

The Law and Policy of Universal Preschool
Friday, October 13, 2006

Panelist Bio

Elliot M. Regenstein



Elliot Regenstein is an attorney with Holland + Knight LLP in Chicago. From April 2004 to July 2006, Mr. Regenstein served as Director of Education Reform for Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich. As the Governor's primary education aide, he worked closely with legislators, the State Board of Education, the Board of Higher Education, the Community College Board, and many advocacy organizations. He was also a key architect of Governor Blagojevich's major education initiatives, including a restructuring of the State Board of Education, the nationally-acclaimed *Preschool for All* plan, increased high school graduation requirements, and the first comprehensive reform of the school district consolidation process in more than two decades. Since October 2004 he has served as the co-chair of the Governor's Early Learning Council, a position he still holds.

As an attorney, Mr. Regenstein practices in the areas of education, local government, and land use. He has extensive experience in counseling and litigation on a wide variety of subjects within the local government and land use practice, including zoning, regulatory takings, employment, First Amendment, contractual, and environmental matters.

Mr. Regenstein clerked for the Honorable Kenneth F. Ripple on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, after earning his JD from the University of Michigan Law School, *cum laude*, in 1999. He served as Executive Note Editor of the *Michigan Law Review*, and at Michigan won prizes for excellence in the study of the First Amendment, the greatest contribution to the *Law Review*, and the outstanding student publication in the *Law Review*. Between college and law school, he worked for two years at the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, first in the Commissioner's office and then as Operations Coordinator. He earned his B.A. in history from Columbia University, *cum laude*, in 1994.