



Rutgers-Camden panel series aims at juveniles, justice system

Sunday, February 11, 2007

CAMDEN A panel discussion series at Rutgers UniversityCamden will address how trauma, education, race, and gangs contribute to juveniles and the justice system on Thursdays during March and April.

"Rethinking Childhood: Juveniles and the Justice System" is presented by the Rutgers-Camden Center for Children and Childhood Studies and the Children's Justice Clinic at the Rutgers University School of Law at Camden.

On March 1, Sandra Simkins, an associate clinical professor at the Rutgers University School of Law at Camden where she serves as co-director of the Children's Justice Clinic will moderate the discussion "Trauma and Juvenile Delinquency." Panelists include Martin Finkel, a professor of clinical pediatrics and medical director and founder of the Center for Children's Support at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and Linda Williams, professor of criminal justice and criminology at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. This discussion will explore why trauma creates such lasting and damaging effects on juveniles, as well as promising approaches for its treatment.

On March 8, Nyeema Watson, associate director of the Rutgers-Camden Center for Children and Childhood Studies, will moderate the panel discussion "School to Prison Pipeline: The Disconnect Between Juveniles and School." Panelists include Delores Jones-Brown, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and Laval Miller-Wilson, a senior attorney at the Juvenile Law Center. This discussion will address the disconcerting trend of minority males leaving school and entering the criminal justice system in record numbers.

On April 5, Jane Siegel, an associate professor of criminal justice at Rutgers-Camden, will moderate the discussion "Justice or Injustice? The Disproportionate Number of Minority Youth in the Justice System." Panelists include Robert Listenbee, chief of the Juvenile Unit at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, and Michael Finley Sr., a program associate at the W. Haywood Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness and Equity. This discussion will address the problem of disproportionate minority confinement throughout the nation and New Jersey.

On April 12, J. C. Lore III, a visiting clinical assistant professor of law and co-director of the Children's Justice Clinic at the Rutgers-Camden law school, will lead the discussion "Colors: Youth and Gangs." Malik Aziz, a youth advocate in Philadelphia, will serve as a panelist. This discussion will focus on the unique challenges of addressing youth gang involvement throughout southern New Jersey.

Each session will take place from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in room 109 in 319 Cooper St. The series is free of charge and open to the public.

For more information, visit <http://children.camden.rutgers.edu> or <http://camlaw.rutgers.edu/site/clinics/childjustice/>, or call (856) 225-6738.

For directions to Rutgers-Camden, visit www.camden.rutgers.edu.

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