LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
SCHOOL of LAW
CHILDREN’S LEGAL RIGHTS JOURNAL PRESENTS:

Gun Violence Among Youth in Chicago

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2013
8:30 AM-3:00 PM

FEATURED SPEAKER

DEBORAH GORMAN-SMITH, is a professor in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago and director of the Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention. The center is one of six national academic centers of excellence funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her program of research, grounded in a public health perspective, is focused on advancing knowledge about development, risk, and prevention of aggression and violence, with specific focus on minority youth living in poor urban settings. Dr. Gorman-Smith has published extensively in areas related to youth violence, including the relationship between community characteristics, family functioning and aggression and violence, and the impact of family-focused preventive interventions. She also serves as senior research fellow with the Coalition for Evidence Based Policy—a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to promote government policy based on rigorous evidence of program effectiveness in Washington, DC.

PANELISTS

NONI GAYLORD-HARDEN, is an associate professor and director of the Parents and Children Coping Together (PACCT) Research Lab in the Department of Psychology at Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Gaylord-Harden’s research interests focus on stressors and coping in African American youth and families, as well as the role of modifiable protective factors among African American youth in high-risk contexts. Over the past several years, Dr. Gaylord-Harden has examined the impact of stressful and traumatic life experiences, such as community violence, on the psychological functioning of African American youth, the coping strategies that youth use to manage stressful life experiences, and the family factors that encourage youth to use more adaptive coping strategies. She recently received a grant from The National Institutes of Health to examine the prevalence and consequences of desensitization to community violence in African American and Latino male adolescents, as well as understand how protective factors (i.e., support from family, coping strategies) and vulnerability factors (i.e., aggression status) may increase or decrease risk for desensitization.
ARTHUR J. LURIGIO is a psychologist and senior associate dean for faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola University Chicago. He is also a member of the graduate faculty and director of the Center for the Advancement of Research, Training, and Education (CARTE) at Loyola. In 2003, Dr. Lurigio was named a faculty scholar, one of the highest honors bestowed on a member of the faculty. In recognition of his continued scholar productivity, he was recently named a master researcher in the College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola University Chicago.

STEPHANIE KOLLMAN manages juvenile justice research and reform projects at the Children and Family Justice Center. Her independent collaboration with the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (OJJDP State Advisory Group) includes contributions to the Commission's Youth Reentry Improvement Report, an intensive investigation into Illinois' juvenile parole system. Currently, she is managing an independent, comprehensive juvenile parole/aftercare reform effort inspired by the Reentry Report's findings. She has also completed the commission's report “Raising the Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction: The Future of 17-year-olds in Illinois' Justice System.” The 2010 report evaluates the impact of moving 17-year-old misdemeanants from adult to juvenile jurisdiction. It also recommended a plan to the Governor and General Assembly to responsibly raise the default age of majority to 18 for criminal matters. Resulting successful legislation, Public Act 98-0061, will go into effect January 1, 2014.

TONI IRVING is the executive director of the newly formed Public Safety Action Committee. PSAC is an innovative public/private partnership whose mission is to strengthen communities hardest hit by poverty and violence. The organization invests in programs targeted toward at-risk youth, and helps convene public and private organizations to align and leverage existing initiatives to make Chicago safer and individual lives better. The goal of the program is to engage all Chicagoans to "get in" the effort to provide a safe environment so our children can pursue their dreams. Prior to joining PSAC, Dr. Irving was deputy chief of staff and senior advisor to Governor Patrick Quinn, where she oversaw policy and planning, personnel, legislative and operations issues for public safety and human services agencies. Dr. Irving received her BA from the University of Virginia, MA from the University of Kent at Canterbury, and PhD from New York University.

RONALD L. DEWALD JR. is a deputy chief of the Narcotics and Gangs Section of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. DeWald received a JD and MBA from DePaul University in Chicago and a BA from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He began his legal career at the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office in 1994, and joined the US Attorney’s Office in 2004. Mr. DeWald currently serves as the Anti-Violence Program coordinator and is responsible for overseeing Project Safe Neighborhoods and other federal, state, and local collaborative initiatives involving law enforcement, offender intervention, and crime prevention strategies.

REBECCA LEVIN is the strategic director of the Injury Prevention and Research Center at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. She is leading the
Strengthening Chicago’s Youth (SCY) violence prevention collaborative, which is building capacity among stakeholders in multiple sectors to connect, collaborate and mobilize around a public health approach to violence prevention. Before coming to Lurie Children’s in 2011, Ms. Levin worked at the American Academy of Pediatrics for 12 years, overseeing all violence and injury prevention efforts. Ms. Levin received her BS degree in Integrated Science and Biology from Northwestern University and her MA in Health Policy and Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

CHARLIE RANSFORD is a senior researcher at Cure Violence, an epidemic-control approach to reducing violence based at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His primary responsibilities include advancing the theoretical basis for the Cure Violence model, conducting research on the effectiveness of the model, and publishing papers on the Cure Violence model as well as on violence more generally. Mr. Ransford has trained in Urban Policy at the Harris School for Public Policy at the University of Chicago.

COLLEEN DALEY is the executive director of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV). She has nearly 17 years of experience in political strategy, public policy, legislative affairs, media relations and resource management among large-scale government and nonprofit organizations. ICHV is working with youth from across Illinois in the fight to keep them safe from deadly gun violence through the Student Voices Program. Through the Student Voices Contest, youth are given an opportunity to express how gun violence affects their lives through art, poetry, and essays. The Activist Institute trains youth to be advocates in their own communities. Prior to coming to ICHV, Ms. Daley served as the Director of Legislative Affairs to former State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias. Before that, she served as the Campaign Director of Illinois for Health Care, the Strategic Sourcing Manager for the State of Illinois Department of Central Management Services and the Chief of Staff to former State Representative John Fritchey.