

**Children's Law Center  
2013 Children's Law Conference**

# **Improving Educational Outcomes For Vulnerable Youth**

**November 22, 2013**

**Columbia Conference Center  
Columbia, South Carolina**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
School of Law

- 8:00 – 8:45**      **Registration**
- 8:45 – 9:00**      **Welcome**  
*Harry W. Davis, Jr., Director - Children's Law Center*
- 9:00 – 9:15**      Greetings and Introductions
- 9:15 – 10:30**    **Plenary: The Unmet Educational Needs of Children and Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems**  
*Peter Leone, Ph D*
- 10:30 – 10:45**    **BREAK**
- 10:45 – 11:45**    **Workshop Session I**
- (a) From Principles to Practice: Improving Educational Performances  
*Peter Leone, Ph D*
  - (b) DSS's Independent Living Services to Improve Educational Outcomes  
*Kathleen McLean-Titus, MSW; Terri D. Pope, MSW*
  - (c) School Districts - The Federal Laws They Must Follow and the Resulting Headaches for Outside Agencies  
*Meredith L. Seibert, JD*
- 11:45 – 12:45**    **LUNCH**
- 12:45 – 1:45**    **Workshop Session II**
- (a) Bullying as an Obstacle to Positive Educational Outcomes  
*Susan Limber, Ph D, MLS*
  - (b) Educational Neglect and Effective Treatment Planning for Children and Youth in Foster Care  
*Doug Woodbrown, Ed M; Salley Branch, M Ed; Dana Reed, JD, MAT*
  - (c) Truancy: Applicable Laws and Intervention Strategies  
*M. Christine "Tena" Hardee, JD*
  - (d) Obstacles Facing LGBT Youth in the Educational System  
*Alex Karydi, MA, CSAC, CAC*
- 1:45 – 2:00**      **BREAK**
- 2:00 – 3:00**      **Workshop Session III**
- (a) Strategies for Dropout Prevention  
*John Gailer, M Ed*
  - (b) School-related Offenses and School Diversion Programs  
*Chief Larry McNeil; Ouida Dest, JD*
  - (c) Early Childhood Educational and Long-term Outcomes  
*A. Baron Holmes, Ph D*
  - (d) Non-traditional Options: GED Testing, Adult Education, Virtual Schools, Alternative Schools  
*David B. Stout, Ed D; Aveena R. Coleman, MA*
- 3:00 – 3:15**      **BREAK**
- 3:15 – 3:30**      Introduction of Closing Speaker
- 3:30 – 4:15**      **Closing Session**  
*Harold Rhodes "RJ" Sloke, Jr*

**Dr. Peter Leone** is a Professor in the Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education at the University of Maryland. He received his B.A. and M.A. in history and special education, respectively, at the University of Iowa and his Ph.D. in special education at the University of Washington. During his professional career, he has taught adolescents with behavioral disorders in the public schools, trained teachers, and studied education programs and practices in institutional settings. Dr. Leone has monitored and evaluated education services, and provided technical assistance in jails, detention centers, training schools, and prisons in a number of states. He is the former Director of the National Center on Education, Disability, and Juvenile Justice at the UM and he served on the Blue Ribbon Commission for the reform of the Texas Youth Commission in 2007. His research examines access and equity of education services for marginalized youth particularly those in institutional settings, school exclusion, and litigation involving individuals with disabilities in the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

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**Harold Rhodes “RJ” Sloke, Jr.**, was born and raised in South Carolina in an abusive household, which eventually landed him in foster care. While in foster care, he was moved between 30 group and foster homes and became involved with the juvenile justice system by the time he reached his teen years. RJ attended 12 different high schools and was in the ninth grade for the third time before his teacher, Karen Parker, intervened to advocate on his behalf. With Mrs. Parker’s help, RJ was promoted to tenth grade, joined the Junior ROTC, and at age 17, he enlisted in the Army Reserves split options program. RJ aged out of the foster care system at age 18. After experiencing homelessness, he found a full time job and graduated from high school at age 19, an accomplishment few expected of him.

