



Advanced Advocacy Academy

# THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

2023 Program



#A3Experience

# WELCOME

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire Team GLI, I am pleased to offer you a warm welcome to Global Liver Institute's (GLI) 7th annual Advanced Advocacy Academy (A3)! After several years without the opportunity to come together in person due to the global pandemic, I am delighted to host everyone in Washington, DC to reconnect, refresh our skills, and be rejuvenated as a community.

This year our theme is ***Cultivating Comfort and Ease for the Liver Health Advocate***. As a fellow patient and caregiver for more than forty years I know that comfort and ease are the last words that come to mind when you think of your experience with personal health challenges, even more so when we decide to take on the work to advocate for change to benefit all liver patients. That is exactly why we have decided that we all need comfort and ease more than ever and have created this learning experience to not only transmit knowledge and demonstrate best practices in essential elements of patient engagement and advocacy - strategic storytelling, relevant medical terminology, clinical research and development, health system navigation, and policy — but to go above and beyond our everyday support to wrap each of you in love, understanding, and encouragement. GLI A3, since its inception, has been about the work of building people first and foremost.

We recognize that your lived experience with liver disease already makes you an expert. We are honored that you trust the GLI community to be a part of your personal journey as you grow and evolve as an advocate for liver health whether you are new to advocacy or have years of accomplishment in the field. There are as many ways of being an advocate as there are individuals. Our intention is to expose you to new thoughts and inspire you with world-class thinkers and doers, many of them patients or caregivers themselves, to help you refine and expand your vision of advocacy and your capacity to successfully achieve your aims.

Beyond the substantive instruction, we hope you will open yourself to the full, rich experience that A3 has to offer. Build connections with your peers and Team GLI members. Ask a few questions of our esteemed faculty instructors. Take a moment to breathe Saturday afternoon. Celebrate yourself and each other at Sunday's graduation ceremony! It is not often that liver patients have the chance to come together to focus on us, but I know that great things will come of it.

Great things already have. A3 Alumni have been instrumental in passing legislation, shaping medical guidelines, reviewing research grants, making clinical trials more patient-centric, increasing awareness through published articles and national news interviews, leading influential organizations, and providing education and support in their communities.

We can't wait to continue to work with you as you expand and express your advocacy in new, powerful ways in the coming months and years. Welcome to the 2023 A3 Learning Experience and welcome to feeling the comfort and ease that comes from knowing you will always be part of the GLI family as we improve liver health around the world!



**Donna R. Cryer,**

Founder, CEO, and 29-year liver transplant survivor  
Global Liver Institute

# HISTORY OF ADVANCED ADVOCACY ACADEMY

## Did you Know

- The first A3 was held in 2017 and had a graduating class of 17 advocates
- A3 was hosted at the Georgetown University Law Center for the first two years, since then, we have had increased demand and had to move into larger spaces
- After this weekend, you will become a part of a network of more than 300 A3 alumni that span across 39 U.S. states and 17 countries
- You will be part of the first class to come back in person since 2019



*2017 A3 Graduating Class  
Georgetown University  
Law Center*



*2018 A3 Graduating Class  
Georgetown University  
Law Center*



*2019 A3 Graduating Class  
GLI Headquarter Office,  
Washington, DC  
(last in-person A3 prior  
to COVID-19)*

# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

The Advanced Advocacy Academy (A3), is a transformative experience designed to connect members of the liver community who share a passion for improving liver health and want to make a real impact as advocates. This immersive journey delves into the complex world of achieving liver health, equipping attendees with the knowledge, skills, and essential tools necessary to drive positive change in healthcare policies and practices.

The highlight of this transformative event unfolds on the third day, offering A3 graduates an opportunity to participate in a Hill Day on Capitol Hill. Here, participants will connect with members of Congress, state, and local officials, sharing their personal experiences and insights, and inviting these representatives to become active partners in the journey towards positive change in liver health advocacy.

## 2023 Program

September 29 Night of Heroes Welcome Reception

September 30 Day 1: Discovering Your Path in Advocacy

October 1 Day 2: Navigating Change:  
Patient-Led Collaborations

October 2 Day 3: Hill Day

We invite all attendees to capture the memorable moments and connections they make during the A3 Learning Experience by using our dedicated hashtag, **#A3Experience**. Throughout the event, we have numerous photo opportunities that allow you to document your journey, from insightful sessions to meaningful encounters with fellow advocates. Share your unique perspective and let's make these moments last forever!



