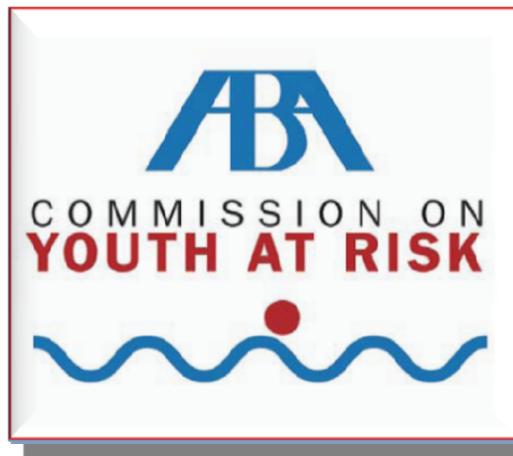


About the ABA Commission on Youth at Risk

American Bar Association
Commission on Youth at Risk
740 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-1019
(202) 662-1518
www.abanet.org/youthatrisk



The ABA Commission on Youth at Risk was created in 2006 under the leadership of then-President, Karen J. Mathis. The Commission is comprised of individuals and experts in the legal, allied professional, and advocacy community working to better identify and support America's at-risk young people. The challenges facing youth, especially between the ages of 13-21, are serious, life-altering, and affect every American. These challenges place youth at a significantly heightened risk of involvement with the courts, and it is at this vantage point where lawyers can use their unique skills to help our nation's most at-risk youth.

The mission of the ABA Commission on Youth at Risk is to strengthen and secure the legal rights of at-risk children, adolescents, and young adults through developing and promoting law, policy, and practice reforms throughout the legal community. The Commission's work builds upon ABA policy and includes: developing and supporting policy and programming to promote positive youth development, protection from harm, and needed services and resources; enhancing ABA and individual lawyer activities in these areas, including interdisciplinary collaboration; and ensuring that children, adolescents, and young adults actively participate in the institutions, and judicial and legal processes, affecting them.

A fond farewell to

Commission on Youth at Risk Chair

William A. Gunn

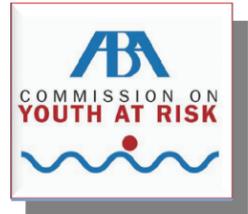
On May 26th, 2009 Will A Gunn was sworn in as General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs where he will oversee approximately 450 attorneys within its Office of the General Council. In honor of Mr. Gunn's service to both the Commission and on behalf of youth, Commission members made a private donation in his name to the National Military Family Association's "Operation Purple" Camp. Operation Purple provides free camp experiences for youth of military families to help them cope with deployment-related stress. For more information on Operation Purple, please visit their website at www.nmfa.org.

Laura Farber, previous Vice-Chair, assumed Chair of the Commission commencing with Mr. Gunn's resignation.

2008– 2009 Commissioner Roster

H.J. DAVID AMBROZ	ABIGAIL ROGERS
SANDRA BARNHILL	LAUREN STILLER RIKLEEN
WILLIAM C. BELL	ANDREW I. SCHEPARD
BOBBE JEAN BRIDGE	DIANE STONE
LAURA VIVIANA FARBER	LINDA A. TEPLIN
WILLIAM A. GUNN, Chair	PAUL WECKSTEIN
MIRIAM A. KRINSKY	_____
PATRICIA LOERA	ABA STAFF
HARRIET S. MOSATCHE	ALISA SANTUCCI, DIRECTOR
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American Bar Association COMMISSION ON YOUTH AT RISK ANNUAL UPDATE 2008-2009



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ADOPTS COMMISSION ON YOUTH AT RISK POLICY TO FURTHER THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO RECEIVE A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION, A RIGHT TO REMAIN IN SCHOOL AND A RIGHT TO RETURN TO SCHOOL



For almost two years, the ABA Commission on Youth at Risk worked on the development of a series of resolutions to help in the national effort to secure the right of every child to a high quality education. The recommendations, co-sponsored by the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, cover three aspects of that right and were unanimously adopted by the American Bar Association during its 2009 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The resolutions articulate both important needed changes in law, policy, implementation, enforcement and actions by the organized bar to secure this right for all children and youth, particularly for those who are most at risk of being denied the benefits of a high-quality education.

