Staff Attorney in the Elder, Health, and Disability Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). Her practice focuses on advising and representing individuals in Medicare claims and children and adults in Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income appeals. Prior to joining GBLS, she focused on Social Security Disability work. She is a 2022 Shriver Center Racial Justice Institute Fellow and a graduate of Suffolk University Law School. (April 2023)

ANDREW L. BARDETTI is Supervising Attorney with South Coastal Counties Legal Services (SCCLS), in Hyannis. He supervises SCCLS' Elder Law Unit. His practice focuses on advising and representing older adults in public benefits and health care matters. Mr. Bardetti is a former Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging fellow. He is a graduate of Boston College and Northeastern University School of Law. Andrew is licensed to practice in Massachusetts and the U.S. District of Massachusetts. (March 2025)

RACHEL SHANNON BROWN is a Senior Supervising Attorney with Community Legal Aid (CLA) in Worcester, where she supervises CLA's Elder Unit, Medicare Advocacy Project, and Disability Benefits Project. She is also active in CLA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. A resident of Worcester since 2005, Rachel serves on the City of Worcester Citizens Advisory Council; she is also a board member for the Center for Living and Working. Previously Rachel served for nearly a decade on the City of Worcester Accessibility Advisory Commission. She is a graduate of Brandeis University and Boston College Law School. Rachel is licensed to practice in Massachusetts and the U.S. District of Massachusetts.

DEBORAH L. FILLER has been a Senior Staff Attorney in the Cambridge office of Greater Boston Legal Services since 1985. Over those 39+ years, Deborah Filler has specialized in Mental Health and Disability Rights law for adults and children with mental health challenges and other disabilities; Elder Law; Special Education and School Discipline law for kids with behavioral health disabilities; and Housing Law.

Deborah is currently co-counsel on the federal court class action lawsuit *Marsters v. Healey*, which challenged the state's discriminatory institutionalization of thousands of people unnecessarily segregated in nursing facilities who could live in integrated community settings with appropriate residential services and supports. A negotiated Settlement Agreement was approved by the U.S.

District Court in June 2024; this Settlement Agreement creates a range of new residential services and supports to enable at least 2400 people to transition from nursing facilities into community residential settings, with all needed services, over 8 years. (April 2025)

AMANDA McGRORY

SHANNON K. TURNER, LCSW worked for the Home Care Agency Chelsea Revere Winthrop Elder Services for over 6 years before joining the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) in 2007. While working at EOEA, she has held the positions of Assisted Living Certification Specialist, and Home Care Program Coordinator. In 2009 Shannon assumed the position of Home Care Program Coordinator where she oversees the State Home Care programs. Shannon has a B.S. from the University of Maine at Farmington (2000) as well as an M.S.M from Lasell College and an MSW from Simmons University. (March 2025)

SVETLANA UIMENKOVA is a senior staff attorney at the Disability Law Center, Inc., in Boston. She focuses on issues involving the civil rights of individuals with disabilities, primarily in the areas of employment, public accommodations discrimination, and government programs and services, as well as provides technical assistance and counseling to attorneys who represent individuals in Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicaid appeals. Previously, she was in private practice, providing representation in Social Security cases. Ms. Uimenkova is a graduate of Boston University School of Law. (August 2023)