American Bar Association

NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON STAND YOUR GROUND LAWS

Northeast Regional Hearing

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2013
Philadelphia Bar Association
1101 Market Street, Aramark Bldg.,
11th Floor Conference Center
Philadelphia, PA 19107
We Let Our Fingers Do The Talking

Professional
Accurate
Reliable

- Complete Litigation Support
- Expert Video Service
- Centralized Scheduling, Billing & Archiving

- Last Minute Deposition Coverage
- Video Conferencing
- Conference Facilities

- Realtime Transcripts
- Video-to-Text Synchronization
- Realtime Streaming

- Searchable E-Transcripts
- Interpreters & Translation Services
- Competitive Rates

- Internet Transcript Repository
- Corporate Services Department

WWW.KLWREPORTERS.COM
877-KLW-DEPO

Kaplan Leaman & Wolfe
COURT REPORTING & LITIGATION SUPPORT
MESSAGE FROM

Leigh-Ann A. Buchanan & Jack Middleton, Co-chairs
ABA National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORTHEAST REGIONAL HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEARING SCHEDULE</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WITNESS BIOGRAPHIES</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABOUT THE TASK FORCE</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TASK FORCE ROSTER</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABOUT THE COALITION ON RACIAL &amp; ETHNIC JUSTICE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE &amp; CALL FOR TESTIMONY</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to Philadelphia and the Northeast regional hearing of the American Bar Association’s National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws. The Task Force has served as an independent leader on the legal critique and analysis of the impact of state Stand Your Ground laws, consistent with the principal charges set forth by its sponsoring entities—the ABA’s Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice, the Center for Racial and Ethnic Diversity, the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline, the Section on Individual Rights & Responsibilities, the Criminal Justice Section, the Standing Committee on Gun Violence and the Commission on At-Risk Youth.

During today’s public hearing, you will hear testimony from a diverse selection of featured Pennsylvania community leaders, regional stakeholders, legal and social science experts and policymakers who will offer their distinct perspectives and open the dialogue on the many issues concerning the impact of Stand Your Ground laws, which have significantly expanded the contours of self-defense law in over half of jurisdictions in the United States.

The Task Force will receive testimony concerning a range of issues, including:

1. The utility of Stand Your Ground laws from legal and policy perspectives;
2. The impact of Stand Your Ground laws on public safety;
3. The impact of Stand Your Ground laws on traditionally marginalized communities and racial and ethnic minorities; and
4. The impact of Stand Your Ground laws on the criminal justice system, with a particular focus on law enforcement and the prosecutorial function.
The Northeast regional hearing marks the third of a series of public hearings in jurisdictions across the United States at which the Task Force will receive official testimony for its assessment and consideration in publishing the report of its findings. The final report will summarize the comprehensive legal study undertaken by the Task Force and make recommendations concerning the utility of enacted state Stand Your Ground laws as well as their impact on the criminal justice system, public safety and individual liberties. We hope that this report will serve as an important guide to state and federal policy makers, government agencies, and organizations throughout the United States. Our fourth hearing—the Western regional hearing—will take place in August 9, 2013 in San Francisco, California at the Westin Market Street.

We thank you for your support of the work of the Task Force. We would like to give particular recognition and thanks to the Philadelphia Bar Association for hosting this Northeast regional hearing.

Leigh-Ann A. Buchanan, Co-chair
Jack Middleton, Co-chair
National Taskforce on Stand Your Ground Laws
The Philadelphia Bar Association will host the Northeast regional public hearing of the ABA National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws on Thursday, June 6, 2013. The Task Force was convened principally to review, analyze, and assess the utility of the recently enacted state Stand Your Ground laws as well as the potential impact these laws may have on public safety, individual liberties and the criminal justice system.

Expert witnesses drawn from local and regional community and government stakeholders, law enforcement, prosecutors, public and private criminal defense attorneys, and legal academicians will testify on the impact of Stand Your Ground laws in the Northeast region, where several states that have enacted similar expanded self-defense statutes. Topics will include:

- The utility of Stand Your Ground laws from legal and policy perspectives;
- The impact of Stand Your Ground laws on public safety;
- The impact of Stand Your Ground laws on traditionally marginalized communities and racial and ethnic minorities; and
- The impact of Stand Your Ground laws on the criminal justice system, with a particular focus on law enforcement and the prosecutorial function.

