



New York City Commission on Human Rights

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NYC Commission on Human Rights Announces  
Disability Rights Advocate Jaclyn Okin Barney as Appointed Commissioner**

*Commissioners, who are appointed by the Mayor to serve in a non-salaried role, assist the Chair and Commissioner of the NYC Commission on Human Rights in addressing issues of discrimination citywide.*

**NEW YORK, NY** — The New York City Commission on Human Rights proudly announces the appointment of Jaclyn Okin Barney, Esq as a commissioner. Okin Barney brings nearly two decades of experience as a dedicated disability rights attorney, advocate, educator, and policy strategist to the Commission.

“Jaclyn brings years of experience fighting for people with disabilities, and her appointment is a powerful step in making our city more accessible,” said **Annabel Palma, Commissioner and Chair of the NYC Commission on Human Rights**. “Her legal and advocacy work has improved the lives of countless New Yorkers, and I am excited to welcome her to the Commission as we continue to make the City more inclusive and equitable for all.”

“I am truly honored to be appointed to the New York City Commission on Human Rights,” said **Jaclyn Okin Barney**. “Throughout my career, I have been committed to advocating for people with disabilities, and I am excited to continue that work in this new role. I look forward to expanding my efforts to support all New Yorkers, especially those from historically marginalized communities, ensuring equality and independence for everyone.”

Okin Barney is a disability rights attorney and advocate with extensive experience in special education law, disability policy, and accessibility reform. She leads a private practice and serves as director of Parents for Inclusive Education, which successfully secured \$100 million to increase the accessibility of NYC public schools. An adjunct professor at the City University of New York, she also trains families, educators, and junior attorneys on disability inclusion. Her work is locally and nationally recognized.

Jaclyn Okin Barney joins a board of 11 other mayoral appointees who offer their time and expertise to strengthen the Commission’s impact in protecting the rights of all New Yorkers. For more information about the commissioners, see our webpage [here](#).

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The New York City Commission on Human Rights is the agency responsible for enforcing the NYC Human Rights Law, one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation. The Commission works to promote equality and combat discrimination in New York City through law enforcement, community relations, and public education.



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