

**NAMI Mercer 2022 Pillar Awardee
Jason Redd, JD, MCRP**



On November 6, 2022, Jason (Jay) Redd became NAMI Mercer’s 11th Pillar awardee for his extraordinary, long-term contribution to the organization’s mission through volunteerism, leadership, advocacy, and charitable giving.

An accomplished attorney and dedicated community leader, Jay was elected to the NAMI Mercer Board of Trustees in June 2013. He served through 2021 even after relocating to Washington DC. As Board president from 2017-2018, he helped to navigate some very difficult challenges to our organization.

Jay’s two passions have been raising awareness about mental health and fundraising. Over the years, Jay has played a very active role in shaping creative and exciting ways to “stomp out stigma” and to raise money for our annual NAMIWalks Mercer County.

Jay has consistently engaged his network by dressing up in fun-themed costumes, including

- wearing a fancy bright orange tuxedo on Walk Day and on the NJ State Senate floor;
- roaming different events dressed as a huge NAMI shark and sending out videos over social media;
- posing as Alexander Hamilton and making numerous stops in Mercer County with his dog Jackson.

Not only does Jay dress up in these fun costumes, but he also uses their theme to brand the whole event, sending cards, QR codes, and thank-you messages. Over the years, Jay has raised an amazing \$32,702 for NAMI Mercer.

Jay came to the Board with a demonstrated history of successfully working in and with government at all levels. In 2021, he and James Gee co-founded Stono Public Affairs (named for a 1739 slave rebellion in South Carolina). According to its website, “the most powerful voices in any public policy debate are the very communities most impacted;” and Stono’s mission is to amplify the voices of the community.

Prior to forming Stono, Redd worked at Gibbons P.C., where, most recently, he directed the law firm’s Washington DC office. He had formerly served in Gibbons’ NJ Government Affairs Department, representing the State’s most vulnerable populations, including victims of sexual violence and persons with disabilities.

Jay gained wide experience with political strategy, legislative advice, issue advocacy, and consensus building as senior counselor to Senate President Steve Sweeney, deputy executive director of and general counsel to the Senate Majority Office, chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg, associate counsel to Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts, and deputy policy director for Jon Corzine’s 2009 gubernatorial re-election campaign.

Redd earned a Bachelor's degree in Public Health from Rutgers University (where he was president of the student body), a Master's in City and Regional Public Planning (MCRP) from the Rutgers University Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, and a Juris Doctorate from the Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School.