**WHO:** ABA National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws

**WHAT:** Northeast regional public hearing regarding the impact of Stand Your Ground laws on the community, public safety and the criminal justice system

**DATE:** Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Philadelphia Bar Association, 11th Floor Conference Center, Aramark Building, 1101 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

This hearing is **free** and open to members of the **public and press**. For more information on the June 6, 2013 Northeast regional hearing in Philadelphia, or the National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws, generally, please contact: Rachel Patrick, Staff Director, ABA Coalition on Racial & Ethnic Justice, at: (312) 988-5408 or via email at: rachel.patrick@americanbar.org.

**The ABA National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws is hailed as the prevailing independent leader on the legal analysis and social critique of the impact of state Stand Your Ground laws which exist, to some degree or another, in over half of jurisdictions in the United States. The American Bar Association-affiliated Task Force is uniquely qualified to analyze the impact of Stand Your Ground laws and the implications the expansion of the justified use of deadly force by these laws has on protecting the integrity of the criminal justice system as well as individual liberties, particularly those of systemically vulnerable constituencies.**

With nearly 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is one of the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.
NORTHEAST REGIONAL HEARING
SCHEDULE

HEARING CALLED TO ORDER & WELCOME

Kathleen D. Wilkinson, Chancellor
Philadelphia Bar Association

Leigh-Ann A. Buchanan, Co-Chair
ABA National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws

PRESENTATION OF TESTimony

1. Edward G. Rendell, Former Governor of Pennsylvania

2. Richard H. Lowe, Mayor of Swarthmore

3. Rep. W. Curtis Thomas, Pennsylvania House of Representatives,
   181st District

4. Dorothy Johnson Speight, Executive Director, Mothers in Charge

5. David Green, director, Firearm Owners Against Crime

6. Shira Goodman, Executive Director, CeaseFirePA

7. Joshua Prince, Attorney

8. Elizabeth Avore, Senior Counsel, Office of New York City Mayor
   Michael Bloomberg

9. Donald F. Tibbs, Associate Professor of Law, Drexel Law School

10. Jerry Ratcliffe, Chair, Temple University Criminal Justice Department
11. Edward M. Marsico, Jr., Dauphin County District Attorney


13. R. Seth Williams, Philadelphia County District Attorney

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

CLOSING REMARKS

David Harris, Member
ABA National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws

ADJOURNMENT
WITNESS BIOGRAPHIES

ELIZABETH AVORE
Elizabeth Avore is Senior Counsel in the Office of the Mayor of New York City, where she advises the City on litigation and policy matters relating to firearms and provides technical assistance to the federal government and various state governments regarding effective gun policy. She recently managed an in-depth inquiry into the implications and national scope of “stand your ground” or “shoot first” self-defense laws.

SHIRA GOODMAN
Ms. Shira Goodman, Esq. is the Executive Director of CeaseFirePA, a coalition of mayors, police chiefs, faith leaders, community organizations and individual Pennsylvanians working together to take a stand against gun violence. CeaseFirePA is the largest gun violence prevention organization working in Pennsylvania, and an active partner in the national gun violence prevention movement. Earlier this year, Ms. Goodman was called to Washington, D.C. to meet with Vice President Biden, Attorney General Holder and members of the President's Task Force on Gun Violence.

KEIR BRADFORD-GREY
Keir Bradford-Grey is the Chief Public Defender of Montgomery County, PA. Bradford-Grey has 13 years’ experience as a public defender, and her record is one of accomplishment, innovation and passionate advocacy.

Bradford-Grey earned her undergraduate degree in criminal justice at Albany State University, and received her law degree from Ohio Northern University School of Law. She joined the Delaware Federal Defenders Office in 2007, and between 1999 and 2007, she was an assistant public defender in Philadelphia. Bradford-Grey has several goals in mind as while serving in Montgomery County. They include: reducing recidivism for juvenile offenders; protecting the public by reducing wrongful convictions; respecting the victims of crime; efficiently using limited taxpayer resources; and, ensuring fair administration of justice from law enforcement.

DAVID GREEN
David R Green is a volunteer grassroots activist on second amendment and marriage equality issues. He works for a federally licensed firearms dealer and is a member of the Board of Directors for Firearm's Owners Against Crime, PAC. He and his wife, Alli, reside in Whitehall Pennsylvania.
RICHARD LOWE

Rick Lowe, a partner at Duane Morris in Philadelphia concentrating in construction law, construction litigation, serves as a mediator and arbitrator for the AAA, and Rick is a Fellow of the American College of Construction Law. He also serves as Mayor of Swarthmore, and joined Mayors Against Illegal Guns his second day in office in January 2010. He has spoken at a number of rallies in favor of gun control.