# NIGHT OF HEROES

Welcome Reception

*September 29 | Sapphire Room*

5:45 pm

**Doors Open**

6:00 pm

**Event Begins**

6:10 pm – 6:30 pm

**Welcome Address**

Donna R. Cryer, JD  
*Founder and CEO, Global Liver Institute*

***Presentation of Global Excellence  
in Advocacy Award***

Lorrinda Gray-Davis  
*President, Transplant Recipients International  
Organization*

6:30 pm – 6:35 pm

**“You’re a Hero to Me”**

Performer: Lezlee Peterzell-Bellanich

8:00 pm

**Event Ends**



# DAY 1

## Discovering Your Path in Advocacy

*September 30 | West Atrium Gallery*



|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am                 | <b>Check In &amp; Breakfast</b>   |
| 9:00 am – 9:10 am                 | <b>Cultivating Comfort and Ease for the Liver Health Advocate</b><br>Donna R. Cryer, JD<br><i>Founder and CEO, Global Liver Institute</i>   |
| 9:10 am – 10:10 am <b>Keynote</b> | <b>Rebel Health: The History of Patient-Led Advocacy</b><br>Susannah Fox<br><i>Author, Rebel Health: A Field Guide to the Patient-Led Revolution in Medical Care (Feb 2024)</i>   |
| 10:10 am – 10:30 am               | <b>Comfort Break</b>  |
| 10:30 am – 11:50 am               | <b>Embracing Knowledge: Your Path to Liver Literacy</b><br>Ahmad Anouti, MD<br><i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Hepatology, University of Texas Southwestern</i>  |
| 11:50 am –12:10 pm                | <b>Book Signing</b><br>Susannah Fox<br><i>Author, Rebel Health: A Field Guide to the Patient-Led Revolution in Medical Care (Feb 2024)</i>  |
| 12:10 pm – 1:10 pm                | <b>Lunch Break</b>  |
| 1:10 pm – 2:40 pm                 | <b>Empowering Advocates: Sharing Your Story with Comfort and Confidence</b><br>Christine Maalouf<br><i>Communications Director, Global Liver Institute</i><br><br>Laurie Mobley<br><i>Co-Chair, Global Liver Institute Board Development, Senior Vice President, BRG Communications</i> |
| 2:40 pm – 3:30                    | <b>Stepping into Your Comfort Zone</b><br>Jana Bernard<br><i>Founder, Improv Your Communications™</i>   |
| 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm                 | <b>Mindful Moments</b><br>Karen Hoyt<br><i>Educator and Patient Advocate, Founder, ihelpc LLC</i>   |
| 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm                 | <b>Patient Interviews</b>   |



# DAY 2

## Navigating Change: Patient-Led Collaborations

*October 1 | West Atrium Gallery*

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am   | <b>Check In &amp; Breakfast</b>   |
| 9:00 am – 9:10 am   | <b>Navigating Change with Grace and Confidence</b><br>Donna R. Cryer, JD<br><i>Founder and CEO, Global Liver Institute</i>  |
| 9:10 am – 10:10 am  | <b>Fostering Collaboration: Embracing Teamwork in Research</b><br>Gina Assaf<br><i>Co-Founder, Patient-Led Research Collaborative, Founder, Olive Branch International Digital LLC</i>  |
| 10:10 am – 10:30 am | <b>Comfort Break</b>  |
| 10:30 am – 11:30 am | <b>Demystifying Clinical Trials and Pharmaceutical Drug Development</b><br>John Presser<br><i>Chief Commercial and Business Officer, Mezzion</i>  |
| 11:30 am –12:30 pm  | <b>Journeys Through Healthcare: A Compassionate Guide by Patients and Parents</b><br>Jennifer Lau<br><i>Co-Founder and President, BARE Inc.</i><br>Jill Plevensky, PhD<br><i>Psychologist, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania</i> |
| 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm  | <b>Lunch Break</b>  |
| 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm   | <b>Maneuvering Government Policies with Ease</b><br>Larry R. Holden<br><i>Chief Operating, Global Liver Institute</i>   |
| 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm   | <b>Advocacy in Action: Hill Day Briefing and Role Playing</b><br>Sara van Geertruyden<br><i>Partner, Thorn Run Partners</i>   |
| 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm   | <b>Celebration: A3 Graduation</b>   |



