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**Allison Nichol, Former U.S. Department of Justice Point-Person on
The National HIV/AIDS Strategy, Joins The Center for HIV Law and Policy**

*National Expert on Disability Rights and HIV Law Becomes
National Advocacy Center's First Co-Director*

New York NY, *September 21, 2015* – The Center for HIV Law and Policy, a national leader on HIV policy development, today announced the appointment of Allison Nichol, a nationally recognized expert on federal disability antidiscrimination law, as its first Co-Director. Allison will oversee the organization's legal and policy efforts across the country and share the lead in CHLP's strategic planning and development.

The Center for HIV Law and Policy is a national resource and strategy center for HIV advocacy. The organization hosts the only online resource bank focused on HIV law and policy in the United States, and supports the lawyers, legal services providers, and community advocates on whom most people who experience HIV discrimination rely.

Allison Nichol served the Department of Justice with the highest distinction for the past twenty-one years. She served as the Chief and Deputy Chief of the Disability Rights Section of the Civil Rights Division where she oversaw litigation, policy, regulatory and technical assistance development related to the Americans with Disabilities Act and served as counsel in *Bragdon v. Abbott*, the first case under the ADA dealing with HIV discrimination to reach the U.S. Supreme Court. She was a founder and long-time member of the Division's GLBTQI Working Group and was a 2002 recipient from DOJ Pride of the James R. Douglas Award for her work on behalf of those with HIV. In 2012 she began serving as Special Counsel for Disability Resources in the Office of the Associate Attorney General, where she oversaw efforts under Executive Order 13548 to increase the hiring, retention and accommodation of individuals with disabilities within the Department.

In 2012 Nichol received the Attorney General's Award for Equal Employment Opportunity, the Department's highest award for performance in support of its Equal Employment Opportunity program. She was the Department's long-time expert on HIV law and policy and represented the Department on the federal working group on the National Strategy on HIV/AIDS and the federal working group on the Intersection of HIV/AIDS, Violence against Women and Girls and Gender-Related Health Disparities. She is the author of *United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Best Practices Guide to Reform HIV-Specific Criminal Laws to Align with Scientifically-Supported Factors* and the co-author of: *Prevalence and Public Health Implications of State Laws that Criminalize Potential HIV Exposure in the United States*. Earlier in her career, Nichol was a state prosecutor of child and sexual abuse crimes.

"Allison is a brilliant lawyer with unique, extraordinary experience and a decades-long commitment to advancing the rights of people living with HIV. She is a sought-after speaker on a wide range of disability rights issues, and a persistent visionary with real compassion for the communities we serve," said Catherine Hanssens, Executive Director and founder of The Center for HIV Law and Policy. "We are extraordinarily lucky to have her as a leading member of our team."

"It is an honor to be part of this premier organization and their many allies and partners. The Center for HIV Law and Policy's inspired policy analysis and use of the law is informed by a unique vision and a real passion for justice," said Nichol. "I admire CHLP's focus on communities that frequently are overlooked, and look forward to bringing my decades of experience in federal disability antidiscrimination law to advance CHLP's national advocacy agenda."

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