EDWARD M. MARSICO, JR.

Edward M. Marsico, Jr. serves as the District Attorney for Dauphin County, a position to which he was first elected in November 1999. Mr. Marsico first joined the Dauphin County District Attorney’s Office in 1988. As the District Attorney for Dauphin County, Mr. Marsico supervises a staff of 25 attorneys, 30 support staff, and 14 detectives. As an assistant district attorney, he handled many homicide and drug prosecutions. His trial experience includes approximately 100 jury trials and countless appearances in non-jury proceedings. He is the President of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute. Mr. Marsico is an adjunct professor at Widener University School of Law and Harrisburg Area Community College. Mr. Marsico received his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 1985, and his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1988.

Mr. Marsico is a member of the Board of Directors of the Dauphin County Victim/Witness Assistance Program and the ARC of Dauphin County. He belongs to the Dauphin County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations. He resides in Lower Paxton Township with his wife Jodi, and their four sons, Connor, Alexander, Owen, and Benjamin.

JOSHUA PRINCE

Joshua Prince was born and raised in Berks County, PA, and is the fourth generation of Princes practicing in the local area. Joshua attended Widener Law School, where he was a member of the Widener Law Journal, and in 2009 graduated with honors.

Joshua is very Rights oriented and as such, has focused his practice on Firearms Law. Joshua has taught numerous Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars on Firearms Law for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and local bar associations.

JERRY RATCLIFFE

Dr. Jerry Ratcliffe is Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, Temple University, Philadelphia. He also directs the new Center for Security and Crime Science. He has a B.Sc. with honors in Geography and GIS and a Ph.D. from the Faculty of Science at the University of Nottingham (UK).
As a lecturer in policing (intelligence) with Charles Sturt University based at the New South Wales Police College in Australia, he ran graduate programs in criminal intelligence, and for a number of years coordinated Australia's National Strategic Intelligence Course. Dr Ratcliffe was also a senior research analyst with the Australian Institute of Criminology, where he conducted one of the first evaluations of an intelligence-led policing operation. He has published over 60 research articles and four books. His most recent book, “Intelligence-Led Policing” (Willan Publishing) is the first book to address this emerging area of police management practice, and is on the promotion exam reading lists for the Philadelphia Police Department.

EDWARD G. RENDELL

Former Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell devotes his practice to public-private partnerships (P3) and housing, with an emphasis on infrastructure. Gov. Rendell advises on new ways of building infrastructure and on the development of a national infrastructure reinvestment bank.

Gov. Rendell was a Ballard Spahr partner from 2000 to 2003. He left the firm upon being elected Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where he served two terms. Gov. Rendell's administration energized the state's economy through strategic investments, enacted Pennsylvania's first comprehensive measure to substantially reform the local tax system, and spearheaded initiatives encouraging the use of alternative and renewable energy, including wind farms and solar panels.


A veteran of the U.S. Army, Gov. Rendell joined the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office upon completing law school, rising to Chief of Homicide in 1972. He was elected District Attorney in 1977 and, for a second term of office, in 1981.

DOROTHY JOHNSON SPEIGHT

Dorothy Johnson-Speight, MHS, LPC – is Founder and Executive Director of Mothers In Charge, Inc. She is a highly regarded leader, speaker, and guest television commentator and a clarion voice against the war to end senseless acts of violent crime. Her work, though rooted in the City of Philadelphia, has led to national appearances and presentations across the United States and abroad.

A licensed family therapist, Dorothy is a longtime supporter for the rights of children and families during her distinguished career in victim advocacy. In 2001, along with others, Mrs. Johnson-Speight founded the non-profit organization Mothers In Charge, Inc., (MIC). MIC is a grassroots organization whose mission is violence prevention through education and proactive intervention with children, young adults, families and community organizations. The organization’s mission is realized through collaborative partnerships with the school districts, youth and faith-based community organizations, and governmental organizations, while providing grief support to families affected by violence.
**Rep. W. Curtis Thomas**

Improving conditions in his community is something to which W. Curtis Thomas has always been committed. Upon graduation from Thomas Edison High School, he obtaining a bachelor's of science degree in secondary education from Temple University and enrolled in the graduate program, majoring in education administration. Thomas received his law degree from the David A. Clarke School of Law (formerly Antioch School of Law) in Washington, D.C.

