

# Pursuing Justice: A Constitutional and Human Rights Jurisprudence for the Child

*Children and Family Justice Center Symposium*  
Northwestern University School of Law

## Speaker Biographies



### **BART LUBOW**

*Director, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative*

For more than 20 years, Bart Lubow has led the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), an ambitious effort to demonstrate that jurisdictions can reduce reliance on secure detention without sacrificing public safety. As director of Casey's Juvenile Justice Strategy Group, Lubow also guides efforts to improve outcomes for young people who enter the juvenile justice system and to reduce disparities in the treatment of young people of color. Lubow began his career in criminal justice as a social worker for New York City's Legal Aid Society and served as director of Alternatives to Incarceration for New York State before joining the Foundation in 1992.

### **ROBERT SCHWARTZ**

*Executive Director, Juvenile Law Center*

Bob Schwartz co-founded Juvenile Law Center in 1975 and has served as its executive director since 1982. In 1993, he served with Bernardine Dorhn on the ABA Presidential Working Group on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children and Their Families, helping to produce *America's Children at Risk*. He was a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice, and co-edited *Youth on Trial: A Developmental Perspective on Juvenile Justice* (2000). Schwartz, with Bernardine Dorhn, is on the advisory committee to the Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch.

## Keynote Address



### **BRYAN STEVENSON**

*Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative*

Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. Stevenson is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill and aiding children prosecuted as adults. EJI recently won an historic ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court holding that mandatory life without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger are unconstitutional. EJI has also initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts.

Stevenson's work fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system has won him numerous awards including the ABA Wisdom Award for Public Service, the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship Award Prize, the Olaf Palme International Prize, the ACLU National Medal Of Liberty, the National Public Interest Lawyer of the Year Award, the NAACP Ming Award for Advocacy, the Gruber Prize for International Justice and the Ford Foundation Visionaries Award. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard School of Government, has been awarded 13 honorary doctorate degrees and is also a Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law.

## Panel

### Children's Human Rights Coming Home



#### **ANGELA VIGIL**

*Partner and Director, Pro Bono and Community Service, Baker & McKenzie LLP*

Angela Vigil graduated from Northwestern Law School in 1995 into a career that underscores a clear, consistent focus on pro bono and public interest through her pursuit of both high impact, broad-based initiatives and individual representation. As a clinical professor at Northwestern University School of Law's Bluhm Legal Clinic, she taught juvenile justice, ethics, trial advocacy, and other classes. Beginning in 2003, Vigil became the Director of Pro Bono and Community Service, North America for the law firm of Baker & McKenzie, where she manages and helps lead pro bono efforts by over 700 lawyers across North America. Elected partner in 2010, Mrs. Vigil continues to serve as a trial lawyer in juvenile justice, civil rights, appeals and international rule of law efforts.



#### **JAMES BELL**

*Founder and Executive Director, W. Haywood Burns Institute*

Since 2001, James Bell has been spearheading a national movement to address racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. The Burns Institute, which is named after civil rights pioneer W. Haywood Burns, was recently awarded the prestigious MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. The award is presented to select organizations worldwide that have made a "remarkable impact in their fields." Bell and his colleagues at the BI work with juvenile justice systems across the country to reduce the racial and ethnic disparity. Bell guides the BI's Community Justice Network for Youth (CJNY), a national network of programs working successfully with young people of color. Bell also works closely with the Casey Foundation's JDAI jurisdictions and the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change Initiative.



#### **BRUCE BOYER**

*Director and Clinical Professor, Civitas ChildLaw Clinic, Loyola University School of Law*

Professor Bruce A. Boyer has served as Director of Loyola University Chicago Law School's Civitas ChildLaw Clinic since 2001. He is an expert in child welfare law who has litigated, taught, consulted and written extensively in the area of child abuse and neglect. He has represented clients in a wide range of proceedings including child welfare, adoption, special education, disability hearings, and international child abduction, with his focus being primarily on issues of child maltreatment. He has served as Chair of the ABA Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children and as a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Before joining Loyola, he taught for 12 years at the Northwestern University Law School, where he helped in 1991 to establish the Children and Family Justice Center.



## **MARIELLE BRUNING**

*Director of the Child Law Department, Leiden University, Netherlands*

Professor Mariëlle Bruning lectures on child law, children's rights and juvenile justice at the Faculty of Law, Leiden University, where she is director of the Child Law Department. She is also director of LLM Child Law, a new Dutch masters program designed to provide specialized training to those working with and for children in the legal field. She collaborates in projects with several partners, including Defense for Children International-ECPAT in the Children's Rights House in Leiden, KidsRights and the Children's Ombudsman, and acts as a consultant on various projects concerning child law and children's rights. She is a part-time juvenile court judge in the district court of Amsterdam. She regularly publishes on various topics in the area of children's rights and family and juvenile law. She is editor-in-chief of the Dutch Journal of Family and Child law (FJR) and chairs the editorial advice board of children's rights journal Right!.



