

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:
THE ROLE OF NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOLS**

**A CONVERSATION ABOUT
THE ROLE OF LAW SCHOOLS
IN HELPING TO MEET THE ESSENTIAL
CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS OF
LOW INCOME NEW YORKERS**



CONVENED BY THE
**TASK FORCE TO EXPAND
ACCESS TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK**

AT BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW, NEW YORK CITY

MAY 22, 2012



ACCESS TO JUSTICE: THE ROLE OF NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOLS

MAY 22, 2012: AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:30 AM** **REGISTRATION AND CHECK IN** *LOBBY*
Light refreshments will be served
- 9:30 – 9:45 AM** **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS** *MOOT COURTROOM*
- HON. JONATHAN LIPPMAN**
CHIEF JUDGE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
- HELAINÉ M. BARNETT**
CHAIR, TASK FORCE TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK
- 9:45 – 11:00 AM** **OPENING PLENARY SESSION** *MOOT COURTROOM*
**THE ROLE OF LAW SCHOOLS IN HELPING TO CLOSE THE JUSTICE GAP:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**
- MODERATOR**
- MATTHEW DILLER**
DEAN, BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW
- PANEL**
- HON. FERN A. FISHER**
*DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, NEW YORK CITY COURTS
DIRECTOR, NYS COURTS ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM*
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- LYNN M. KELLY**
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- KAREN A. LASH**
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- RICHARD L. REVESZ**
DEAN, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
- MICHAEL A. SIMONS**
DEAN, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
- 11:00 – 12:45 PM** **CONCURRENT SESSIONS: PART I**
- A. STUDENT PRO BONO PROJECTS AND STRUCTURES** *ROOM 424*
- CO-FACILITATORS**
- DORA GALACATOS** *SENIOR COUNSEL, FEERICK CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW*
- DAVID UDELL** *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND
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A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ROLE OF LAW SCHOOLS IN HELPING TO MEET THE ESSENTIAL CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS OF LOW INCOME NEW YORKERS

B. POST GRADUATE PROGRAMS

ROOM 303

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JENNIFER C. FRIEDMAN *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PACE COMMUNITY LAW PRACTICE
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C. CLINICS, EXTERNSHIPS AND OTHER EXPERIENTIAL COURSES MOOT COURTROOM

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ELLEN P. CHAPNICK *DEAN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES, COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL*

D. INCORPORATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE ISSUES IN THE BASIC LAW SCHOOL CURRICULUM

ROOM 205

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OLATUNDE JOHNSON *ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW, COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL*

ELIZABETH M. SCHNEIDER *ROSE L. HOFFER PROFESSOR OF LAW; DIRECTOR, EDWARD V. SPARER
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL*

12:45 – 1:30 PM

LUNCH

LOBBY

1:30 – 2:45 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: PART II

RETURN TO ROOMS

3:00 – 4:15 PM

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION:

MOOT COURTROOM

REPORTS FROM CONCURRENT SESSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The product of the Work Groups will become the basis for the action plan that the Task Force will use to develop proposals for the Chief Judge on how New York's law schools can collectively work to help close the justice gap.

MODERATOR

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UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER; CHAIR, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION*

4:30 – 5:30 PM

RECEPTION

LOBBY

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: THE ROLE OF NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOLS

A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ROLE OF LAW SCHOOLS IN HELPING TO MEET THE ESSENTIAL CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS OF LOW INCOME NEW YORKERS

GOAL

The goal of the Conference is to explore how New York State's law schools can work in partnership with each other and with providers, law firms, bar associations and the courts to help meet the civil legal needs of low income New Yorkers. The Task Force has focused on access to legal assistance concerning issues that relate to the "essentials of life" – housing, family matters, health and education, and subsistence income. Based on the conference discussions, four Work Groups will develop initiatives and recommendations that will be incorporated into an action plan to expand the role of law schools in helping to provide legal assistance for matters that relate to these essentials of life and in preparing lawyers to be active participants in working to close the justice gap throughout their professional lives.

THE WORK GROUP SESSIONS

The Conference will feature working sessions based around four subjects:

- 1 Pro Bono Projects and Structures;
- 2 Post Graduate Programs;
- 3 Clinics, Externships and Experiential Courses; and
- 4 The Incorporation of Access to Justice Issues in the Basic Law School Curriculum.

Each Work Group will be asked to consider a core set of issues and to formulate recommendations that will form the basis of an action plan to be developed by the Task Force. The core issues are:

- A. Communication:** Develop recommendations for how law schools can better communicate with key stakeholders and with each other to target programs toward priority areas of need and to improve coordination.
- B. Models:** Identify models that are successful in terms of impact, cost, supervision and student learning that could be expanded or replicated. Propose new models that can expand the impact of law schools in meeting the civil legal needs of low income New Yorkers.
- C. Collaborations:** Identify opportunities for law schools to work together and with other stakeholders to expand the impact of law school programs focused on closing the justice gap in a cost effective manner. Propose initiatives for capitalizing on these opportunities.
- D. Resources:** Identify resources that law schools (faculty, students, alumni, facilities, university relationships, etc.) and other stakeholders (providers, courts, law firms, bar associations, client and community groups, funders, etc.) bring to bear to assist in meeting the civil legal needs of low income New Yorkers. Propose means of expanding these resources and putting them to better use.

ACTION PLAN: FUTURE STEPS

At the conclusion of the Work Group Sessions, the conference will reconvene in plenary session for reports from each of the four Work Groups and discussion of common threads among the groups. The product of the Work Groups will become the basis for the action plan that the Task Force will use to develop proposals for the Chief Judge on how New York's law schools can collectively work to help close the justice gap.

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THE TASK FORCE TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK

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The Law School Planning Committee gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP for the Conference refreshments and reception, and that of Sullivan & Cromwell for the reproduction of Task Force materials for the Conference.

The Committee extends its appreciation to Kathy Horton, *Director of the Office of the Dean, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law*, to Crystal Jones, *Office of the Dean, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law*, and to Lauren B. Kanfer, *Assistant Deputy Counsel to the Chief Judge*, for their assistance in coordinating the Conference.