Thomas took office as the Pennsylvania state representative for the 181st District in 1989. Putting people first has been the hallmark of Thomas' stewardship. He can be proud of his accomplishments in the district since he first took office. Those accomplishments include securing funding, support and/or technical assistance for community-based organizations, businesses and schools in the district.

**Donald F. Tibbs**

Donald Tibbs is an associate professor of law at Drexel Law School whose expertise focuses on the overlapping issues of race, law, civil rights and criminal procedure. Professor Tibbs previously served as an assistant professor of law and director of the Institute for Civil Rights and Justice at Southern University Law Center.

Professor Tibbs received his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he was a semi-finalist in the Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition. He received the Sheila S. Skipper Award for outstanding graduate work while pursuing his Ph.D. in Law and the Social Sciences at Arizona State University.

**R. Seth Williams**

R. Seth Williams has served as the District Attorney of the City of Philadelphia since 2010. He is the first African-American District Attorney in both the city of Philadelphia and in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Prior to becoming district attorney, Mr. Williams served as an Assistant District Attorney for 10 years. In 2005, he was appointed Inspector General of the City of Philadelphia and served the city until 2008 when he left the office to join the law firm of Stradley, Ronon, Stevens & Young.

The District Attorney is also an adjunct professor at Villanova and Temple law schools, a major in the Judge Advocate General Corps of the United States Army Reserve and sits on several Philadelphia-area boards. Seth lives in West Philadelphia and of his many accomplishments, he is proudest of his daughters-Alyssia, Taylor and Hope.
The American Bar Association’s Coalition on Racial & Ethnic Justice (COREJ), the Center for Racial and Ethnic Diversity, the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline, the Young Lawyer’s Division and the Section on Individual Rights & Responsibilities have created the National Taskforce on Stand Your Ground Laws to review and analyze the recently enacted state Stand Your Ground laws that have received increased attention for their apparent adverse impact on public safety and the criminal justice system.

The Task Force will be comprised of members drawn from ABA entities, law enforcement, government, state prosecutors, public and private criminal attorneys, academic experts and other legal experts. Members of COREJ, Leigh-Ann Buchanan and Jack Middleton, will serve as the Co-Chairpersons of the Task Force. A complete roster of the Task Force members will be released in early 2013.

On February 8, 2013, the Task Force and its partners held its southwest regional public hearing, the first for four national public hearings, during the ABA Midyear Meeting in Dallas, Texas. In addition to the public hearing, the first meeting of the Task Force took place on February 10, 2013.

The Task Force will embark upon a comprehensive legal analysis of the impact of the Stand Your Ground statutes which have dramatically expanded the bounds of self-defense law in over half of the jurisdictions in the United States. The multidisciplinary study to be conducted by the Task Force will be national in scope, incorporating criminological and social science methodology and perspectives, to assess the utility and necessity of existing and proposed Stand Your Ground laws across the United States.
The scope of the analysis the Task Force intends to undertake will encompass several areas that directly and indirectly impact the criminal justice system.

**THE PRINCIPAL CHARGES OF THE TASK FORCE**

The principal charge of this Task Force will be to review existing state Stand Your Ground laws and all available qualitative data regarding the impacts of such laws to support the development of recommendations concerning the prudence of modifying or repealing these laws as well as the effect of such legislation on public safety, traditionally marginalized communities, racial and ethnic minorities and economically disadvantaged societal cross sections. In fulfilling this charge, the Task Force will endeavor to:

1. Evaluate the construction of Stand Your Ground laws through the lens of traditional criminal law principles to gauge the propensity for misapplication in operation due to missing or imprecisely articulated procedural safeguards, mandatory statutory presumptions of reasonableness, lesser thresholds of proof at early procedure stages, the absence of proportionality requirements, and absence of guidelines to be applied to circumstances involving unarmed individuals.

2. Analyze existing data compilations, including state records, national and state-level reports and published data concerning the measurable impact of Stand Your Ground laws on crime rates, including fluctuations in homicide rates, with the objective of identifying and extrapolating quantitative support for indicators of ways in which Stand Your Ground laws may adversely impact the criminal justice system and the diverse population of constituents with which it interacts. Further, The Task Force will undertake a review and assessment of existing reports and studies of law enforcement agencies, governmental agencies, public documents and private publications that focus exclusively on examining the ramifications of Stand Your Ground laws.

