

**Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence
Public Hearing #3:
Children's Exposure to Violence in the Community**

March 19, 2012
5-7:00 p.m. ET

University of Miami Newman Alumni Center
Multi-Purpose Room
6200 San Amaro Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

5 p.m. Testimony From Members of the Public

6:50 p.m. Closing Comments by Task Force Co-Chairs

**Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence
Public Hearing #3:
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March 20, 2012
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. ET

University of Miami Newman Alumni Center
Multi-Purpose Room
6200 San Amaro Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Bernard P. Perlmutter, Director of the Children & Youth Law Clinic, University of Miami School of Law

The Honorable Cindy S. Lederman, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court of Miami-Dade County

Wifredo A. Ferrer, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Florida

8:45 a.m. Comments by Task Force Co-Chairs Joe Torre and Robert Listenbee, Jr.

9 a.m. **The Child Welfare System and Children's Exposure to Violence**

Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services

From 2003–2007, Mr. Samuels served as Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, where he introduced evidence-based practices to address the impact of trauma and exposure to violence on children in state care. He then served as Chief of Staff for Chicago Public Schools, playing a leadership role in managing the third largest school system in the nation at a time when the role of the public schools in preventing and addressing violence in specific Chicago communities was changing rapidly. As Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, he continues to align policies and funding to support healing and recovery for children and youth who have experienced trauma, with an emphasis on increasing access to evidence-based practice.

9:30 a.m. **Interrupting the Cycle of Violence: Local Leaders' Panel**

This bipartisan panel of elected officials will describe the creative solutions they are implementing to address high rates of violence and to improve economic and social conditions in their communities.

The Honorable Mark Luttrell, Jr., Mayor of Shelby County, TN

Mayor Luttrell was elected to lead Shelby County in 2010. Prior to his election, he worked at the United States Bureau of Prisons from 1977 until his retirement in 1999. He also served as warden of federal prisons in Texarkana, TX; Manchester, KY; and Memphis, TN. He was then appointed director of the Shelby County Division of Corrections and served there until his election as sheriff in 2002.

The Honorable Dwight C. Jones, Mayor of Richmond, VA

Mayor Jones has been an active public servant in the City of Richmond for more than 35 years. He served as a member of the Richmond City School Board in 1979 and as its chairman from 1982–1985. As a member of the Virginia House of Delegates for 15 years and Mayor of Richmond for 3 years, Mayor Jones has focused on streamlining government, operational efficiency, and reducing the cost of services.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. **Children’s Differential Experiences of Violence in Highly Impacted Communities**

Children experience violence in all parts of the country and in all kinds of situations, but some communities face steep challenges such as high poverty rates and high rates of community and familial violence. Panelists will discuss the physical and psychological effects of these and other factors on children and youth living in highly impacted communities.

Roy Martin, Program Manager, Partnership Advancing Communities Together, Boston Health Commission

Mr. Martin is a senior youth development specialist in the Youth Development Network within the Boston Public Health Commission. He works to connect young men with health and social services. Previously Mr. Martin worked as a network manager and constituent services manager in the office of U.S. Sen. John Kerry (D–MA).

Major Eddie Levins, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, NC

Major Levins is a 26-year veteran of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in Charlotte, NC. In 1997, Major Levins became involved in the Child Development–Community Policing program, modeled after the New Haven Police Department and Yale University collaboration, and became an executive sponsor of this program, which has grown to serve thousands of children and families annually. The program later became the Southeast Regional Training Center for police and mental health collaborations. Major Levins has trained officers and mental health specialists in jurisdictions across the nation in this model. He continues to serve the Charlotte community as an expert in the areas of police and mental health partnerships.

Sarah Greene, ACSW, LCSW, Program Administrator of Criminal Justice Partnerships, Mecklenburg County, NC

As Program Administrator of Mental Health & Criminal Justice Partnerships, Ms. Greene has partnered with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, directing the Child Development-Community Policing (CD-CP) collaborative among law enforcement, mental health, and child protective services, providing crisis intervention to children and families. Ms. Greene helped found the CD-CP program in Mecklenburg County after being trained in the model at the Yale Child Study Center in 1996. Since that time, she has trained hundreds of police officers on the effects of violence and trauma on child development.

Dawn L. Brown, Executive Director of Girls and Gangs

Girls and Gangs is the only nonprofit organization in Los Angeles County that is solely dedicated to serving girls (ages 12–18) who are involved in the juvenile justice system, including gang members and survivors of sex trafficking. Ms. Brown has worked for more than a decade in juvenile justice systems; on women working in the sex industry; and on issues related to gender-responsive services for young women and post-traumatic stress disorder among gang-involved youth. She currently serves on the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency’s Gang Desistance Advisory Boards.

