

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

LOYOLA'S CENTER FOR JUVENILE LAW & POLICY TO HOST SYMPOSIUM EMPOWERING EDUCATORS TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR STUDENTS

LOS ANGELES – Loyola Law School, Los Angeles' Center for Juvenile Law & Policy (CJLP) will equip school teachers and administrators with essential legal tools to advocate on their students' behalf during the two-day symposium, "The Educator as Advocate: Empowering Educators to Create an Inclusive and Compassionate Learning Environment," to be held Sept. 9-10, 2016 on Loyola's downtown L.A. campus.

The symposium, second in a two-part series held with the School of Education at Loyola Marymount University, will discuss education law as a means for righting public-school inequity and effecting policy change. Sessions will focus on practical advice for securing student services via under-used protections already in place.

Panels will include "Collateral Consequences: Why Everything you Write About Your Students Matters," "Protecting the Advocate Educator: The Rights of Teachers to Protect the Civil Rights of Students" and "Safety vs. the Inclusive Learning Environment: The Educators Role in Balancing Student Rights with School Safety in Highly Policed Schools." A complete agenda follows.

The event underscores the critical role teachers play in ensuring social justice in the classroom. "Even the best teachers are often frustrated in their efforts to support and protect students," said Professor Michael Smith, director of the CJLP's Youth Justice Education Clinic, which represents juveniles in Los Angeles Unified School District proceedings. "This conference aims to demystify some of the most important laws that protect the rights of public school students, clarify the rights of teachers who fight for their students and explore the role teachers may play in driving the legislative process so laws will reflect the realities of teaching students in school districts today."

Program highlights include Monica Garcia, Los Angeles Unified School District School Board member; Mark Geragos '82, Geragos & Geragos; Ricardo Soto, general counsel, California Charter Schools Association; Rourke Stacy, deputy public defender, Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office; Julie Waterstone, director of the Children's Rights Clinic, Southwestern Law School; and Chief Steven Zipperman, Los Angeles School Police Department.

The event builds upon the symposium, "From Delinquency to Death: Using Education Advocacy to Reduce Penal Consequences at All Ages," held on Friday, April 1, 2016. "The Educator as Advocate" event will be held in the Girardi Advocacy Center on Loyola Law School's campus at 919 Albany St., Los Angeles, CA 90015. Learn more at www.lls.edu/cjlp2016. Sponsors include Brenda and Michael McNamara and 89.3 KPCC - Southern California Public Radio.

About the Center for Juvenile Law & Policy

The Center for Juvenile Law & Policy (CJLP) was created in 2005 to foster systemic reform of the juvenile justice system by participating in and encouraging research, discussion and advocacy in the field and developing policy initiatives for systemic change. It provides a place for stakeholders to meet and discuss issues in an atmosphere that promotes constructive cooperation. It also provides resources for researching and gathering information not readily available elsewhere. The CJLP comprises three clinics: the Juvenile Justice Clinic, which represents youth in the LA County juvenile justice system; the Youth Education Justice Clinic, which works to ensure that LA County youth receive the educational services to which they are entitled; and the Juvenile Innocence & Fair Sentencing Clinic, which works on behalf of those sentenced to life in prison as youth.

About Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

Located on an award-winning Frank Gehry-designed campus in downtown Los Angeles, Loyola Law School is home to prominent faculty, dedicated students and cutting-edge programs. Loyola dedicates itself to preparing students for practice with rigorous coursework, an extensive portfolio of practical-training opportunities, a diverse and successful alumni network and a focus on social justice. Learn more at www.lls.edu.

###

Media contact:

Journalists who wish to attend any part of the event should RSVP to:

Brian Costello
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
Brian.Costello@lls.edu
Tel. 213-736-1444

**Loyola Law School's The Educator as Advocate:
Empowering Educators to Create an Inclusive and Compassionate Learning Environment**

AGENDA

DAY ONE: Friday, Sept. 9, 2016

9:15-9:30 a.m. – Welcome

- **Professor Michael Waterstone**, Fritz B. Burns Dean, Loyola Law School, and Senior Vice President, Loyola Marymount University
- **Professor Michael Smith**, Director, Youth Justice Education Clinic, Center for Juvenile Law & Policy

9:30-10:45 a.m. – Top 10 Myths in Education Law

Teachers and administrators often complain that they are misinformed about the law and district policy regarding common student issues. This panel aims to dispel some common myths regarding student discipline, special education, Section 504, general students' rights and charter school issues. The panel will reference the applicable laws, what they actually say and how they should be applied.

- **Rodolfo Estrada, Esq.**, Training Individuals for Grassroots Education Reform (TIGER) Director, Learning Rights Law Center
- **Ricardo Soto, Esq.**, General Counsel and Senior Vice President, California Charter Schools Association
- **Professor Michael Smith**, Director, Youth Justice Education Clinic, Center for Juvenile Law & Policy
- **Moderator: Professor Julie Waterstone**, Director, Children's Rights Clinic, Associate Dean for Experiential Learning, Southwestern Law School

10:45-11 a.m. – Break

11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – Our Most Vulnerable Students: Ensuring Implementation of Section 504, McKinney-Vento and Juvenile Court Protections

Homeless, disabled and court-involved students have some of the most rigorous, but under-implemented, protections to ensure continuity of education, nondiscrimination and a comprehensive support group. This panel will discuss how teachers and administrators can ensure that these thoughtful laws are implemented in the way intended to create inclusive and compassionate learning environments for the most vulnerable students.