3. Assess the unique impact of Stand Your Ground laws on the law enforcement and prosecutorial function, including the potential endangerment of law enforcement personnel due to expanded circumstances wherein civilian use of deadly force maybe found justified in addition to the propensity for exploitation of Stand Your Ground protections by criminal offenders and vigilantes.

4. Conduct a fact-based investigative review of Stand Your Ground laws by examining the effects of racial or ethnic bias, implicit and explicit, on the perception of threat precipitating the use of force, including deadly force, in circumstances to which Stand Your Ground laws apply. The Task Force will also examine the extent to which Stand Your Ground laws perpetuate imbalance across racial and socio-economic lines within the justice system. Indeed, the National District Attorneys Association posits that
one such negative consequence of this legislation is its “disproportionately negative effect on minorities, persons from lower socio-economic status, and young adults/juveniles.”

5. Conduct a series of four public hearings in regions across the country which will encompass states that have enacted Stand Your Ground statues. The regional public hearings will enable the Task Force to measure community awareness of Stand Your Ground laws, perceptions of equality in enforcement and application of Stand Your Ground law, opinions concerning of the utility of Stand Your Ground laws, and reactions to individualized experiences involving interactions with Stand Your Ground laws. Each regional public hearing will solicit participation from community stakeholders, affected individuals, justice system participants, legal academicians and other legal experts.

6. Prepare a final report and recommendations that will: (i) detail the Task Force’s research and analysis undertaken, (ii) concisely summarize the testimony elicited at the corresponding public hearings, and (iii) state the official policy that the Task Force recommends the ABA adopt and actions that the ABA should undertake to preserve justice as it relates to Stand Your Ground laws.

The ABA is uniquely qualified to analyze the impact of Stand Your Ground laws and the implications the expansion of the justified use of deadly force by these laws has on protecting the integrity of the criminal justice system as well as individual liberties, notably, ethnic and racial minorities.

For more information on the ABA National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws, please contact Rachel Patrick, Staff Director, ABA Coalition on Racial & Ethnic Justice, at (312) 988-5408 or via email at rachelpatrick@americanbar.org.

---

NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON STAND YOUR GROUND LAWS

ROSTER

1. **Co-Chair:** Leigh-Ann Buchanan, **Berger Singerman**, Attorney  
   *(ABA Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice, special advisor)*

2. **Co-Chair:** Jack Middleton, **McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton**, Managing Partner  
   *(ABA Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice, member)*

3. Jose Arroyo, **Miami Dade State Attorney’s Office**, Chief Assistant State Attorney  
   *(ABA Criminal Justice Section Task Force Appointee)*

4. David Harris, **University of Pittsburgh School of Law**, Professor of Law & Associate Dean for Research

5. Joshu Harris, **Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office**, Associate District Attorney  
   *(ABA Young Lawyers Division Task Force Appointee)*

6. Steven Jansen, **Association of Prosecuting Attorneys**, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer

7. John Roman, Ph.D., **Justice Policy Center of the Urban Institute**, Senior Fellow / **District of Columbia Crime Policy Institute**, Executive Director

8. Stephen Wermiel, **American University Washington College of Law**  
   *(ABA Individual Rights & Responsibilities Section, Chair/ Interim Task Force Appointee)*

9. **To be appointed**  
   *(ABA Standing Committee on Gun Violence, Interim Task Force Appointee)*

10. **Vacant**

11. **Vacant**
ABA CO-SPONSOR ENTITY LIAISONS¹

1. Hon. David Perkins, Third Circuit Court of Wayne County Michigan, Juvenile Referee (ABA Commission on Youth-at-Risk, Task Force Liaison)

2. Jared Hautamaki, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Attorney Advisor (ABA Diversity Center Task Force Liaison)

TASK FORCE REPORTER

Tamara Lawson, St. Thomas University School of Law, Professor of Law

TASK FORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Mario Barnes, University of California, Irvine, School of Law, Professor of Law