Noon Break

1 p.m. **Immigrant and At-Risk Youth Exposed to Violence: Creating Successful Responses**

Many immigrants and refugees settle in densely populated urban and suburban settings but experience a sense of isolation due to language, cultural, and other barriers. Panelists will discuss the particular needs and strengths of youth from immigrant communities who face school, community, and/or family violence. Such violence is often exacerbated by other factors such as sexual orientation and gender identity, which can subject young people to further prejudice and isolation. Panelists will share recommendations and promising strategies to mitigate the impact of violence facing youth in immigrant communities and to help them thrive.

Laura Kallus, Executive Director of the PanZOu Project, Inc.

Laura Kallus is the Executive Director of the PanZOu Project, Inc., a nationally recognized, comprehensive gang reduction program incorporating best practices in primary prevention, secondary prevention, intervention, suppression, and reentry initiatives for the Haitian community of North Miami Beach. Ms. Kallus has more than 15 years of experience working with gang-involved youth, from street outreach and case management to program development and implementation.

Carolyn Reyes, J.D., MSW, Senior Staff Attorney at Legal Services for Children (LSC)

Ms. Reyes represents children and youth in immigration, guardianship, dependency, and school discipline matters. She coordinates the Model Standards Project, leading workshops and assisting counties in implementing model professional standards for the care of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth in out-of-home care. Ms. Reyes also helps to coordinate the Equity Project, a collaborative initiative focused on ensuring fairness and respect for LGBT youth in delinquency courts. She co-authored *Hidden Injustice: LGBT Youth in Juvenile Courts*.

Lyn Tan, Program Director, Youth Gang Prevention, at Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)

Ms. Tan directs IRCO's Asian Family Center, which runs the culturally specific Asian/Pacific Islander component of the county gang prevention program. The focus of the program is to improve resiliency and prosocial, employment, and educational skills; to increase student retention; and to provide advocacy and education around the needs of youth at risk of gang involvement.

Michael de Arellano, Ph.D., National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina

Dr. de Arellano is a professor and a licensed clinical psychologist. His clinical work and research focus on developing and evaluating treatment services for child victims of traumatic events from traditionally underserved population groups (e.g., rural, economically disadvantaged, Latino, African American). He also evaluates and adapts evidence-based interventions in these populations.

- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:30 p.m. Task Force Working Meeting
The meeting will include reports from task force members who attended the Joint Base Lewis-McChord listening session held on March 13, review of a draft report outline, and other agenda items as identified by task force members.
- 5:15 p.m. Closing Remarks by Task Force Co-Chairs

**Attorney General’s National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence
Public Hearing #3:
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Wednesday, March 21, 2012
8:30 a.m.–3:15 p.m.

University of Miami Newman Alumni Center
Multi-purpose Room
6200 San Amaro Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

8:30 a.m. Welcome by Task Force Co-Chairs

8:45 a.m. **CEV in the Real World: An Interactive Discussion**

This panel will present the task force members and invited participants with a story about children’s exposure to violence and a problem that could confront almost anyone. The implications of this problem trigger ethical, emotional, legal, and public policy questions that overlap and sometimes conflict. As the participants wrestle with the issues presented in the hypothetical story, they are encouraged to discuss the issues and to say what they would do in difficult decision-making situations if they were personally involved. The viewers are along for the ride, emotionally and intellectually, as the story creates a link for citizens between their lives and issues in the headlines that so often seem remote, abstract, and unconnected to their day-to-day concerns.

Facilitator:

Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Director, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law

Professor Ogletree is a prominent legal theorist who has made an international reputation by taking a hard look at complex issues of law and by working to secure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution for everyone equally under the law. Professor Ogletree has examined these issues not only in the classroom, on the Internet, and in the pages of prestigious law journals, but also in the everyday world of the public defender in the courtroom and in public television forums where these issues can be dramatically revealed.

Panelists:

The Honorable Michael J. Ryan, Cleveland Municipal Court Judge

Judge Ryan grew up with a teenage, drug-addicted mother and did not meet his biological father until he was 22. The victim of a physically abusive, drug- and alcohol-addicted “step” father, Ryan watched his mother die from her drug use when he was 13. He spent much of his childhood years in the Longwood projects,

attending 11 different schools from kindergarten to twelfth grade. Ryan made history in 2001, when at the age of 30, he was the youngest person appointed to a full-time magistrate position for the Cleveland Municipal Court. On Jan. 5, 2012, Ryan was sworn in to his second full six-year term as judge.

Vicki Spriggs, CEO of Texas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

Ms. Spriggs leads Texas CASA, the statewide association for 69 local programs that provides funding and technical assistance to local programs that recruit, train, and supervise volunteers who are appointed by the courts to advocate for children in foster care. Texas CASA also works at the state and national levels to improve the child welfare system. Before assuming this role, Ms. Spriggs was executive director of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission for 16 years.

- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. **CEV in the Real World: An Interactive Discussion (continued)**
- Noon Remarks by Mr. Ogletree
- 12:15 p.m. Break
- 1:15 p.m. Task Force Working Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. Closing Remarks by Task Force Co-Chairs