- **Christina Campbell, Esq.**, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Center for Juvenile Law and Policy at Loyola Law School
- **Rodolfo Estrada, Esq.**, Training Individuals for Grassroots Education Reform (TIGER) Director, Learning Rights Law Center
- **Jennifer Rodriguez-Fee, Esq.**, Supervising Attorney, Children's Rights Clinic and Lecturer in Law, Southwestern Law School
- **Jill Rowland, Esq.**, Education Project Director, Alliance for Children's Rights
- **Moderator: Professor Michael Smith**, Director, Youth Justice Education Clinic, Center for Juvenile Law & Policy

12:30-1:30 p.m. – The Rights of Students and Teachers: Balancing the Needs of Students and Educators in a City-Sized School District with Monica Garcia, LAUSD Board of Education

As a prominent LAUSD Board member, Garcia shares responsibility for the ways in which school policies are implemented. How does the School Board balance the needs of students and teachers to create compassionate and inclusive learning environments in the second largest school district in the country?

1:45-3:00 p.m. – Collateral Consequences: Why Everything You Write About Your Students Matters

Educators may be amazed at the wide-ranging and longterm use of student records in all important aspects of students' lives. Student records are used to determine placement, services, eligibility and even sentencing in multiple domains, including: special education, Section 504, Regional Center, In-Home Supportive Services, Housing, Welfare, Social Security and the courts (juvenile, adult, probate, mental health, family and civil). This panel will help educators understand the implications, consequences (positive and negative), and common misunderstandings of what they write about students that become part of their records.

- **Brian Capra, Esq.**, Senior Staff Attorney, Children's Rights Project, Public Counsel Law Center
- **Professor Christopher Hawthorne**, Director, Juvenile Innocence and Fair Sentencing Clinic, Center for Juvenile Law & Policy
- **Jill Rowland, Esq.**, Education Project Director, Alliance for Children's Rights
- **Rourke Stacy, Esq.**, Deputy Public Defender, Los Angeles Public Defender's Office
- **Moderator: Christina Campbell**, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Center for Juvenile Law and Policy at Loyola Law School

3:15-4:00 p.m. – Breakout Sessions

Breakout Sessions will allow attendees the opportunity to discuss and contemplate new uses of the information they gleaned at the symposium. Through these sessions ideas for future collaboration and further training or education may also be examined.

DAY TWO: Sept. 10, 2016

9:30-9:45 a.m.: Introduction

9:45-11:15 a.m. – Protecting the Advocate Educator: The Rights of Teachers to Protect the Civil Rights of Students

Educators may fear reprisals if they zealously advocate for the rights of their students. New teacher job security (last in, first out), the role of charter schools and chronic budget shortfalls have combined to stifle the advocate educator, who may perceive the risk of dismissal if they fight for students' rights at their school. This panel aims to clarify teachers' rights, with an emphasis on demystifying the available protections for educators who go to bat for their students when they see the law violated.

- **Mark Geragos '82, Esq.**, Criminal Defense and Civil Attorney
- **Scott J. Harris, Esq.**, Professional Licensing Defense
- **Maria Okpara**, Retired Teacher and Administrator, Adjunct Professor of Special Education

11:15-11:30 a.m. – Break

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Safety vs. the Inclusive Learning Environment: The Educator's Role in Balancing Student Rights with School Safety in Highly Policed Schools.

Using the justification of campus safety, a heavy police presence on public school campuses, especially in urban school districts, is a common sight. The dividing line between the law enforcement role of police vs. ensuring a safe and inclusive learning environment becomes blurred, with the constitutional rights of students often sacrificed in the name of campus safety. This panel will help educator advocates understand the proper role of police on campus and how to protect students' rights when law enforcement oversteps their appropriate boundaries.

- **Ruth Cusick**, Senior Staff Attorney, Statewide Education Rights, Public Counsel Law Center
- **Jyoti Nanda**, Director, Youth and Justice Clinic, Lecturer in Law, UCLA School of Law
- **Rourke Stacy, Esq.**, Deputy Public Defender, Los Angeles Public Defender's Office
- **Chief Steven Zipperman**, Los Angeles School Police Department

- **Moderator: Professor Sean Kennedy**, Kaplan & Feldman Executive Director, Center for Juvenile Law and Policy, Loyola Law School

1-2 pm. – Trauma Informed Education Practices

Trauma informed education practices are becoming increasingly essential for teachers and administrators alike, especially when working with foster, probation and homeless youth; youth experiencing violence in their communities or families; and the countless other ways that youth experience trauma. This presentation explains what these practices are, with the purpose of empowering teachers, administrators and other school staff to utilize these practices with the youth whom they serve.

- **Danielle Tenner**, Staff Attorney, Alliance for Children's Rights
- **Megan Stanton-Trehan**, Staff Attorney, Alliance for Children's Rights

2-3 p.m. – How to Drive Change: A Toolbox for Advocate Teachers and Administrators

Integrating the themes and discussions of the previous sessions, this panel will provide a practical framework for how to approach students' rights issues from the classroom to the legislature, and at all levels in between. Panelists will explain how the legislative process becomes classroom policy and how educators can use their invaluable experience to drive changes in policy and legislation to positively impact their students and the learning environment.

- **Brian Capra, Esq.**, Senior Staff Attorney, Children's Rights Project, Public Counsel Law Center
- **Samuel Liu '11**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of State Senator Ben Allen
- **Lila Kalaf Reiner**, Field Representative and Education Deputy, Office of State Senator Ben Allen

3:45-5 p.m. – Breakout Sessions

Breakout Sessions will allow attendees the opportunity to discuss and contemplate new uses of the information they gleaned at the symposium. Through these sessions ideas for future collaboration and further training or education may also be examined.

5-6 p.m. – Closing Comments and Reception