## **STEVEN DRIZIN**

*Assistant Dean, Bluhm Legal Clinic, Northwestern University School of Law*

Steven Drizin is a Clinical Professor at Northwestern Law School's Bluhm Legal Clinic where he recently served as the Legal Director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions. Prior to the CWC, Drizin was the Supervising Attorney at the Children and Family Justice Center, where he represented juvenile clients in every stage of the criminal justice process. Drizin was a leader in the successful effort to outlaw the juvenile death penalty and has developed an expertise in interrogation and confession issues. In 2005, Drizin was awarded the ABA's Livingston Hall Award for excellence in juvenile justice.



## **UZOAMAKA NZELIBE**

*Clinical Assistant Professor, Children and Family Justice Center, Northwestern University School of Law*

Uzoamaka Emeka Nzelibe is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Law at Northwestern University School of Law, where she is also a Staff Attorney with the Children and Family Justice Center of the Bluhm Legal Clinic. In this position, she teaches a clinical course that focuses on the representation of women and children seeking asylum and other related forms of immigration relief in the United States. As part of this course, students represent live clients and grapple with many of the issues that experienced immigration attorneys deal with on a daily basis. Prior to joining the Bluhm Legal Clinic, Nzelibe worked for three years at Patton Boggs LLP, where she was as an Associate in both the Employment Law Group and the Immigration Law Group and represented indigent clients seeking asylum and other types of relief on a pro bono basis.



## VINCENT SCHIRALDI

*Commissioner, New York City Department of Probation*

Vincent Schiraldi was appointed Commissioner of the NYC Department of Probation in February 2010, bringing 30 years of experience working with troubled youth and juvenile justice systems to New York City. Prior to that, Schiraldi served as Washington, DC's first-ever Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, where he launched major reforms. He has served as an advisor on the Washington, DC Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth Safety and Juvenile Justice Reform; a member of the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Inmate Population Management; an advisor to the California Commission on the Status of African American Men; and the first chair of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission. He also founded two nonprofit organizations: the Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice and the Justice Policy Institute.



## DAVID STOVALL

*Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies and African-American Studies, University of Illinois at Chi-*

David Stovall, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies and African-American Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Currently his research interests include Critical Race Theory, school/community relationships, youth culture and the development of grassroots curriculum. In addition to his duties and responsibilities as a university professor, he was also a member of the design team for the Greater Lawndale Social Justice High School, where he currently serves as a volunteer social studies teacher.

### Panel

Abolishing Juvenile Life Without Parole (JLWOP) and Extreme Sentencing of Youth: Taking *Miller* to the Ground



## DEBORAH LABELLE

*Juvenile Life Without Parole Initiative, ACLU of Michigan*

Deborah LaBelle is an attorney and writer whose advocacy focuses on the human rights of people in detention, the intersection of race and gender, and the rights of children in the criminal justice and education systems in the United States. In addition to her private practice, LaBelle is the Director of the Juvenile Life Without Parole Initiative for the ACLU of Michigan and Coordinator of Michigan's Juvenile Mitigation Access Committee. She has been lead counsel in over a dozen class actions that have successfully challenged policies affecting the treatment and sentencing of incarcerated men, women and children, utilizing a human rights framework. She has represented clients before the United States Supreme Court and in international forums with an integrated model for reform utilizing concurrent litigation, documentation and advocacy strategies. Her publications include *Basic Decency: Protecting the Human Rights of Children* (2012) and *Ensuring Rights for All: Realizing Human Rights for Prisoners in Bringing Human Rights Home* (Praeger Press, 2008).



## **JULIE ANDERSON**

*Founder and Coordinator, Communities and Relatives of Illinois Incarcerated Children*

Julie Anderson is the mother of a son, Eric, who is currently serving a sentence of juvenile life without parole. Eric was incarcerated in 1995 when he was 15 years old. He is now 33. Anderson is the founder and coordinator of CRIIC, Communities & Relatives of Illinois Incarcerated Children. CRIIC members are family and friends of those serving JLWOP, offering each other support and encouragement while working to eliminate Juvenile Life Without Parole.



## **JEANNE BISHOP**

*Assistant Public Defender, Cook County Public Defender's Office*

Jeanne Bishop is the sister of Nancy Bishop Langert, who, along with her husband and unborn child, were murdered by a juvenile who is now serving a sentence of life without parole. Since the murder of her family members, Bishop has been an advocate of abolition of the death penalty, forgiveness and reform of criminal laws, including, most recently, the sentence of juvenile life without parole. She has written on juvenile life sentences for CNN.com and The Huffington Post, and her visits to her sister's killer were profiled by columnist Michael Sneed in the Chicago Sun-Times. Bishop is an attorney with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender and an adjunct professor in the Trial Advocacy program at Northwestern University School of Law.