2. Nora Demleitner, Washington & Lee School of Law, Dean and Professor

3. Cynthia Lee, George Washington University School of Law, Charles Kennedy Poe Research Professor of Law

4. Kim McLaughlin, Suffolk Law School, Associate Clinical Professor, Juvenile Justice Clinic

5. Song Richardson, University of Iowa College of Law, Professor of Law

6. Rory Smith, John Marshall School of Law, Associate Dean of Diversity

¹ The Task Force ABA co-sponsoring entities are: Coalition on Racial & Ethnic Justice, Center for Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline, Section on Individual Rights & Responsibilities, Criminal Justice Section, Young Lawyers’ Division, Standing Committee on Gun Violence, and Commission on Youth-at-Risk.
A presidential Task Force on Minorities in the Justice system was created in 1992 in the aftermath of the Rodney King disturbances. Shortly thereafter, a report was issued with recommendations by the Task Force. In 1994 the Task Force was re-named the Council on Racial and Ethnic Justice (now the Coalition or COREJ). The Coalition was designed to implement the recommendations and develop partnerships among community groups, civil rights organizations, businesses, religious organizations, and bar associations for the purpose of eliminating racial and ethnic bias in the justice system. Its primary goal is to serve as a catalyst for eliminating racial and ethnic bias in the justice system with a focus on systemic change.

COREJ (1) assists with the development of educational programs; (2) provides public forums for dialogue between legal institutions and non legal groups; and (3) provides technical assistance and advice on how to implement specific programs, strategies, and partnerships that eliminate racial and ethnic bias.

Since its inception, COREJ has been on the cutting edge of social justice issues. It has focused on a number of substantive and diverse issues such as racial profiling, access to the justice system, overrepresentation of juveniles of color, indigent defense, racial profiling and the war on terrorism, teen violence, the impact of foreclosures on communities of color, voting disenfranchisement and the impact of technology, election protection, injustices and discrimination in Tulia, Texas and restoring justice and equity by providing strategies for disaster preparedness and response that reduce patterns of discrimination and unfairness in the delivery of disaster aid and services e.g. Katrina Project.

**RECENT PROGRAMS**

- Know Your Foreclosure Rights: There’s Hope (August 2012, Tampa, FL)
- Do or Die: Analysis of the Stand Your Ground Statutes (August 2012, Chicago, IL)
- Justice Equality and A More Perfect Union: Community Recovery and Restoration After A Crisis (February 2012, New Orleans, LA)
- Raising The Bar on Foreclosure Prevention Efforts – Implementing Pro Bono Programs To Help Michigan Homeowners, Hosted by Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago- Detroit Branch (October, 28, 2011, Detroit, MI)
- HELP! I Need A Housing LIFELINE! (October 29, 2011 , Detroit, MI)
- The War Against Foreclosures: Combating Foreclosures and Mortgage Crisis in Communities of Color (July 31, 2011, Baltimore, MD)
- Combating Foreclosures and the Mortgage Crisis in Communities of Color (February 12, 2011, Atlanta, GA)
- Stop Teen Violence: Time To Deliver (August 7, 2010, Golden Gate Law School, San Francisco, CA)
- Stop Teen Violence: Time To Deliver (May 3, 2010, Youthville Detroit, Detroit, MI)
- Stop Teen Violence: Time To Deliver (November 20, 2009, Chicago State University, Chicago, IL)
SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

• Joint Project with the 10CORE Law Student Organization on Foreclosure
  
  • Overrepresentation of Juveniles of Color in the Juvenile Justice System
  After an alarming number of national studies and reports revealed evidence that there is an
overrepresentation of juveniles of color in the juvenile justice system and the justice system, the
Coalition implemented a two-prong attack on the problems confronting juveniles of color. The first
prong focuses on strategies that prevent young people of color from being trapped in the justice
system; and the second prong focuses on strategies that divert young people of color and prevent their
initial entrance into the juvenile justice system. A complete listing of juvenile justice programs
sponsored by COREJ is attached.

Election Protection Project
COREJ developed a partnership in conjunction with the Lawyers’ Committee and five ABA sections,
divisions and entities to remove barriers to the electoral process for citizens of color who sought to
participate in the 2004 election. COREJ, along with the Section of Individual Rights &
Responsibilities and the Election Law Committee renewed their partnerships for the 2008 Elections
and broadened the scope of the Project.

The goals of the 2008 Election Protection Project were: (1) Safeguard voters’ rights before, during and
after Election Day by giving voters the information and resources they needed to cast meaningful
ballots; and (2) Provide a comprehensive support system for eligible voters across the country that
included support for registration programs, developing voter education materials, and providing direct
legal assistance to protect the rights of voters. A primary goal for COREJ was to train volunteer
lawyers who worked with voters on a national and local level to monitor polling places, educate voters,
facilitate dialogues with state and local election officials, provide legal support to poll monitors and
help answer the Lawyers’ Committee Hotline.

