

Raising our Hands: Creating a National Strategy for Children's Right to Education and Counsel

October 23, 2009

Northwestern University

School of Law

375 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL

Presented with Support by:

American Bar Association
Section of Litigation

American Bar Association
Section of Criminal Justice

American Bar Association
Young Lawyers Division

Children & Family Justice Center, Bluhm
Legal Clinic, Northwestern University
School of Law

Dignity in Schools Campaign

Lineberger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

McDermott, Will and Emery

Navigant Consulting

ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and
Public Service

Recommended Hotels

Wyndam Hotel

633 North St. Clair
800.WYNDHAM or 312.573.0300

A few rooms have been reserved on a first
come basis – reference "ABA Children's
Right Summit"

Allerton Hotel

701 North Michigan Avenue
312.274.6416

The Residence Inn-Marriott

201 East Walton Place
312.943.9800

Friends,

On behalf of the American Bar Association Section of Litigation Children's Rights Litigation Committee (CRLC), we welcome you to **Raising our Hands: Creating a National Strategy for Children's Right to Education and Counsel**. *Raising Our Hands* is an important and unique national summit developed to advance the critical issue of a human right to counsel for children focusing on exclusion from education, and abuse and neglect cases.

At the summit, you will collaborate with lawyers from around the country to develop a national strategy that promotes the right to counsel for children. Participants will include full time children's lawyers and policy advocates, judges, legislators, pro bono lawyers, law firms focused on children's legal issues, law school clinicians and professors, and law students. In addition, the education track will also feature key policy implementers such as school board members, legislators, educators and community organizers. These experts will not debate the role of the lawyer or the right of children to an education, but will instead strategize the campaign for lawyers for children. The work during the day will lead to post-summit materials focused on advancing the issue.

The conference includes two right to counsel tracks: one focusing on education matters, and one focusing on abuse and neglect cases. Summit participants will follow one track throughout the day. When completing the registration form, you will be asked to choose a track. This is an invitation only conference. We are inviting you because of your experience, background and dedication to these issues.

We would like to thank the many individuals and organizations who have joined with us to make this summit a reality. Our sincere gratitude to the Children & Family Justice Center, Bluhm Legal Clinic, Northwestern University School of Law for contributing the conference facilities. We are deeply indebted to our conference sponsors for their financial support in a particularly difficult year for funding. Special thanks to the conference supporters, organizers and speakers for their dedication and guidance.

We look forward to working with you on October 23rd.

Sincerely,

Cathy Krebs, Summit Organizer, krebsc@staff.abanet.org

Rosa Hirji, Summit Organizer, rosa@rkhlawoffice.com



The conference includes two tracks:

Creating a National Strategy for Children's Right to Counsel in Abuse and Neglect Cases (details on pages 2–5)

Creating a National Strategy for Children's Right to Education (details on pages 5–8)

During the on-line registration process you will be asked to choose one of two tracks. Please note that if you choose the education track, you will also be asked to indicate your top two choices in the Breakout Group Discussion section. The registration site address is <https://ABA-ChildrensRightsSummit.questionpro.com>.

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST – TRACKS COMBINED

Sponsored by:



8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

PLENARY – TRACKS COMBINED

Welcome:

Lorna Schofield
Chair, ABA Section of Litigation

Introduction:

Bernardine Dohrn
Director, Children and Family Justice Center, Northwestern University

Plenary Speakers:

James Bell
Founder and Executive Director, The W. Haywood Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness and Equity

Jaclyn Jenkins
Lawyer and former foster youth

Creating a National Strategy for Children's Right to Counsel in Abuse and Neglect Cases

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

THE NATIONAL BACKDROP AND LESSONS LEARNED TO DATE

Panelists will discuss the framework for lawyers for children in a variety of jurisdictions, focusing specifically on three jurisdictions that provide lawyers for children and looking closely at strengths and weaknesses of those systems. Specific topics will include: Structure for appointment of lawyers, funding lawyers for children, training requirements, quality control, role of courts, etc.

Panelists:

Leslie Heimov

Executive Director, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles

Mike Dsida

Deputy Chief Counsel, Children and Family Law Division, Committee for Public Counsel Services

Dan Hatcher

Assistant Professor of Law, University of Baltimore School of Law

Moderator:

Angela Vigil

Director of Pro Bono and Community Service, North America, Baker & McKenzie LLP

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

LITIGATION STRATEGIES AND SUCCESSFUL LEGAL THEORIES

This panel will discuss litigation strategies for securing a right to counsel as well as legal theories and constitutional claims that have been advanced in litigation. Litigators will discuss successful cases (e.g. Kenny A) and what is necessary for success through litigation. Panelists will also discuss innovative challenges to bring about smaller and more incremental changes. This panel will invite attendees to think creatively about varying paths to a right to counsel for children.

Panelists:

Ira Lustbader

Associate Director, Children's Rights, Inc.

Bill Grimm

Senior Attorney, National Center for Youth Law

William Ladd

Attorney, Michigan Children's Law Center

Victor Bolden

Corporation Counsel, Office of the Corporation Counsel, City of New Haven

Moderator:

Bruce Boyer

Director, Civitas ChildLaw Clinic, Loyola University School of Law

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH – TRACKS COMBINED

Sponsored by:



1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

PLENARY – TRACKS COMBINED

Introduction:

Carolyn Lamm
President, American Bar Association

Keynote:

Dr. John Jackson
President and CEO, The Schott Foundation for Public Education

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY STRATEGIES

Panelists will discuss the strategies for implementing a right to counsel through changes in law, policy and court rules. Panelists will also discuss moving a community to support a seemingly unpopular idea, and media strategies/messaging.

