

About the Faculty

ANDREW L. BARDETTI is an attorney with South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc. (SCCLS), in New Bedford. His practice involves advising and representing older persons in a variety of civil legal matters, including housing, public benefits, health care, and consumer issues. He began with SCCLS as a fellow of the Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging, during which time he focused on civil legal aid for survivors of elder abuse. Mr. Bardetti is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, the Bristol County Bar Association, the Consumer Advisory Board of the Family Services Association, the Southeastern Alliance for Elders, Fresh Start, and Age-Friendly New Bedford. He is a graduate of Boston College and Northeastern University School of Law. (August 2021)

RACHEL S. 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 also 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. (April 2022)

BETSEY E. CRIMMINS is a Senior Attorney in the Elder, Health, and Disability unit at Greater Boston Legal Services. Her elder law practice covers a wide variety of legal topics including MassHealth, housing, public benefits, and nursing home law. She has a specific interest in helping older adults access the services and supports they need to age in place. She is a member of the Massachusetts Elder Advocacy Coalition, the Elder Mental Health Collaborative, Dignity Alliance, and is a founding member of the Elder Law Project at the Women's Bar Foundation. She is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and Boston University School of Law. (April 2022)

SHANNON TURNER 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) and a M.S.M from Lasell College (2006). (2020)

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)

SVETLANA UIMENKOVA is a senior staff attorney at the Disability Law Center 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. She also 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 2021)

MAJDA M. 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.