

Where the Classroom Meets the Courtroom: Deconstructing the Cradle to Prison Pipeline

MBA Juvenile and Child Welfare Section Second Annual Conference

Date: April 12, 2018 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Location: UTEC, 35 Warren St., Lowell, MA

Welcome — 10 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Presenters:

- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Brian Pariser, chair of the MBA Juvenile & Child Welfare Section Council

Brief Summary: Brief introduction and opening remarks by Brian Pariser. Concludes with screening of the trailer to “Teach Us All” (three minutes) to frame our conference (takeaways: educational inequality is the single greatest civil rights issue of our time; ties to racial and ethnic disparities seen in both educational and justice system).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5hE2Xm_dDQ

Deconstructing the Pipeline: Judicial Call to Action — 10:15-10:30 a.m.

Presenter:

- Jay D. Blitzman, first justice of Middlesex County Juvenile Court and Presiding Justice, Lowell Juvenile Court

Brief Summary: Join the first justice of Middlesex County as he discusses recent progress and initiatives in our courts to ensure the success of children involved with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

Keynote Address: The Cradle to Prison Pipeline Runs Through the Classroom — 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Presenter:

- Matt Cregor, education project director, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice

Brief Summary: How school issues fuel the cradle to prison pipeline (the underfunding of education, school discipline policies that funnel children into the courtroom, the lacking services for special needs children, and the disproportionate effect on students of color).

In Trouble at School? Effective Advocacy at the School Disciplinary Hearing — 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Panel Members:

- Marlies Spanjaard, CPCS EdLaw Project
- Alisia St. Florian, Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane
- Debbie Segal, Law Office of Debbie Segal

- Peter Hahn, Law Office of Peter Hahn.

Brief Summary: School discipline hearings can determine the fate of our student clients for extended periods of time and affect their lifelong trajectory. Hear from a panel of experts on how to navigate this crucial stage in a student's educational career. If the cradle to prison pipeline runs through the classroom, then this panel will examine strategies from every angle to divert and deconstruct the pipeline.

Networking Break & Travel to Breakout Session — 12:15-12:30 p.m.

Breakout Session — 12:30- 1:45 p.m.

OPTION 1: Help Your Client Get the Right IEP/504 Services

Panel Members:

- Dr. Barbara Bruno Golden, psychologist, Independent Neuropsychological Evaluator, and part-time DYS contractor.
- Amy Reichbach, BSEA hearing officer.
- Colleen Shea, former special ed teacher and current Skadden Fellow at the Disability Law Center

Brief Summary: Many times, the accommodations put into place in a student's learning environment can mean the difference between success and failure. Learn from a diverse panel how to help your child clients identify and obtain the services they need to succeed in school and avoid future contact with the juvenile court.

OPTION 2: Using an IEP and Educational Data in the Courtroom

Panel Members:

- Holly Smith, attorney in charge, CPCS Youth Advocacy Division, Somerville
- James Ianiri, Law Offices of James Ianiri
- Judge Blitzman, first justice of Middlesex County Juvenile Court and Presiding Justice, Lowell Juvenile Court
- Matt Cregor, education project director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice

Brief Summary: Using IEPs and education data at all stages of delinquency and child welfare cases is essential in obtaining the best possible resolutions for our clients and maintaining their educational continuity. Learn how to leverage a client's IEP and school district discipline data to succeed at bail hearings/argue conditions of release, motions to dismiss, VOPs, CRA hearings, placement hearings, and more. Learn about other creative, data-driven legal arguments and methods which can supplement your advocacy.

LUNCH — 1:45-2:45pm

Lunchtime Panel: Empowering At-Risk and Proven-Risk Youth — 2-2:45 p.m.

Panel Members:

- UTEC/Teens Leading the Way

Brief Summary: Hear from a community organization successfully engaging at-risk and proven-risk youth to improve outcomes.

Networking & Break — 2:45-3 p.m.

How We Can Collaborate to Divert the Pipeline: An Interagency Perspective — 3- 4:30 p.m.

Panel Members:

- Cynthia Miller, EOHHS (UPT)
- Marguerite Mitchell, counsel for the Taunton Public Schools
- Amy Reichbach, BSEA hearing officer
- Brian Pariser, counsel for DCF
- Timothy Sindelar, Law Office of Timothy Sindelar

Brief summary: This panel will feature representatives from each of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services agencies responsible for serving court-involved youth. Using a hypothetical, the panel will provide legal practitioners with unique insights into how each agency operates, describe available advocacy tools, and identify opportunities for collaboration — including when and how to access the valued UPT (Unified Planning Team) process.

Conclusion: Putting What We've Learned Today into Practice — 4:30-5 p.m.

Presenter:

- Mona Igram, attorney in charge, CPCS Youth Advocacy Division Lowell/Lawrence