Panelists:

Representative Roger Goodman
45th Legislative District, Washington State

Carolyn Signorelli
Chief Child Protection Attorney, Commission on Child Protection

Gina Russo
Principal, Media IQ

Moderator:

Betsy Clark
President, Juvenile Justice Initiative

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

AFTERNOON BREAK – TRACKS COMBINED

Sponsored by:



3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL INITIATIVE – ENGAGING PARTNERS AND DEVELOPING ALLIES

This panel will explore how to engage and utilize partners in the right to counsel movement, for example, foster youth, judges, bar associations and foundations. The panel will also explore how to evaluate the impact of lawyers for children and how to use these outcomes to further the right to counsel campaign.

Panelists:

Tammy Workman
Senior Policy Advisor for Transitional Youth Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Programs

Justice Bobbe Bridge
Center for Children & Youth Justice

Clark Peters
Assistant Professor, University of Missouri School of Social Work

Julie Peterson
Consultant and Coordinator, Juvenile Justice Work Group of the Youth Transition Funders Group

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Moderator:

Miriam Krinsky

Member, ABA Commission on Youth at Risk and Lecturer, UCLA School of Public Affairs

CLOSING REMARKS – TRACKS COMBINED

Speaker:

Angela Vigil

Director of Pro Bono and Community Service, North America Baker & McKenzie LLP, on behalf of the Children's Rights Litigation Committee

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

RECEPTION – TRACKS COMBINED

Sponsored by:

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Creating a National Strategy for Children's Right to Education

The goal of the Right to education track is to develop a model code that applies international human rights standards to promote a right to a high quality education, counsel and dignity in schools. Key conference participants have engaged in dialogue, research and drafting prior to the summit, and will work together with others during the summit to finalize the code and develop action plans. The education track will feature a Socratic Dialogue to spark intense critical thinking, and exciting solution driven dialogue around education, school pushout and human rights.

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

BREAKOUT GROUPS ON THE MODEL CODE

The breakout groups at the Summit will examine the draft of the model code and develop recommendations. Each group will focus on one of the following themes:

DATA COLLECTION, MONITORING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Facilitator:

Dan Losen

Senior Education Law and Policy Associate, The Civil Rights Project

DRUG POLICY

Facilitators:

Theshia Naidoo

Staff Attorney, Drug Policy Alliance

Tamar Todd

Staff Attorney, Drug Policy Alliance

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

Facilitators:

Ruth Cusick

Staff Attorney and Skadden Fellow, Mental Health Advocacy Services

Nancy Franklin

Director, Professional Development, LRE Initiatives, Los Angeles Unified School District

HUMAN RIGHTS

Facilitators:

Martha Davis

Associate Dean and Co-Director, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, Northeastern School of Law

Elizabeth Sullivan

Human Right to Education Program Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI)

RIGHT TO COUNSEL & PROCEDURAL PROTECTIONS

Facilitators:

Julie Waterstone

Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Director of Children's Rights Clinic, Southwestern Law School

Brent Pattison

Attorney, Thompson & Howle

RIGHT TO HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION

Facilitator:

Paul Weckstein

Co-Director, Center for Law and Education

SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE

Facilitator:

Sarah Biehl

Staff Attorney, Ohio Poverty Law Center and Core Group Member, Dignity in Schools Campaign

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH – TRACKS COMBINED

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1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

PLENARY – TRACKS COMBINED

Introduction:

Carolyn Lamm

President, American Bar Association

Keynote:

Dr. John Jackson

President and CEO, The Schott Foundation for Public Education

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

PANELS

Panels will discuss successful strategies, and invite dialogue with audience to develop action steps to promote the Model Code.

USING THE MEDIA TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES

This panel will explore strategies for using the media to incorporate human rights principles into the public dialogue about education as well as other public policy issues. Attendees will hear from journalists and community leaders about their on-the-ground experience with these strategies, and will learn how to work effectively with the media to promote the model code.

Panelists:

Thom Clark
Founder, Community Media Workshop

Lorraine Forte
Editor in Chief, Catalyst Chicago

Nijmie Zakkiyyah Dzurinko
Executive Director, Philadelphia Student Union

Moderator:

Hillary Weis Coustan
Loyola University Chicago, ChildLaw and Education Institute

LESSONS LEARNED FROM EFFECTIVE POLICY MAKING

This panel will discuss successful strategies to promote and implement policies that are grounded in human rights principles. The panelists will draw from real world examples and share diverse strategies – including community organizing, outreach to public officials and the media, and coalition building – that facilitate policy change. The attendees will dialogue with panelists to develop concrete steps that can be used to promote and implement the model code.

Panelists:

Maisie Chin
Founder and Director, Community Asset Development Re-Defining Education (CADRE)

Micah Daigle
Executive Director, Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Jim Freeman
Staff Attorney, Advancement Project

Moderator:

Tiffany Childress
Teacher, North Lawndale College Preparatory High School, Chicago

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

AFTERNOON BREAK – TRACKS COMBINED

Sponsored by:



3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

ROUNDTABLE SOCRATIC DIALOGUE

An Educator, Human and Civil Rights Leader, Youth, Judge, Attorney, School Board Member, and Government Official ... all at the same table in a forum designed to spark intense critical thinking, and exciting solution driven dialogue around education, school pushout and human rights. A question & answer session will follow.

Moderator:

Michael Kaufman

Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Loyola University School of Law

Participants:

Chandra Bhatnagar

Staff Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union

Judge Brian Huff

Circuit Court Judge, Family Court of Jefferson County

Representative Dora Olivo

District 27 Texas House of Representatives

Adilka Pimentel

Make the Road New York

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS – TRACKS COMBINED

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