



**SHRIVER
CENTER**

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Taking Action to End Poverty

PRESS RELEASE

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**Rita McLennon Accepts Position at Prestigious
New York Legal Assistance Group**

***14-Year Tenure as Executive Director Established Shriver Center
as Leading National Poverty Agency***

(Chicago)- Rita McLennon, former executive director at the Sargent Shriver National Center On Poverty Law, has accepted a position as the Director of Development at the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), a not-for-profit law office founded in 1990 to provide free civil legal services to low-income New Yorkers. The Shriver Center congratulates McLennon on this important opportunity to continue her career of promoting justice to the poor.

For the past 26 years, Rita McLennon has dedicated herself to the Shriver Center's mission to end poverty. As Executive Director for more than fourteen years, McLennon built the Shriver Center into a strong national communication, research, and advocacy center for the poverty law community, public policy leaders, and other advocates for low-income people. Before that, she served on the board for eleven years.

The Shriver Center is extremely proud of McLennon's effective leadership in advancing the Center's efforts to end poverty. During her tenure, she brought the organization through a major funding crisis to its current stability and growing national stature. She worked in partnership with Ilze Hirsh to ensure that *Clearinghouse Review: Journal of Poverty Law and Policy* continues to serve as the fundamental communication resource among advocates for the poor. McLennon also partnered with Bill Wilen, John Bouman and their legal colleagues to enable them to continue their work after the loss of federal funds and expand their work to a national level. Most importantly, during her 26 years of service, McLennon advanced the work of Sargent Shriver throughout the country by creating an organization that exemplifies his courage and genius and builds on his legacy in founding the modern day legal services movement.

When McLennon launched the reorganization of the Shriver Center in 2006, she agreed to help see the organization through the transition, and then to pursue new career objectives. That transition is now complete. With a strong staff and a committed, national Board of Directors, the advocacy, communication, fundraising and operations functions well in hand, McLennon decided it was time to accept a new challenge. While it is never easy to lose a great leader, McLennon leaves behind a more influential and stronger organization than the one she found and her own legacy of unwavering commitment to equality and fairness.

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The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, a national resource, champions law and policy promoting equal opportunity and support for low-income individuals, families, and communities so that they can escape poverty permanently.