Solving the Dropout Crisis: Getting the Other Half to Attend and Achieve

April 2, 2009
9 a.m.–6:30 p.m.
Venable Baetjer Howard Moot Court Room
John and Frances Angelos Law Center
University of Baltimore
1415 Maryland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21201

The University of Baltimore School of Law and its Center for Families, Children and the Courts will present the first annual Urban Child Symposium on April 2, 2009. The event will focus on the dropout crisis that plagues Baltimore city and other urban school districts. The symposium will address the reasons children do not attend school, social problems that affect the school system and school attendance, and what school systems can do to intervene on behalf of children and families to prevent truancy and the failure to graduate from high school.
## Schedule

### 9-10 a.m.  
**Registration**

### 10-10:15 a.m.  
**Opening Remarks:**  
Phillip J. Closius, Dean, University of Baltimore School of Law  
Robert L. Bogomolny, President, University of Baltimore

### 10:15-11:45 a.m.  
**The Urban Child in Context: Families, Schools, Neighborhoods and Lives**  
Moderator: Barbara A. Babb, Associate Professor of Law and Director, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, University of Baltimore  
- Donald DeVore, Secretary, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services  
- Hathaway Ferebee, Executive Director, Safe and Sound  
- Susan Leviton, Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law

### noon-1:30 p.m.  
**Lunch**  
Luncheon Speaker:  
Catherine Curran O‘Malley, First Lady of Maryland and Judge, District Court for Baltimore City  
A special presentation by University of Baltimore President Robert L. Bogomolny will precede the remarks.

### 1:30-3 p.m.  
**The Urban Child in School: Attendance, Behavior and Academic Performance**  
Moderator: Gloria Danziger, Senior Fellow, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, University of Baltimore  
- Andres Alonso, Chief Executive Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools  
- Robert Balfanz, Associate Research Scientist, Center for Social Organization of Schools, The Johns Hopkins University  
- Kate Walsh, President, National Council on Teacher Quality

### 3:30-4:45 p.m.  
**A Call to Action on Behalf of the Urban Child: Solutions to the Problems Surrounding School Attendance**  
Moderator: Judith Moran, Senior Fellow, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, University of Baltimore  
- Ken Seeley, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Center for School Engagement  
- Sylvia McGill, Director, Experience Corps, Greater Homewood Community Corp.  
- David Young, Judge, Circuit Court for Baltimore City

### 4:45-5 p.m.  
**Closing Remarks**  
Barbara A. Babb

### 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
**Keynote Address:**  
Truancy and Dropout Rates in Urban Schools: How to Prevent Them  
Jonathan Kozol, Educator and Author

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### Conference Registration and Accommodations

There is no charge to attend the conference, but preregistration is strongly recommended as space is limited. To register online, visit [http://law.ubalt.edu/urbanchild](http://law.ubalt.edu/urbanchild). Contact Sharon Curley at 410.837.5615 or scurley@ubalt.edu with any questions.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Peabody Court Hotel (612 Cathedral St.), which is about a 10-minute walk from UB. To obtain the special conference rate of $125/night (single or double), please make your reservation by March 2, 2009, and mention the Urban Child Symposium. For more information on the Peabody Court Hotel, call 410.727.7101 or visit [www.peabodycourthotel.com](http://www.peabodycourthotel.com).

If you need special accommodations, contact the UB School of Law Office of External Relations at 410.837.5648 by March 2, 2009. The most current information about visitor parking at the University is available at [www.ubalt.edu/parking](http://www.ubalt.edu/parking).