The first of the sets of recommendations and reports seeks to ensure *the right to a high-quality education* for every child, and calls for federal, state, and local action to spell out core elements of that right. It seeks to improve implementation and enforcement of existing provisions of law targeted at enabling students and parents to effectuate their rights to quality education and to participate fully in decisions affecting them. It also urges the ABA and state and local bar attorneys to make legal representation and other assistance available to parents, students and organizations to enforce provisions of state and local laws

A second recommendation and report seeks to advance *the right to remain in school* and examines the policies and conditions which often lead children to drop out of school. It promotes a safe and supportive school environment for all children and seeks to limit exclusion as a response to disciplinary problems, provide full procedural protections, reduce the criminalization of truancy and disability related behavior, and establish programs to assist in the understanding and exercising of students rights to remain in school.

The third recommendation and report seeks to secure *the right to return to school* for all youth who have left or have been excluded from school or are incarcerated, to a high-quality, age-appropriate program that enables youth to graduate and prepare for higher education.



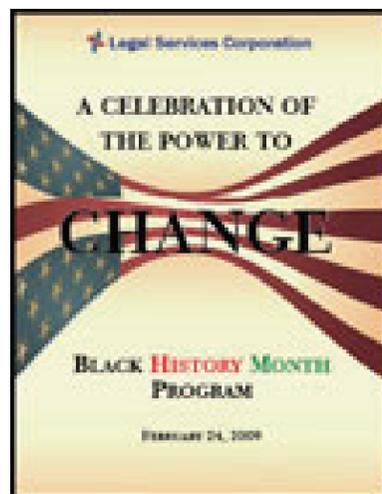
Commission on Youth at Risk member Paul Weckstein, Co-Director of the Center for Law and Education was instrumental in the drafting of the recommendations, and emphasized that "A rights-based approach to school reform – by focusing on what students, their families, and communities can actually count on from their schools in the way of a high-quality education, and on what we need to *do* in order to achieve the results we want for kids – is crucial to making reforms real."

For the full text of the resolutions and accompanying reports, visit www.abanet.org/youthatrisk.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH - COLLABORATION WITH LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Legal Services Corporation and the Commission on Youth at Risk collaborated on a special project during Black History month. The Legal Services Corporation sponsored a "Partnering for the Future" project which focused on creating opportunities to encourage, strengthen and inspire young people who feel that success is beyond their reach. The goal of the project is to inspire youth to embrace a variety of careers that support the equal justice and legal services delivery system.

This year, the ABA Commission on Youth at Risk Chair, Will Gunn, participated in a panel discussion at the Annapolis Road Academy Alternative High School in Bladensburg, Maryland. Mr. Gunn, together with Blake Fetro, Chief Attorney of the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, spoke to youth about laws and legal services that support youth and encouraged youth to envision greater possibilities for their lives, including a career in the legal profession.



COMMISSION ON YOUTH AT RISK

ABA MID YEAR AND ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAMS

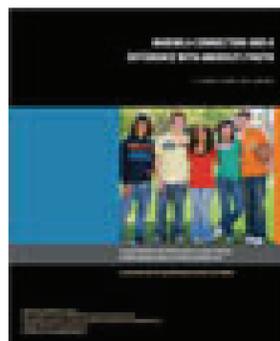


On February 13, 2009 the Commission on Youth at Risk held a CLE event at the ABA Mid-Year Meeting in Boston entitled "Building a Bridge to Keeping Youth In School: Connecting Education and Legal Advocacy," followed by a luncheon with keynote speaker Dr. John H. Jackson. Dr. Jackson is President and CEO of The Schott Foundation for Public Education and leads the Foundation's efforts to ensure a high quality public education for all students regardless of race or gender. We welcome Mr. Jackson as a new member of the Commission on Youth at Risk for 2009-2010.

