



Human Rights Institute  
GEORGETOWN LAW



GEORGETOWN JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINIC

## 2016 Samuel Dash Conference on Human Rights

### Protecting the Rights of Children: International Norms and Domestic Opportunities

Monday, April 11, 2016

9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Georgetown University Law Center

Gewirz Student Center – 12th Floor

600 New Jersey Ave., N.W.

The 2016 Samuel Dash Conference on Human Rights, co-sponsored by Georgetown Law's Human Rights Institute and Juvenile Justice Clinic, will consider the protection of children's fundamental rights through legal and policy advocacy efforts – particularly those efforts that seek to leverage international standards and utilize domestic mechanisms despite continued challenges to the universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The event will feature experts from across a range of practice areas who have been leading efforts to advocate for children in the courts and in the public sphere, where recent successes have highlighted the importance of creative strategies and sustained efforts. The day will also feature the release of a new HRI report on access to education for undocumented migrant children in the United States – a project developed in partnership with the Women's Refugee Commission.

The Samuel Dash Conference on Human Rights was established by Professor Dash's family and friends, Georgetown Law alumni, and the law firm of Cozen O'Connor following his passing in 2004 to honor his contributions to international and domestic human rights.

More information about Professor Dash and the work of the Human Rights Institute is available at [www.humanrightsinstitute.net](http://www.humanrightsinstitute.net).

# 2016 Samuel Dash Conference on Human Rights

## *Conference Program:*

### **9:30 Coffee and Registration**

### **9:45 Welcoming Remarks**

Andrew I. Schoenholtz: *Professor from Practice & Director, Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute*

### **10:00 Morning Panel: Access to Education for Undocumented Children in the United States**

Access to education for undocumented immigrant children in the United States implicates a number of obligations under both domestic and international law. In January, the Human Rights Institute, in partnership with the Women's Refugee Commission, sent a team to Texas and North Carolina to investigate barriers to enrollment through a series of interviews with families, teachers, school administrators, and government officials. The morning panel will present the findings of this research and highlight recommendations for local and national policy makers to address this critical challenge.

Zenande Booi, Caitlin Callahan, Caroline Kurtz, Genevieve Fugere, Mikaela Harris, Alexandra Hughes, Alexander Kramarczuk, Raimy Reyes, Sruti Swaminathan, *Members of the 2015-2016 Human Rights Institute Fact Finding Project*

### **12:00 Lunch and Keynote Address**

Dr. Susan Bissell, *Director, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children*

### **1:45 Coffee Break**

### **2:00 Afternoon Panel: International Norms and the Protection of Children through Legal and Policy Advocacy in the United States**

Although it was highly active during the development of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – now the most widely ratified human rights treaty in existence – the United States is the only UN member state to have not ratified the CRC. At the same time, pressing human rights challenges involving children abound, and advocates and lawyers have continued to utilize both domestic and international law to protect children across a variety of practice areas.

Considerable academic attention has been devoted to whether the evolving US laws and jurisprudence comply with the obligations outlined in the CRC, particularly in the context of juvenile justice. At the same time, debate in the public and political spheres has been periodically sparked by disagreement over how human rights treaty obligations actually impact US domestic laws. Much less attention, however, has been devoted to the ways

that lawyers and activists have continued to fight for the rights of children despite ongoing debates over the Convention. The purpose of the afternoon panel is to bring these advocates together for a discussion about how such human rights standards can be leveraged through litigation, policy advocacy, and human rights fact-finding to protect children in the context of juvenile justice, immigration, and child labor.

Wallace Mlyniec (Moderator), *Lupo-Ricci Professor of Clinical Legal Studies & Senior Counsel, Georgetown Law Juvenile Justice Clinic*

Maria Woltjen, *Director, Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights*

Marsha Levick, *Deputy Director and Senior Counsel, Juvenile Law Center*

Amy Fetting, *Senior Staff Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project*

Margaret Wurth, *Researcher, Human Rights Watch Children's Rights Division*

**4:00 Closing Remarks**

Christine James-Brown, *Steering Committee, Campaign for the U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*

**4:15 Reception**