# DAY 3

Hill Day

*October 2*

**9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Hill Day**

Hill Day isn't just an ordinary event; it's a chance for passionate individuals like you to make a real impact on healthcare and patient-related issues by engaging with legislators and policymakers at both state and federal levels. The heart of Hill Day is advocacy, where we push for changes in legislation, funding, and policies that can truly make a difference in patients' lives and healthcare outcomes.

As an important part of the Advanced Advocacy Academy, graduates of the program have an opportunity to actively participate in a Hill Day on the last day of the event. This serves as a platform to apply and refine the advocacy skills learned throughout the weekend. Prior to this event, you have all been thoughtfully organized into groups to visit various legislative offices, where you will have the chance to share your story and experiences within the liver community to drive change.

For more detailed information please refer to the provided group visit schedules - these will be provided during our policy briefing session.



# MEET THE SPEAKERS

2023 Program

#A3experience



## **DONNA R. CRYER, JD**

*FOUNDER AND CEO, GLOBAL LIVER INSTITUTE*

Donna R. Cryer, JD, is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Global Liver Institute (GLI), the premier patient-driven liver health nonprofit operating with offices and partnerships across five continents. Moved by her own experience as a 28-year liver transplant recipient, Mrs. Cryer serves as a fierce advocate for the transformative potential of patient engagement in health policy, research, data, and system design.

Her expertise and effectiveness in advancing the voice of patients in defining and designing equitable healthcare has been recognized by the United States Congress and the White House. In 2021 Mrs. Cryer received both the Global Genes RARE Champions of Hope Founder's Award and the American Association for the Study of the Liver (AASLD) Distinguished Advocacy Service Award.

Mrs. Cryer serves on the Boards of Directors for the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), Sibley Memorial Hospital/Johns Hopkins Medicine, and the Color of Crohns and Chronic Illness (COCCI). She was the first patient to serve on the American Board of Internal Medicine Gastroenterology Specialty Board.

Mrs. Cryer received an undergraduate degree from Harvard and a Juris Doctorate from the Georgetown University Law Center.



## **JEFF MCINTYRE**

*VICE PRESIDENT, LIVER HEALTH PROGRAMS  
GLOBAL LIVER INSTITUTE*

Jeff McIntyre is the Vice President of Liver Health Programs for the Global Liver Institute in Washington, DC. As Vice President, Jeff supervises GLI's diverse liver health program portfolio - including NAFLD/NASH, liver cancer, pediatric and rare diseases, and GLI's worldwide 'Liver Health is Public Health' campaign. Working with GLI Program Directors, Jeff identifies patient advocacy opportunities in all areas of patient and care pathways including drug development, regulatory input, biomarker development, and awareness and educational opportunities while addressing disparities in screening and treatment in the US and globally.

Jeff currently serves on the Board of Tufts University School of Nutrition's Food & Nutrition Innovation Council, the Nairobi-based Wellness for Greater Kenya, and just finished his term on the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease's Practice Guidelines Committee. Jeff has formerly been a member of the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity, an Advisor to the Robert Wood Johnson Roundtable on Childhood Obesity, and PBSKids Board of Advisors.

He has frequently given invited testimony before the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Committees, and multiple federal agencies, and spoken at the Global NASH Congress, EASL Liver Congress, AASLD Liver Meeting, Paris NASH, and the NAFLD and NASH Primary Care Summit, and Biomarkers for NASH Symposium. Jeff's publications include articles in the Journal of the American Behavioral Scientist, Journal on Discovering Popular Culture, The Oxford Handbook of Media Psychology, Runner's World, and the National Enquirer.

Jeff graduated from American University with a Master's Degree in Philosophy. In his personal time, he enjoys competing in triathlons, whitewater kayaking, reading non-fiction, and meeting all the dogs.





