

**Panels for the Symposium on Education as a Civil Right**  
**Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Levin Center for Public**  
**Interest Law, and Youth and Education Law Project**  
**Stanford Law School, February 2, 2008**

**Defining a Right to Education**

*Providing an adequate education is a goal of educational reform, but defining adequacy is a difficult goal in itself. This panel will address recent court cases, reform efforts, and the distinction between adequacy and equality. Is adequacy really enough, or should we be striving for something more?*

Panelists:

1. Wendy Puriefoy (President, Public Education Network)
2. Paul Tractenberg (Chair, Education Law Center; Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor and Alfred C. Clapp Distinguished Public Service Professor of Law, Rutgers School of Law-Newark)
3. Elise Boddie (Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Fordham Law School, former Associate Director of Litigation, NAACP LDF)

Moderator: Jamiene S. Studley (President and CEO, Public Advocates)

**High-Stakes Testing**

*Passage of a high school exit exam will soon be required for graduation in more than half of the states, and schools are increasingly using tests as a basis for determining grade promotion. This panel will address how the growing popularity of high-stakes testing affects the educational mission of schools, with a particular emphasis on the effects on low-income, minority, and English language learner students. It will also highlight the possible implications of high-stakes testing on school-funding reform.*

Panelists:

1. Monty Neill (Director, National Center for Fair & Open Testing)
2. Amanda Broun (Senior Vice President, Public Education Network)
3. John T. Affeldt (Managing Attorney, Public Advocates)

Moderator: Jesse Hahnel (J.D. Candidate, Stanford Law School)

**Educational Rights for Linguistic Minorities**

*Perhaps no other area of education reform has faced more controversy than bilingual education efforts. With English learners comprising roughly 25 percent of California's school enrollment, educators, policymakers and legal advocates turn increasing amounts of attention to the unique issues and demands of these students. This Panel will assess the current state of education for linguistic minorities in California and consider policy-based and legal approaches to remedies. It will also address the relationship between the hostility these students face and both their race and legal status.*

Panelists:

1. John Trasviña (President and General Counsel, MALDEF)
2. Kenji Hakuta (Professor of Education, Stanford University)

**Keynote Address:**

**Christopher Edley Jr., Dean and Professor of Law, Boalt Hall**

Edley was co-founder of the Harvard Civil Rights Project, a renowned multidisciplinary research and policy think tank focused on issues of racial justice. His publications include *Not All Black and White: Affirmative Action, Race and American Values*. At UC Berkeley, he is founder and faculty-Co-Director of the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity and Diversity, a multidisciplinary think tank. In March 2006, Dean Edley was named to a national nonpartisan commission created to conduct an independent review of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. The 12-member *Commission on NCLB* issued recommendations in February 2007 for reforming and improving the legislation as Congress considers reauthorizing federal education laws.

### **Special Education and Disability Discrimination**

*Schools across the country must abide by a variety of federal anti-discrimination laws. Unique to the educational context is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which mandates that schools provide a “free and appropriate public education” in the “least restrictive environment.” Speakers on this Panel will address how the civil rights of disabled students are met, as well as major challenges that remain for these most vulnerable of children.*

#### Panelists:

1. Bill Koski (Eric and Nancy Wright Professor of Clinical Education, Stanford University)
  2. Shawn Morehead (Litigation Director, Advocates for Children of New York)
  3. William Abrams (Consulting Professor, Stanford University)
- Moderator: Stephen Rosenbaum (Lecturer, Boalt Hall)

### **School Desegregation and Issues of Racial Justice in Public Schools**

*Fifty years after Brown, schools are consistently growing more segregated as a result of increasing stratification of cities along racial lines. Supreme Court cases in the past several decades have made integration efforts more challenging, and with the recent decision in Seattle School District, No. 1, proactive efforts at voluntary integration seem all but impossible. These speakers will address what, if anything, remains of desegregation efforts.*

#### Panelists:

1. Joseph O. Oluwole (Assistant Professor, Counseling, Human Development and Educational Leadership Montclair State University)
  2. Stuart Biegel (Education Faculty and Law Faculty, University of California, Los Angeles)
- Moderator: Catherine Lhamon (Staff Attorney, ACLU of Southern California)

### **School Choice and Charter Schools**

*Traditionally associated with conservative reform efforts, school choice has become a cause célèbre among progressive reformers for inner city schools. As the charter school movement expands and matures, questions of relative academic performance and unequal access have come into sharp focus. Panelists representing all sides of this issue will discuss the various practical, moral, and constitutional concerns behind school choice and charter school efforts.*

#### Panelists:

1. Jim Ryan (William L. Matheson and Robert M. Morgenthau Distinguished Professor, UVA Law School)
  2. John Coons (Robert L. Bridges Professor of Law, Boalt Hall)
  3. Damon Hewitt (Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, New Orleans)
- Moderator: Bruce Fuller (Professor, Berkeley Graduate School of Education)

### **Closing the Achievement Gap**

*This panel will address the economic and social consequences of failing to close the persistent racial and socio-economic disparities in education opportunities and performance. The panel will also explore strategies for reducing this gap.*

1. Hank Levin (William H Kilpatrick Professor of Economics & Education, Columbia University)
2. Ronald Ferguson (Lecturer in Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Economist, Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy)
3. Garth Harries (Chief Executive, Office of New Schools, New York City Department of Education) (SLS Alum '00)

Moderator: Michael Wald (Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law, Emeritus, Stanford Law School)