

Restorative Practices and the Urban Child: Rethinking School Discipline

Tenth Annual Urban Child Symposium

April 4, 2018

**University of Baltimore School of Law
Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC)**

**In partnership with
Open Society Institute - Baltimore**

Bios

Barbara Babb, *Associate Professor of Law and Director, Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts*

Barbara Babb has taught various family law courses at the University of Baltimore since 1989. She has written and spoken extensively at the state, national and international levels about unified family courts, family justice system reform, family law decision-making and other family law issues. Professor Babb's scholarship is interdisciplinary and focuses on the incorporation of therapeutic jurisprudence and the ecology of human development in family law matters. She has participated in court and law reform projects in Maryland, nationally and internationally. In recognition of her work, Professor Babb has received the University System of Maryland Regents' Award for Outstanding Public Service, the first Benjamin L. Cardin Distinguished Service Award, the Rosalyn B. Bell Award for Outstanding Contributions in Family Law, two Outstanding Teaching Awards from the School of Law, a Human Rights and Justice Champion Award from the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau and the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award from the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC). She is the editor-in-chief of AFCC's *Family Court Review*, the leading interdisciplinary academic and research journal for family law professionals. She is also the Director of the Post-J.D. Certificate in Family Law Program at the University of Baltimore School of Law. She earned a J.D. and a M.S. from Cornell University, and she is a member of the New York and Maryland bars.

Gloria Danziger, *Senior Fellow, Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts*

Gloria Danziger has served as CFCC Senior Fellow since 2002, where she oversees the day-to-day operation of the Truancy Court Program, researches and writes about family justice system reform and develops grant proposals and programs. Prior to her position at CFCC, Ms. Danziger served as Staff Director of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Substance Abuse for eight years. She has spoken widely and has written about the impact of addiction and substance abuse on families, children and the courts, and she is the founding Co-Chair of the National Substance Abuse Coalition, a coalition of national membership organizations collaborating on substance abuse and addiction issues. Ms. Danziger has served on a number of advisory committees and boards. In 2002, she received the Award of Outstanding Service from the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy. Prior to entering law school, Ms. Danziger was an investigative reporter in Atlantic City and worked for the East European

Bureau of the Voice of America in Munich, Germany. She earned a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center and an M.Phil. in Politics from Oxford University.

Monique Dixon, Deputy Director of Policy, NAACP Legal Defense Fund

Monique Dixon is the Deputy Director of Policy at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) where she assists with the development, coordination and implementation of LDF's overall policy and legislative reform priorities. Prior to her position with LDF, Ms. Dixon served as the Director of the Juvenile Justice Program of Open Society Institute (OSI)-Baltimore. At OSI, Ms. Dixon was responsible for developing, monitoring and evaluating criminal and juvenile justice grant-making and advocacy strategies, and distributing over \$8 million in grant awards to nonprofit organizations and state agencies. Ms. Dixon has also worked as the Senior Attorney and Director of the Opportunity to Learn Program at the Advancement Project, where she worked on the *Ending the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track* and *Quality Education for All* projects. Ms. Dixon earned a J.D. from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and a B.A. from Hunter College of the City University of New York.

Graciella Drew, Restorative Practices Trainer & Consultant

Graciella Drew is a Restorative Practices Trainer and Consultant to urban and suburban school districts in Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, among others. Ms. Drew has over 25 years of experience in the field of education. She is licensed by the International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP) and teaches professionals how to train their staff, students, and community members in restorative practices. Her work also involves facilitating restorative circles and conferences, social skills groups for students, and parent workshops. Ms. Drew served as Director of Restorative Practices at Hampstead Hill Academy for four years and has provided training and/or consulted at: Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts, City Springs Elementary/Middle School, Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School, Frederick Elementary School, Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology, Furman Templeton Preparatory Academy, Govans Elementary School, Windsor Hills Elementary/Middle School, and Wolfe Street Academy. Ms. Drew earned a B.A. in Psychology from James Madison University and a Master in Education and Human Development from George Washington University.