## **KAREN HOYT**

*EDUCATOR AND PATIENT ADVOCATE*

*FOUNDER, IHELP LLC*

Karen lives every day with a grateful spirit and the positive attitude to be an encouragement. She has always lived a healthy life despite being born with only one kidney. Karen was active in her community as a full-time teacher, volunteer, and Sunday school teacher at her church. In 2010, she learned that her liver was failing, and she was later diagnosed with the Hepatitis C virus. By the end of the next year, end-stage liver failure and liver cancer loomed over Karen. As she waited on a new lease on life, Karen underwent several procedures to shrink the cancer to keep her as healthy as possible for a lifesaving transplant. In April 2015, Karen received her liver from a selfless donor; a donor that she learned was the same age as many of the students she once taught in school.

Karen is a motivation to many. She encourages others waiting to receive their life saving transplant, and she spends her time teaching nutrition classes. The classes help those struggling with kidney or liver disease learn to eat better to live a healthier life. In addition, she also serves on a variety of boards and committees to help people with health needs and those in the transplant community. Additionally, since her health was renewed, Karen is thrilled to be back in the classroom teaching full-time.



## **SUSANNAH FOX**

*AUTHOR, REBEL HEALTH: A FIELD GUIDE TO THE  
PATIENT-LED REVOLUTION IN MEDICAL CARE*

It's a tradition in my family to step forward when others need help. My parents took care of my grandparents and an elder cousin, then my mom took care of my dad during his final illness. I like to say that I am my mother's caregiver apprentice. I sat "second chair" as she orchestrated home and clinical care with each loved one. Then it was my turn. When an elder cousin asked me to step into the role of honorary daughter (health care proxy, power of attorney, caregiver) I did so with confidence and love, thanks to years of training. I advocated for him to receive the care he needed and then the death he wanted. I also bring my experience as a parent of a child with life-threatening food allergies. Every year I trained teachers, babysitters, and camp counselors in how to save a life. I advocated on behalf of all the kids with different diets and restrictions, asking for inclusion and, most of the time, convincing people that [fill in the blank food] is not actually necessary to education.



## **AHMAD ANOUTI, MD**

*POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW IN HEPATOLOGY,  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN*

Dr. Ahmad Anouti, is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Texas Southwestern. Dr. Anouti brings a unique and personal perspective to his work as both a biliary atresia patient and a liver transplant recipient.

His career aspirations are deeply rooted in pediatric hepatology, liver research, and patient advocacy. Dr. Anouti's commitment extends beyond his research; as he actively collaborates with organizations such as Global Liver Institute, American Liver Foundation, and BARE Inc. to advance patient advocacy initiatives and improve the lives of individuals affected by biliary atresia and liver transplantation.



## **LAURIE MOBLEY**

*CO-CHAIR, GLOBAL LIVER INSTITUTE BOARD DEVELOPMENT,  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, BRG COMMUNICATIONS*

As an executive vice president at BRG Communications (BRG), an award-winning boutique public relations firm focused on safety, health and wellness, Laurie Mobley focuses on creating enduring connections between consumers, healthcare providers and leading health brands. Her clients include American Diabetes Association, Medtronic, CVS, Heart Rhythm Society, American Gastroenterological Association, American Board of Family Physicians and many others.

During her more than twenty-five year healthcare communications career, Laurie's experience spans from leading pharmaceutical product launches to CDC's global public health initiatives to award-winning consumer education and disease prevention campaigns targeting women. She has a proven track record of delivering highly measurable results for clients looking to build trust and recognition for evidence-based health and wellness platforms.

Laurie is an active member of Global Liver Institute's (GLI) Board of Directors. She was drawn to the educational mission of GLI after her father lost his own battle with liver disease.



## **CHRISTINE MAALOUF**

*DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS*  
*GLOBAL LIVER INSTITUTE*

As Global Liver Institute's Communications Director, Christine supports GLI's diverse programs by creating appropriate strategies, messaging, maintaining a cohesive brand identity and using the different media tools to impact patients and reach wider audiences.

Christine is a multilingual communications expert with a diverse experience in the field spanning different industries.

"Having an older sister living with an NCD, I understand first hand and fully comprehend and commit to the missions that nonprofits play in patients' lives."