The three primary ABA Partners for the Election Project developed a plan for recruiting volunteer
lawyers and law students and the major activities began in June 2008. An Election Protection website
was launched on the ABA website.

• Katrina Project
The goal of the project was to educate, conduct outreach and coordinate resources and services across
the country to assist those survivors that received disparate treatment in the midst and aftermath of
Hurricane Katrina. These goals were accomplished by holding a national conference and three CLE
programs, conducting outreach, and publishing a Report.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

• Third National Conference – “Making the Invisible Visible: A Dialogue About Lessons
  Learned In the Aftermath of Katrina”

Conference Overview: The Coalition brought together approximately 200 judges, lawyers and their
clients, health care workers, social workers, doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, high school, college
and law students, community groups, religious organizations, public and private leaders, survivors,
responders and others who have devoted time to assisting victims of Katrina. The primary goals of the
Conference: (1) conduct a productive dialogue among the survivors, planners (commissioners), and the
participants; (2) produce a Report which identifies the type of problems that might emerge due to race and ethnicity, how to avoid inequities based on race and ethnicity, and how to mitigate the problems; and (3) assist the survivors of Katrina with the rebuilding of their lives, restore justice and provide equity and respect to those victims that have been treated unjustly.

Educational Programs: Three successful panel presentations have been presented (1) ABA Midyear Meeting in Chicago, 2006 titled “Equity for Racial & Ethnic Survivors of Katrina;” (2) a jointly sponsored program with the National Bar Association as a Webcast Program “Hurricane Relief Seminar,” March, 2006 in Chicago; and (3) “Surviving Together; Healing Together” COREJ convened this special panel of experts in New Orleans to provide an in-depth status report of the communities that suffered disproportionately economically, legally, educationally and medically from Hurricane Katrina.

Report: The Final Report of the Conference contains specific recommendations from the speakers, participants and survivors. The Report titled “Making the Invisible Visible: A New Approach to Disaster Planning and Response,” contains an analysis of issues ranging from communications and language skills, to resource allocation, to pre-existing economic and social inequities. A number of excellent recommendations were received from the Conference. The recommendations were included in the Report that was issued in August 2007

Second National Conference on the Impact of Race and Ethnicity on the Justice System
In March 2002, the Coalition held a highly successful conference in Baltimore. The conference was diverse, intergenerational, interactive and action-oriented. Recommendations from the Conference were used as blueprints for COREJ programs and projects. A report is available on the Conference.

- First National Conference on the Impact of Race and Ethnicity on the Justice System
In Los Angeles, CA 1999, after holding two “think tank” meetings, COREJ convened an extraordinary conference. Two reports are available: Report on the Impact of Race and Ethnicity on the Justice System provides a brief overview; and the Draft of the National Conference Proceedings with Recommendations.

Several major follow-up projects were developed from the 1999 conference:

(1) Enhancing Access to the Justice System through Technology: Would Technology Have Changed the Outcome of the Vote in Florida?
(2) Data Collection Project on Color/Racial Profiling: The Tulia, Texas Project
(3) Friends of the Council

Honorable Michael Hyman, Chairperson
Rachel Patrick, Director
Deidra Franklin, Program Assistant
Website: www.americanbar.org/corej
The American Bar Association National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws gratefully acknowledges the following:

**HOST**

Philadelphia Bar Association

**SPONSORS**

ABA Coalition on Racial & Ethnic Justice

Kaplan Leaman & Wolfe
Court Reporting & Litigation Support

**SUPPORTERS**

Vincent Barbera

Deidra Franklin

Joshu Harris

Steven Jansen

Rachel Patrick

John Roman

Robert Schwartz

Dawn Petit

Gregg B. Wolfe
TASKFORCE 2013 REGIONAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Southwest Regional Hearing
February 8, 2013
Dallas, TX

Midwest Regional Hearing
May 2, 2013
Chicago, IL

Northeast Regional Hearing
June 6, 2013
Philadelphia, PA

Western Regional Hearing
August 9, 2013
San Francisco, CA

CALL FOR TESTIMONY

If you have an interest in providing written or live testimony for any of the regional Taskforce hearings, please contact:

Rachel Patrick, Staff Director
Coalition on Racial & Ethnic Justice,
321 N. Clark Street, 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60654
(312) 988-5408
E-mail: rachel.patrick@americanbar.org