A Youth at Risk Roundtable held at the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago entitled, "An Inside look at Juvenile Justice Through the Voices of Youth: How Should Attorneys, Judges and Advocates Rehabilitate the System" A special screening of the MSNBC Documentary, "Lake County Juvenile Justice," was shown and the featured court judge, MaryBeth Bonaventure, and producer Karen Grau, were on hand to discuss the documentary. The Commission also held a panel moderated by Robert Schwartz, Executive Director of the Juvenile Law Center, entitled "Dropping In: Barriers and Solutions to Youth Enrollment in Education." For more information about all of the programming or to download the educational materials visit our website.



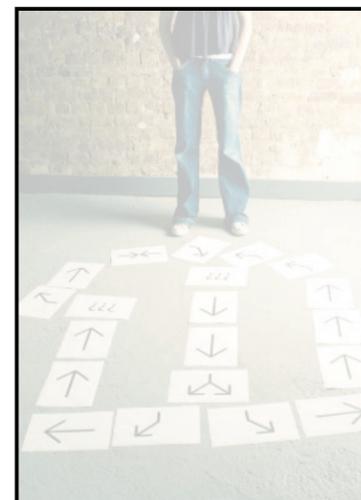
NEW PUBLICATION



The Commission on Youth at Risk and the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, in partnership with the Legal Marketing Association and Lexis Nexis, has published a new service guide for lawyers entitled "Making a Connection and a Difference with America's Youth." The publication focuses on programs for youth ages 13-21 that are run by Bar Associations or programs with significant Bar involvement, and it describes ways that attorneys can devote time and expertise to helping youth avoid delinquency through volunteering in such areas as transitioning youth, mentoring youth, truancy prevention, and peer mediation.

Download a free copy at www.abanet.org/youthatrisk

A LOOK AHEAD....



SAVE THE DATE

NATIONAL SUMMIT— APRIL 16, 2010

CHARTING A BETTER FUTURE FOR YOUTH

A National Summit on Effective Implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success Act

ROOSEVELT HOUSE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE at HUNTER COLLEGE, NEW YORK, NY

For the first time, the recently enacted "Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act," effective October 1, 2010, will provide federal resources to support foster youth beyond age 18. This National Summit will bring together over 100 child welfare, government, advocacy, judicial, legislative and academic experts and leaders for a day-long "action-oriented" dialogue about innovative ways to support transitioning youth. The Summit will produce a blueprint that state and national leaders can use to chart effective changes and implement new approaches for addressing the unique needs of this young adult population. This invitation-only working day will inspire, educate, and equip participants with valuable tools to implement new approaches for transitioning youth in their home states.

Collateral Consequences Project

Recently the ABA Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice Committee was awarded an ABA Enterprise Grant Fund co-sponsored by The Commission on Youth at Risk and other entities to study the effects of collateral consequences on youth adjudicated dependent.

Although much has been written about collateral consequences for convicted adults, the research relating to youth appears to be limited to the effects faced by youth referred to adult courts and to an examination of a few states' laws. Collateral Consequences are the results of arrest, prosecution, and adjudication that are not a part of the sentence imposed, such as losing one's scholarship to a college, inability to be admitted to a university because of one's juvenile record, losing the opportunity to secure public housing, or being denied the ability to join the military.

The project involves volunteer staff attorneys partnered with law students to conduct state-by-state research on collateral consequences imposed on juveniles who have been exposed to the juvenile justice system. The resulting ABA publication will be a comprehensive, nationwide study of the collateral effects of juvenile court adjudication which is critical to the discussion and development of appropriate public policies. For more information visit the Criminal Justice Section, Juvenile Justice Committee website at <http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/committees>.



Substance Abuse Project



In 2008, the Commission on Youth at Risk through the ABA Center on Children and the Law was awarded an ABA Enterprise Fund to develop useful materials for parents whose children have identified substance abuse problems. This project has developed an internet-based resource for parents, family members and lawyers who counsel families on this problem. The new ABA webpage will go "live" in 2010, as well as a law journal article addressing a variety of legal issues that families face when discovering a teen's serious abuse of alcohol or drugs. A new collaboration with the ABA Standing Commission on Substance Abuse is expected to yield additional materials of use to both family members and lawyers who advise families in connection with this problem.