Prior to joining GLI, Christine has worked with international organizations such as the United Nations, the National Diabetes Organization - DiaLeb, and the International Diabetes Federation. She has worked extensively in the field of diabetes awareness, focusing on healthy lifestyle changes to prevent and better manage diabetes. She has been a speaker in many conferences around the world, led workshops, and has had media appearances in local television and news outlets in Lebanon and the region.



## **JANA BERNARD**

*FOUNDER, IMPROV YOUR COMMUNICATIONS™*

Jana Bernard is an actor, producer, and comedian. Jana has worked on Saturday Night Live for six seasons, and has been cast on Poker Face on Peacock, The Half of It on NETFLIX, Girls5Eva on Peacock, and the upcoming Paramount Studios film Under the Boardwalk.

As a comedian, Jana has performed throughout the US and internationally, performing at clubs like Comedy Cellar, Broadway Comedy Club, Capital Laughs, New York Comedy Club and Stress Factory. She has trained with UCB and in the Second City Conservatory.

Jana is the founder of Improv Your Communications™, leading global workshops committed to strengthening corporate communications through collaboration, creativity, and confidence.

Jana has been a producer for HealthyWomen and GLI, where she created and produced the online talk shows WomenTalk and GLI Live featuring experts, patient advocates, and celebrities like Marcia Cross, Stacy London, and Hamilton cast members.

You can follow and connect with Jana Bernard on Instagram @photojanic13, on TikTok @photojanic, or on her website [www.Jana-Bernard.com](http://www.Jana-Bernard.com).



## **GINA ASSAF**

*CO-FOUNDER, PATIENT-LED RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE,  
FOUNDER, OLIVE BRANCH INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL LLC*

Gina Assaf is a co-founder and co-lead on PLRC (Patient-Led Research Collaborative) and a board member on Body Politic Long COVID support group. She is also a leader, design strategist and researcher for digital solutions for the global aid and humanitarian sector. Gina leverages human-centered design and participatory research methods in her work. She initiated the first known research on long COVID after contracting it in March of 2020 and having long-term symptoms post-infection.

Since then, Gina has co-published several reports on long COVID and patient-led research, including in the journal E-Clinical Medicine by the Lancet, and is involved in advocacy and leadership initiatives for both long COVID and patient-led research work. Gina is also the co-founder and managing director of Olive Branch International Digital Solutions. She has a Bachelor's in Computer Science from San Diego State University and a Master's in Human-Computer Interaction from Carnegie Mellon University.



## **JOHN PRESSER**

*CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER,  
MEZZION*

Global, C-Level Biopharmaceutical Executive and Strategic Commercialization Expert whose 20+ years of healthcare experience have transformed small, mid-sized, and large pharmaceutical companies during key inflection points across the top 7 worldwide markets – including North America, Europe, and APAC. Agile commercialization trailblazer at the cutting edge of innovation and technology, leading delivery of industry-first and life-changing/saving products across rare diseases to blockbusters, from capital raising, development, approvals, launch, commercialization, through reimbursement and revenue growth.

Provide early to late-stage healthcare companies with strategic insights from both patient experience and healthcare perspective gained through breadth of global commercial governance across business development/leadership, market access, trade, pricing, marketing, analytics, operations, sales, R&D, and healthcare IT. Experienced at navigating complex regulatory, industry, and economic challenges on a global scale and leveraging a vast worldwide network of top life science executives and investors to raise capital and advance product delivery.



## **JILL PLEVINSKY, PHD**

*PSYCHOLOGIST, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF  
PHILADELPHIA,  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL  
PSYCHIATRY, PERELMAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA*



Dr. Jill Plevinsky is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and a pediatric psychologist in the Pediatric Transplant Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science after completing her predoctoral residency in pediatric psychology at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University. Prior to starting her career at CHOP, she completed an NICHD T32 fellowship in Pediatric Adherence and Self-Management at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Plevinsky has published 30 peer-reviewed manuscripts (13 of which are first-author), and authored two recent book chapters reviewing adherence and self-management in pediatric populations and psychosocial aspects of pediatric chronic illness, respectively. She is active in the Society of Pediatric Psychology, a member of the International Pediatric Transplant Association and the Society of Pediatric Liver Transplantation, and the founder of the recently established SPLIT Psychology Subcommittee.

