

NEWS RELEASE

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HEALTH & DISABILITY ADVOCATES ATTORNEYS RECEIVE AWARD FROM ILLINOIS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH COALITION

June 17, 2011: Chicago, Ill. -- Stephanie Altman, JD, and Amy Zimmerman, JD, of Health & Disability Advocates (HDA), received on June 14, 2011, the annual Loretta Lacey Maternal and Child Health Advocacy Award from the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition. Altman, programs and policy director for HDA, and Zimmerman, the director of the Chicago Medical Legal Partnership for Children, were honored for having made a significant impact on maternal and child health in Illinois. The Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition is the leading statewide organization working to guarantee the health, safety, and well-being, of infants, children, mothers, and families.

Through the Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children, Altman and Zimmerman work in partnership with three Chicago hospital and pediatric clinics to provide needed legal services to low-income families whose children have chronic illnesses or disabilities. By bringing together lawyers and doctors, the partnership addresses the full continuum of children's legal and health care needs to prevent illness and counter social and economic barriers to good health outcomes. In addition, CMLPC lawyers provide legal consultation and training to medical teams to facilitate solutions for their patients who are experiencing legal problems.

Stephanie Altman joined HDA in 1999 as a staff attorney specializing in Medicaid, Medicare, and health insurance issues. She represents children and adults in individual and class actions and also advocates for quality, accessible health care through administrative and legislative avenues.

Amy Zimmerman has spent her legal career focusing on issues that impact children. Her expertise includes children's health advocacy, program and policy analysis and community-based partnerships.

Health & Disability Advocates (HDA) is a state and national policy and advocacy organization that promotes income security, enhances work opportunities, and improves health care access and services for low income children, people with disabilities and older adults.