## **JAAP E. DOEK**

*Professor of Law, Vrije University*

Since July 2004, Jaap E. Doek has been emeritus professor of Law (Family and Juvenile Law) at VU University (Vrije Universiteit) in Amsterdam. He is the chairperson of 'Aflatoun Child Savings International', an International NGO promoting social and financial education for children. Moreover, he is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Innocenti Research Centre' of UNICEF in Florence; member of the International Board of Trustees of the African Child Policy Forum' since 2004; member of the expert committee for the selection of candidates for the Annual Children's Peace Prize since 2006 (initiative of KidsRights, The Netherlands); member of the Advisory Board of Plan The Netherlands, member of the Jury for the Human Rights Defenders Tulip, an international Prize established by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; member of the Global Agenda Council on the Welfare of Children established by the World Economic Forum. Furthermore, Professor Doek has been and still is active as an advisor/consultant for, among others, the Special Representative on Children and armed Conflict, the regional office of UNICEF for East and Southern Africa, a number of UNICEF country offices (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Nepal and Suriname) and some governments of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. He was a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (1999 – 2007) and the chairperson of that Committee (2001 – 2007).

## EVAN GRIFFITH

*Individual formerly sentenced to juvenile life without parole sentence*

Evan Griffith came to the United States from Belize when he was eight years old, and suffered a brutal and violent childhood. He was convicted of two murders, one of which he committed at 16 years old, and sentenced to mandatory juvenile life without parole. Griffith spent 27 years in prison, ten of which he served on death row. Through numerous legal attacks in the trial and appellate courts on both a state and federal level, Griffith was given the opportunity for a resentencing hearing in 2012. At the hearing, he was able to communicate his formidable story of rehabilitation. Today he is a free man, and his case serves as a powerful symbol of redemption for youth who commit serious offenses.



## JODY KENT LAVY

*Director and National Coordinator, Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth*

Jody Kent Lavy is Director and National Coordinator of the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth. She and her staff work with advocates around the country to end the practice of sentencing youth to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Prior to joining the Campaign for Fair Sentencing of Youth, Keny Lavy served as the Public Policy Coordinator for the ACLU National Prison Project. In June 2006, Kent Lavy was appointed to a panel of experts that reported to a federal district judge to negotiate and develop plans to reduce overcrowding at Men's Central Jail in Los Angeles, the nation's largest jail. Currently, Kent Lavy serves on the board of Our Place D.C., which provides services to women returning from prison in Washington, D.C. Kent Lavy holds a BA from Boston College and a Master in Public Management from the University of Maryland's Public Policy School.



## SHOBHA MAHADEV

*Project Director, Illinois Coalition for the Fair Sentencing of Children, Clinical Assistant Professor, Children and Family Justice Center, Northwestern University School of Law*

Shobha L. Mahadev is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Law at the Children and Family Justice Center at Northwestern University School of Law. In that capacity, Mahadev represents children, as well as adults convicted for offenses that occurred when they were under the age of 18, in trial, on appeal and in post-conviction proceedings, and supervises students working on those cases. Mahadev also serves as the project director for the Illinois Coalition for the Fair Sentencing of Children, overseeing policy and litigation strategy with respect to advocating for fair sentencing laws for children convicted of serious crimes. In 2010, Mahadev was part of a team of juvenile justice advocates that submitted an amicus brief on behalf of the petitioners in *Graham v. Florida*, in which the United States Supreme Court found unconstitutional the sentence of life without parole for juveniles in non-homicide cases. Mahadev was also the primary author of The Illinois Juvenile Defender Practice Notebook, a training manual for attorneys representing youth in court. Prior to joining Northwestern, Mahadev was a litigation associate at a Chicago-based law firm and an Assistant Defender with the Office of the State Appellate Defender, First Judicial District, where she represented indigent clients convicted of criminal offenses on appeal, and argued before the Illinois Appellate Court and Illinois Supreme Court.



## **RANDOLPH STONE**

*Director and Clinical Professor, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project, Mandel Legal Clinic, University of Chicago School of Law*

Randolph Stone is a Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School where he provides law and social work students the supervised opportunity to zealously represent children and young adults accused of crime. He has previously served as the Public Defender of Cook County, responsible for the management of a \$32 million budget and the leadership of 500 attorneys and 200 support staff, as staff attorney and deputy director for the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia, in private practice in Chicago with Stone & Clark, as staff attorney for the Criminal Defense Consortium of Cook County, and as a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow for the Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington, D.C.