Given Dr. Plevinsky's current role as a pediatric liver transplant psychologist and her past personal experience growing up with a chronic medical condition, she is passionate about engaging young people at every stage of the liver transplant journey in their healthcare. Diagnosed with Crohn's disease at age 7, Dr. Plevinsky was always encouraged by her parents to be an active part of the inflammatory bowel disease community. She found social support and made lifelong friends through Camp Oasis and then serving as the first youth ambassador for the Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, the founding co-chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation National Council of College Leaders, and the founding chair of ImproveCareNow's Patient Advisory Council.



## **JENNIFER LAU**

*CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, W  
BARE INC.*

Jennifer Lau has a Bachelor's in Mass Communications from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and Master level courses in Human Resources Management from Keller Graduate School of Management. Her professional life includes over 20 years of experience in Business Management and Human Resources including industries of Higher Education, Banking, Healthcare and IT.

In 2011, her oldest son was born and diagnosed with Biliary Atresia. At 9 months old, he ended up receiving a liver transplant through a living donor. Jen found her passion advocating for pediatric liver disease and transplantation through leadership roles in various transplant organizations including the Society of Pediatric Liver Transplantation (SPLIT) and the Starzl Network. Jen currently sits on the Board of Directors for UNOS OPTN and prior to that sat on the Pediatric Transplant Committee. In January of 2022, Jen Co-Founded BARE Inc.



## **LARRY R. HOLDEN**

*CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,  
GLOBAL LIVER INSTITUTE*

Larry R. Holden has spent most of his personal and professional life acting as a public servant, in one capacity or another. He has a special connection to liver health, as several of his family members are affected by it and continue to face ongoing struggles. A tireless advocate for the patient's voice, he now uses his years of political experience and his vast network of congressional contacts to serve the public good.

Mr. Holden served for over a decade in politics and policy positions in Washington, D.C. In that time, he worked for U.S. Senator Hank Brown (CO), helped negotiate international security agreements with foreign governments, started a political Internet company, served as Chief of Staff to U.S. Congressman Shays (CT), and was President of the Medical Device Manufacturers Association.

In addition to his political work, Mr. Holden has over 15 years' experience creating and running small businesses. He started three for-profit businesses that were all sold successfully to investors. He believes that using for-profit models to drive efficiencies in the nonprofit world gives charities the best chance for success and the best outcomes for the patients served. Believing strongly in servant leadership, he guides, counsels, and mentors many in the field.



## **SARA VAN GEERTRUYDEN**

*PARTNER, THORN RUN PARTNERS*

Sara Traigle van Geertruyden joined Thorn Run Partners in January 2011 as a healthcare and welfare policy expert with 14 years of experience. Sara began her career on Capitol Hill, working for former Senator John Breaux (D-LA) from 1996-2003, first as a projects assistant handling Congressional appropriations and advising constituents on the federal grant process, and ultimately spending over 3 years as a legislative assistant overseeing Senate Finance Committee issues for health and welfare.

Sara handled important lobbying efforts related to the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) and the recently-passed Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for clients. Sara was actively engaged in drafting regulatory comments for her clients during the implementation of the MMA and continues to assist clients seeking to influence the regulatory process.

Among her greatest professional accomplishments, in 2005-2006 Sara managed the Medicare Rx Education Network, a coalition of over 80 national associations brought together by a mutual goal of educating seniors about the new Part D benefit under Medicare. In 2009-2010, Sara successfully represented a Louisiana-based coalition of healthcare providers seeking to avoid a dramatic reduction in Medicaid payments after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as part of the new health reform law. After being deeply involved in efforts to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (T.A.N.F.) law during her tenure on Capitol Hill, Sara continues to work on issues related to the health and welfare of low income families and children.

Sara has a strong reputation on both sides of the political spectrum, having staffed Senator Breaux in his efforts to pass legislation that he championed with former Senator Bill Frist (R-TN) to modernize the Medicare program, and in his efforts to raise bipartisan ideas for health reform and T.A.N.F. reauthorization. Sara also has expertise in counseling clients through the Congressional appropriations process.

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CHARITY NAVIGATOR

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