Akil Hamm, Baltimore City Public Schools Police Chief

Akil Hamm is the Chief of Police for Baltimore City Public Schools, where he directs the school district's police force of over 100 officers and 13 civilians. Chief Hamm worked at Baltimore City Public Schools for 18 years, beginning as a school police officer in 2000, as deputy chief from 2012 to 2016, acting chief from 2016 to 2017 and as chief since 2017. He directed all school police officers to undergo mandatory training last summer on reducing student arrests, implementing conflict resolution, and recognizing and addressing implicit bias. Under his leadership, there has been a dramatic decrease in school-based arrests and an increase in the number of students diverted to programs such as teen court, community conferencing, and mediation. He has also created a School Police Student Committee that is charged with making recommendations about safety issues. Chief Hamm has expanded officers' participation in police-community programs and partnerships, organized summer camps, and created parent networking groups. He works closely with community partners such as Huddle Up, Stand Up Baltimore, Open Society Institute-Baltimore, and K.E.Y.S. Development, among many others.

Steve Korr, *Lead Team Member, Akoben LLC.*

Steve Korr is Lead Team Member at Akoben LLC, where he has provided organizational leadership, curriculum development, trainings, and consultation since 2015. Mr. Korr's work includes training on restorative practices, trauma-informed care, cultural relevancy and strength-based interventions. He also provides coaching and consultation on implementing and sustaining restorative practices programs. Mr. Korr has also worked as a trainer and consultant at the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) and as a school counselor and school administrator at several IIRP demonstration schools. Mr. Korr has provided training in restorative practices to thousands of professionals in education, criminal justice and social services nationally and internationally. Mr. Korr's extensive experience spans the fields of mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, outpatient counseling and alternative education. He has also collaborated with faith-based organizations to help facilitate restorative interventions for families who have a member struggling with addiction. Mr. Korr earned a B.A. in Psychology from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania and a Master of Science in Restorative Practices from the International Institute for Restorative Practices.

Frank Kros, *President, The Upside Down Organization*

Frank Kros is President of The Upside Down Organization, Director of the National-At-Risk Education Network (NAREN) and an executive vice president of The Children's Guild, a multi-service children's organization headquartered in Maryland. Mr. Kros worked as a career child advocate, who has served as a childcare worker, child abuse investigator, children's home administrator, consultant, college professor, attorney, writer and speaker. Mr. Kros joined The Children's Guild as vice president of programs in 2000 and became executive vice president in 2002. Prior to arriving at The Guild, Mr. Kros practiced law and served as vice president for curriculum and training at Children's Square U.S.A. in Council Bluffs, Iowa; as a child abuse service officer for the Douglas County Juvenile Court in Omaha, Nebraska; and as a family teacher at Father Flanagan's Boy's Home (Boy's Town). Mr. Kros speaks widely on various topics, including brain-based learning, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), neuroscience of the teenage brain, and the effects of stress, child abuse and poverty on brain function and development. Frank received his J.D. magna cum laude from Notre Dame Law School, Master's degree in social work from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and bachelor's degree in psychology from Creighton University.

Rhonda Richetta, *Principal, City Springs Elementary/Middle School*

Dr. Rhonda Richetta has served as the principal of City Springs Elementary/Middle School, a Baltimore City public charter school operated by the Baltimore Curriculum Project, for eleven years. City Springs is a PK-8 neighborhood conversion charter school with one of the highest poverty rates in the City. Dr. Richetta has led the implementation of restorative practices at City Springs since 2007, which transformed the school's climate and culture and led to significant reductions in school suspensions. During Dr. Richetta's tenure, City Springs' enrollment has increased from 355 students in 2007 to 765 students this year. City Springs has become a model restorative school and has received local and national recognition for its implementation of restorative practices and positive school climate and culture. Dr. Richetta currently serves on the Maryland State Commission for the School-to-Prison Pipeline and Restorative Practices. She earned her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from The Johns Hopkins University and a Doctorate Degree in Education Leadership, Management, and Policy, from Seton Hall University.

