Please join the American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty, Commission on Youth at Risk, the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Criminal Justice Section, and the Canadian Homelessness Research Network for a series of free youth-related programming on Thursday, August 4th and Friday, August 5th at the Hyatt Regency Toronto. Additional youth-related programming is being held during the ABA Annual Meeting as well.

The following programs are free and open to the public.

Participants registered for the ABA Annual Meeting are eligible to receive CLE credits where available.

Advocates, educators, service providers, policymakers, and students are encouraged to attend.

To RSVP, please contact Amy Horton-Newell, Director of the ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty, at amy.hortonnewell@americanbar.org or (202) 662-1693.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS AND LEGAL INTERVENTIONS: An International Research Perspective

Thursday, August 4, 2:00pm – 4:30pm
Hyatt Regency Toronto, King Ballroom II, Convention Level

One of the manifestations of the homelessness crisis over the past several decades is the growth in youth homelessness. The legal responses to youth homelessness varies. In some jurisdictions, robust responses have developed that focus on preventive strategies and effective efforts to move young people out of homelessness. In other cases - in particular, the United States and Canada - there has been insufficient investment in an effective response to youth homelessness, and a lack of acknowledgement that the causes of youth homelessness and the appropriate interventions required, are distinct from those associated with adult homelessness. Some jurisdictions have responded with social exclusionary measures that have sought to restrict the rights of young homeless people to occupy and inhabit public spaces through the enactment of specific laws targeting the homeless and policing practices (including private security) such as ticketing, charges for misdemeanors, ‘stop and searches’, etc. Imprisonment becomes an increasingly common experience for homeless youth, and conversely, the lack of effective discharge planning and supports may produce homelessness for young people who are in foster care or who are incarcerated. In this session we present leading international research that explores the policy context and outcomes of the different legal approaches to youth homelessness and the demonstrable consequences of different policies and practices.

Panelists:

- Celine Bellot, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada
- Volker Busch-Geertsema, European Observatory on Homelessness, GISS, Association for Innovative Social Research and Social Planning, Bremen, Germany
- Stephen Gaetz, Director, Canadian Homelessness Research Network, Associate Dean, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Richard Hooks Wayman, Hearth Connections, St. Paul, MN
- Sarah Johnsen, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland
- Bill O’Grady, Professor, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
- Dr. Eoin O’Sullivan, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
- Marie-Eve Sylvestre, University of Ottawa, Canada
- Casey Trupin, Columbia Legal Services, Seattle, WA
Participants will receive a free copy of the ABA best selling publication Runaway and Homeless Youth and the Law: Model State Statutes.

Runaway and Homeless Youth and the Law: Model State Statutes is a unique publication that provides guidance for policymakers, advocates, attorneys and service providers on how state laws can assist homeless and runaway youth. The laws were developed by experts in the field with input provided during two national conferences. The comprehensive resource provides not only model statutes, but background information and research to provide context for each issue. Additionally, the authors have provided commentary to assist in the implementation of the law.

**LAWYERING FOR HOMELESS YOUTH THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE:**
Best Practices in Representation and Emerging Model Laws

**Friday, August 5, 8:30am – 10:30am**
**Hyatt Regency Toronto, King Ballroom II, Convention Level**

Homeless youth are minors and young adults who lack basic needs and stable housing and are found throughout the world. Innovative pro bono and legal service programs offer representation to meet the unmet legal needs of homeless youth. Panelists will review opportunities for lawyers to engage and represent homeless youth in matters related to a variety of criminal and civil matters. Additionally, lawyers can learn how to use their position and knowledge to further public policy to end youth homelessness. Expert panel members will review emerging trends in local and international public policy advocacy and offer suggestions on how the private bar may support an international movement to abate youth homelessness. Participants registered for the ABA Annual Meeting are eligible to receive CLE credits for this program.

**Panelists:**
- Stephen Gaetz, Director, Canadian Homelessness Research Network, Associate Dean, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Niamh Harraher, Justice for Children and Youth, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Richard Hooks Wayman, Hearth Connection, St. Paul, MN
- Johanna Macdonald, Justice for Children and Youth, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Casey Trupin, Columbia Legal Services, Seattle, WA

**Determining the Age of Majority**

**Friday, August 5, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**
**Hyatt Regency Toronto, Regency Ballroom A, Convention Level**

An international slate of panelists will discuss how states should approach determining the age a person becomes eligible for adult prison. What factors should be considered? How do countries around the world including Canada approach the question? What are the implications of changing the age of majority from a financial, political and public safety standpoint?

**Reception to Follow**
Child Trafficking Law, Policy and Practice Reform: U.S. - Canadian Perspective

Friday, August 5, 3:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
InterContinental Toronto Centre, Niagara, Lower Level

At its meeting in Toronto, the ABA House of Delegates is scheduled to consider a policy resolution on the topic of child trafficking. This program will explore law-related issues related to child trafficking, from a United States and Canadian perspective. Topics to be discussed include: ending the practice of arresting, charging, and detaining prostituted children; having these trafficking victims legally treated as dependent children; how legislation and policy reform can promote the accessibility of residential and needed other services; and how lawyers and judges can become more aware of child trafficking as well as how the legal/judicial system can more appropriately respond.

Annual ABA Children's Breakfast

Sunday, August 7, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
InterContinental Toronto Centre, Halton, Main Level

Come hear about the Association's work related to vulnerable children and youth. Each year, the ABA Center on Children and the Law and the Commission on Youth at Risk, along with other ABA entities, sponsor a breakfast meeting in which members and staff of entities interested and involved in issues related to children and youth can share information about their recent work and their plans for the next ABA year. Relevant publications and other materials will be available.

For more information about the American Bar Association or to officially register for the 2011 ABA Annual Meeting in Toronto, please visit:
http://www2.americanbar.org/annual/pages/default.aspx