

DRI Staff Transitions

Alyssa Dowrick

DRI is excited to welcome Alyssa Dowrick aboard as our newest Legal Clerk. Alyssa is from Des Moines and has a passion for working with the disability community. She has previous experience with juvenile justice, and hopes to learn more about Iowa's Juvenile justice system and mental health services during her time at DRI. Alyssa is eager to learn more and advocate for the community.

Jim Kain

Jim Kain grew up in Ames and earned his accounting degree from Iowa State University in 2005. He worked in the accounting and finance fields for eight years before returning full time to the University of Iowa in 2013 to earn his MBA. He graduated in 2015 and then worked as a Finance and Asset Manager for LCS in Des Moines. Jim was thrilled to accept the Director of Finance role at Disability Rights Iowa and be part of an organization that has such a strong mission in our community. Jim enjoys golfing and travelling with Leah, his wife of seven years.

Anne Matte

Anne Matte is a Wisconsin native who moved to Des Moines from Milwaukee in order to complete her undergrad at Drake University. Anne earned two bachelor's degrees from Drake, one a BA in Journalism and Mass Communication, and the other a BA in English. Anne has years of experience in the disability community, as she has previously worked with both IRIS and The Harkin Institute. Anne has previously worked on many accessibility projects, including composing an accessibility map for students. Anne is working at DRI as the Communications and Voting Outreach Coordinator, and she hopes to help DRI reach more community members and organizations.

Beth Rydberg

Beth Rydberg has worked for Disability Rights Iowa since the fall of 2001. After graduating from Iowa State with a degree in family services and child development, she started a full career of advocacy for people with disabilities. Beth has worked in multiple positions aiding the community, including working as a social worker for the medically fragile and worked as an advocate for children with disabilities. Her favorite work for DRI was helping students with disabilities realize their full potential and raising the expectations of teachers and administration around students with disabilities and their capabilities. She says that her most valued part of her work in that area was getting graduation announcements from students that she had worked with in the past.

Beth is retiring, or refocusing in her words, from DRI in order to make space in her life for her family and travel. Beth will continue her passionate work, and will also advocate for

children's mental health. In addition, she currently works to aid refugees from East Africa, and is looking into teaching therapeutic baking classes.

DRI wishes Beth all the best in her next steps in life, and thanks Beth for all that she has done in the past 17 years.

Daniel Van Sant

Daniel Van Sant is an Iowa native who interned with DRI while he was an undergraduate student at Drake University. Daniel went on to earn his JD from Syracuse University where he also graduated with a Master's of Science in Cultural Foundation of Education with a Certificate of Advanced Study in Disability Studies. Prior to returning to DRI, Daniel worked as a staff attorney at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid where he represented survivors of sexual assault in a variety of civil cases. While his Iowa law license application is pending, Daniel will be working as a Staff Advocate at DRI. After becoming licensed to practice law in Iowa, Daniel will be a Staff Attorney with DRI focusing on special education and assistive technology cases for youth with disabilities across Iowa.