John Sarbanes, *United States Representative for Maryland's 3rd District*

Congressman Sarbanes has represented Maryland's Third Congressional District in the U.S. Congress since 2007. He has chaired the Democracy Reform Task Force since 2017 and currently serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Subcommittee on Health, and the Subcommittee on Energy and Power. Congressman Sarbanes has fought to expand higher education opportunities through financial assistance programs like the Pell Grant and has authored laws to help students repay their college loans after they graduate. In this effort, Congressman Sarbanes wrote a law to create the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Option, which provides graduates with forgiveness of remaining student loan debt after ten years of work in public service or the non-profit sector. Congressman Sarbanes is a Baltimore City native who attended Baltimore City public schools through middle school. Prior to serving Maryland's Third District in Congress, Rep. Sarbanes worked for the Maryland State Department of Education, where, under his leadership, Maryland's public school system became one of the best in the nation. He has authored laws to help students repay college loans and receive financial assistance, which has expanded opportunities for higher education. He earned a B.A. from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Heather Warnken, *Visiting Fellow, U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs*

Heather Warnken is a Visiting Fellow at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Ms. Warnken works in the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Office for Victims of Crime to improve the national response to crime victims. Prior to her position with DOJ, Ms. Warnken spent five years as a legal policy associate at the Warren Institute of Law and Social Policy at the University of California (UC) Berkeley School of Law. While at the Warren Institute, she led multidisciplinary projects using research and collaborative partnerships to bridge the gap between research, policy, and practice, including two statewide needs assessments on how to improve access to services and compensation for underserved victims of crime. She also worked with the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department to develop policies and procedures to improve outcomes for youth. She served as law clerk to the Honorable Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., Court of Appeals of Maryland, provided pro bono direct legal services in domestic violence and child welfare-related matters, and was a 2015 Women's Foundation of California Criminal Justice Fellow. She holds an LL.M. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School, and a B.A. from Johns Hopkins University.

Karen Webber, *Director, Education and Youth Development Program, Open Society Institute-Baltimore*

Karen Webber is the Director of the Education and Youth Development program at the Open Society Institute - Baltimore. The program fosters the creation of inclusive and engaging schools and programs that provide students with the resources and support necessary to succeed in school and into adulthood. Previously, Ms. Webber served as the Executive Director of the Office of Student Support and Safety for Baltimore City Public Schools, where she helped create policies and practices that contributed to the dramatic decreases in student suspension and expulsions across the district. Ms. Webber has served as a resident principal at Dunbar High School and as a principal at the National Academy Foundation School (NAF), where she piloted restorative approaches to education. She began her career at the New York City Commission on Human Rights, and served as Assistant Commissioner for the city's Department of Homeless Services. She was the Executive Director of the Public Justice Center in Baltimore and the Open Housing Center in New York City. Ms. Webber earned a B.A. in English from Colgate University and a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law.

Ronald Weich, *Dean, University of Baltimore School of Law*

Ronald Weich was named Dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law in 2012, following a lengthy career in government in which he served as an Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice during the Obama administration and as Chief Counsel to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and to Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Dean Weich began his legal career as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan. In 1987, he joined the staff of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, serving as its legislative liaison and representing the commission in federal courts throughout the country in litigation challenging the constitutionality of the Sentencing Reform Act. From 1990 to 1997, as general counsel to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources and chief counsel to Sen. Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Weich advised the senior senator from Massachusetts on civil and criminal justice issues, drug control policy, patient safety legislation, constitutional amendments and other matters. Weich was nominated to his post at the Justice Department in April 2009 and was confirmed the following month. Dean Weich has published numerous articles on federal sentencing and other criminal law topics. He received a B.A. from Columbia University and a J.D. from Yale Law School.