Last summer, RJ was a star dual intern at the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute with Senator Roy Blunt. He published an extensive report outlining recommendations on how to improve the United States foster care system, with a focus on crossover juvenile youth. One of his recommendations, the Uninterrupted Scholars Act, gained bipartisan support and was signed by the President in January 2013. Through his advocacy work on Capitol Hill, RJ landed a staffer position working with Senator Landrieu and remained in that position until recently, when he returned to the University of Missouri-St. Louis on a full scholarship and is pursuing degrees in Criminology and Social Work.

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## WORKSHOP SESSION ONE

### **From Principles to Practice: Improving Educational Performance**

In this workshop, Dr. Leone will build on the plenary presentation to discuss specific strategies for improving the educational performance of vulnerable youth. He will discuss quality educational services, the need for early education, support services, interagency collaboration, and monitoring of outcomes. Dr. Leone will present evidence-based practices that promote educational success and the capacity to become a productive adult. This workshop is designed for frontline staff who work with vulnerable youth.

### **DSS's Independent Living Services to Improve Educational Outcomes**

This workshop will focus on the supports and services available to youth in foster care through the Chafee Independent Living Program and the Education and Training Voucher Program. The presenters will speak briefly about current research findings and highlight services that can be provided to assist our youth with reaching educational goals.

### **School Districts - The Federal Laws They Must Follow and the Resulting Headaches for Outside Agencies**

This presentation will provide attendees with an overview of relevant federal laws that apply to public school districts and the children they serve, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504, as well as corresponding special education procedures used for disciplinary proceedings or when accessing special education services. Ms. Seibert will explore limitations and restrictions that caseworkers may encounter due to these laws, particularly when attempting to access certain educational services or student records, and provide tips for working cooperatively with school districts within the bounds of these laws.

## **WORKSHOP SESSION TWO**

### **Bullying as an Obstacle to Positive Educational Outcomes**

In this session, Dr. Limber will highlight current research on bullying among children and youth and best practices for prevention and intervention. Specifically, participants will explore what bullying is/is not and review current research about the nature and prevalence of bullying; its effects on children's education, health, and mental health; and factors that place children at risk for involvement in bullying. As attention to bullying prevention has increased markedly in recent years, Dr. Limber also will discuss challenges and mis-directions in bullying prevention. Finally, a variety of resources will be highlighted.

### **Educational Neglect and Effective Treatment Planning for Children and Youth in Foster Care**

In this workshop, representatives from the Department of Social Services will address the issue of educational neglect in foster children, suggest an approach to dealing with the issue, and give practical, hands-on advice for how to structure an effective educational treatment plan.

### **Truancy: Applicable Laws and Intervention Strategies**

This session will provide an overview of state laws, regulations, and intervention strategies designed to prevent school absenteeism related to truancy.

### **Obstacles Facing LGBT Youth in the Educational System**

For thousands of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) youth in the United States, daily life is fraught with perils that no child should have to face, such as severe harassment in school, rejection from family, and not knowing where they will sleep at night. These factors affect their health, well-being, and ability to function within the school system. This session provides a review of the three key educational barriers for LGBT youth—bullying, family rejection, and homelessness—and brings participants up to speed on recent research and findings affecting this population. Attendees will leave this session with a better understanding of our LGBT youth in the school and juvenile system and resources to advocate for them within all systems.

#### **Continuing Education**

This conference is pre-approved for 5.0 contact hours of continuing education credit for licensed psychologists, social workers, and licensed professional counselors. Social workers may receive up to 1 degree hour. Credits for attorneys, law enforcement officers, and victim service providers have been requested.

## **WORKSHOP SESSION THREE**

### **Strategies for Dropout Prevention**

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network at Clemson University has identified 15 effective dropout prevention strategies that have had the most positive impact on the dropout rate. This workshop will begin with a brief overview of the dropout issue and its root causes. More importantly, the speaker will present a series of intervention strategies and best practices, emphasizing those that frontline social services and juvenile justice staff can pursue. Participants will enhance their understanding of strategies to improve student outcomes and reduce the risk of dropout.

### **Responding to School-related Offenses**

This session will provide an overview of common school-related offenses and explore how school officials, law enforcement, and family court prosecutors must work together to come up with solutions to handling such offenses. In addition, attendees will learn about one police chief's efforts to reduce school suspensions and crime in his community through Crossroads, a program he implemented in his department as an alternative to suspension, which won the department and the City of Bennettsville the S.C. Municipal Association Public Safety Award for the State of South Carolina.

### **Early Childhood Education and Long-term Outcomes**

This breakout session will consider the educational problems of at-risk children and youth in early childhood to outcomes in middle school and high school, especially those in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Focal points for the presentation and discussion will include: 1) South Carolina data currently and potentially available; 2) critical policy and practice issues to be addressed by the education, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems; and 3) suggestions from session participants for investigating and resolving the most critical educational problems of at-risk students.

### **Exploring Educational Options for Non-traditional Students**

Many students struggle to be successful in traditional classroom settings. This session will explore other routes for assisting students in staying in school and achieving educational goals. Ms. Coleman will provide participants with information on Alternative School Programs operated statewide. Participants will learn about the services available to assist students who, for behavioral or academic reasons, are not benefiting from the regular school program. Dr. Stout will provide participants with information on adult education programs and options for children who may have been expelled, dropped out of school, or failed to earn a high school diploma for other reasons. Participants will learn about a new GED exam which will be implemented in 2014 and is only available through a computer-based system. He will also discuss other programs which will help young adults to prepare for the workforce, such as the benefits of taking the WorkKeys Assessments and earning a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), which has been earned by over 50,000 adults within the last five years.

# 2013 CHILDREN'S LAW CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration Fee: **\$85.00** (Lunch included)

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mr.  Ms.  \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: SC DSS  SC DJJ  \_\_\_\_\_ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ S.C. Bar # \_\_\_\_\_ (Attorneys Only)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORKSHOP SELECTIONS

1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	<p><i>You may attend one (1) workshop per session. Please indicate your preference by placing a check mark in your first (1st) and second (2nd) choices for each session. We will make every effort to place you in your requested workshop.</i></p>
<b>Workshop Session I (Please select your 1st and 2nd choices)</b>		
		From Principles to Practice: Improving Educational Performance
		DSS's Independent Living Services to Improve Educational Outcomes
		School Districts - The Federal Laws They Must Follow and the Resulting Headaches for Outside Agencies
<b>Workshop Session II (Please select your 1st and 2nd choices)</b>		
		Bullying as an Obstacle to Positive Educational Outcomes
		Educational Neglect and Effective Treatment Planning for Children and Youth in Foster Care
		Truancy: Applicable Laws and Intervention Strategies
		Obstacles Facing LGBT Youth in the Educational System
<b>Workshop Session III (Please select your 1st and 2nd choices)</b>		
		Strategies for Dropout Prevention
		School-related Offenses and School Diversion Programs
		Early Childhood Education and Long-term Outcomes
		Non-traditional Options: GED Testing, Adult Education, Virtual Schools, Alternative Schools

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 Credit/debit and electronic check payments available online at <http://childlaw.sc.edu>

Please visit our website for refund policy and on-site registration information. Register online or mail registrations to:  
**2013 Children's Law Conference - Children's Law Center, 1600 Hampton Street, Suite 502, Columbia, SC 29208**

### CONFIRMATIONS

E-mail confirmations will be sent within five (5) business days after receipt of your registration. If you do not receive your confirmation, please call us at (803) 777-1646

**2018 CHILDREN'S LAW CONFERENCE  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
School of Law

**Children's Law Center  
University of South Carolina  
1600 Hampton Street, Suite 502  
Columbia, South Carolina 29208**

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**2018 CHILDREN'S LAW CONFERENCE  
IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES  
FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH**

**Featured Speakers:**  
**Peter Leone, PhD**  
**Harold Rhodes "RJ" Sloke, Jr.**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018  
COLUMBIA CONFERENCE CENTER  
169 Laurelhurst Avenue, Columbia, SC 29210**