



CENTER FOR CHILDREN, LAW & POLICY  
AT THE  
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# Children and the Law After the Katrina Disaster:

An Interdisciplinary Conference on Young Evacuees



SPONSORED BY THE

CENTER FOR CHILDREN, LAW & POLICY  
AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE

ABA CENTER ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW

April 20, 2007 ➡ University of Houston Law Center

FORTHCOMING IN DECEMBER 2007

from the

American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law

in collaboration with the

Center for Children, Law & Policy  
at the University of Houston Law Center

**THE KATRINA EFFECT:  
DISASTERS AND CHILDREN**

Based on proceedings from

*Children and the Law after the Katrina Disaster:  
An Interdisciplinary Conference on Young Evacuees*

University of Houston Law Center  
April 20, 2007

with additional articles, commentary and recommendations

TOPICS

- ◆ Child welfare
- ◆ Juvenile justice
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Survivors interviewing survivors
- ◆ Implications of the data
- ◆ Policy and law reform implications

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Co-DIRECTOR ELLEN MARRUS, GEORGE BUTLER RESEARCH PROFESSOR OF LAW  
Co-DIRECTOR LAURA OREN, LAW FOUNDATION PROFESSOR OF LAW

We have a simple goal for this interdisciplinary conference on Children and the Law after the Katrina Disaster. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of children who were displaced by the hurricanes of 2005, we are determined to identify new ways to protect children's rights in future disasters.

We offer our sincere thanks to all who have made this conference possible – from presenters and panelists to the individuals and organizations supporting the Center for Children, Law & Policy at the University of Houston Law Center. A special “thank you” is reserved for the ABA Center on Children and the Law, our collaborator on this conference and on a forthcoming book that will document its outcomes.

Everyone at this conference shares a common bond of concern for children and their needs. We gather to share ideas and perspectives from a variety of disciplines, and to translate our concern into purpose.

*Ellen Marrus*  
Ellen Marrus

*Laura Oren*  
Laura Oren

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# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30-9:00 a.m.

**Registration**

9:00-9:15 a.m.

*Welcome*  
DEAN RAY NIMMER

9:15-10:15 a.m.

*Overview and Commentary*  
INTRODUCED BY ELLEN MARRUS AND LAURA OREN

CHARLES OGLETREE

*Katrina, Children, and the 3 Rs: Race, Reconstruction, and Redemption*

LAWRENCE POWELL

*What Does American History Tell Us About Katrina, and Vice Versa?*

10:15-10:30 a.m.

**Break**

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

*Juvenile Justice and Foster Care: What Katrina Exposed and  
How Children Can Better Be Served By the System*

MODERATED BY ELLEN MARRUS

MEGHAN BUTASEK

*Information Sharing Manual for Children in Foster Care after Disasters*

GERARD GLYNN

*Foster Care: Disasters Complicate an Already Bad Situation*

JUDGE ERNESTINE GRAY

*After a Disaster: One Judge's Reflections of Katrina*

DAVID KATNER

*Rethinking Juvenile Justice in the Wake of Katrina*

12:00-1:00 p.m.

**Lunch**

*A Survivor's Perspective*  
INTRODUCED BY MALIKAH MARRUS

GLEND A HARRIS

*Katrina Children More Than A Year Later*

1:00-2:30 p.m.

*Empirical Data: What the Data Tell Us About  
How Disasters Affect Children and Policy Implications*  
MODERATED BY ELLEN MARRUS

SHARON HALL

*Disasters and Psychological Risk in Children*

CARL LINDAHL WITH SHARI SMOTHERS, VICTORIA MCFADDEN AND  
JENNA BADDELEY

*Archiving the Voices and Needs of Katrina's Children*

LAURA OREN

*Child Evacuation and Public Policy: London 1939 and New Orleans 2005*

RICK WILSON WITH MALIKAH MARRUS

*Family Structure, Health and Children among Houston Katrina Evacuees*

2:30-2:45 p.m.

**Break**

2:45-4:15 p.m.

*Education: Rebuilding and Reform*

MODERATED BY STACEY MATHEWS

KRISTI BOWMAN

*Rebuilding Schools, Rebuilding Communities: The Civic Role of Public  
Schools After Katrina*

DANIELLE HOLLEY-WALKER

*Charter Schools and Accountability in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina*

AUGUSTINA REYES WITH LAWRENCE MARSHALL

*Public Education for the Children of Katrina: Access and Documentation*

ANNA SHAVERS

*Providing an Adequate and Equitable Education for the Children of  
Katrina and Other Victims of Disaster*

4:15-4:45 p.m.

**Closing Remarks**

*What Have We Learned? Where Do We Go From Here?*

CHARLES OGLETREE AND LAWRENCE POWELL

### **JENNA BADDELEY**

Jenna Baddley is a graduate student in social and clinical psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. Jenna is a student in James Pennebaker's language and health psychology lab; her research focuses on the social aspects of mental illness and personal upheavals.

### **KRISTI BOWMAN**

Kristi Bowman is an Assistant Professor of Law at Drake University and is currently a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Mississippi. She will join the faculty of the Michigan State University College of Law this summer. Prior to joining the faculty of Drake University, Ms. Bowman served as a clerk for the 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, represented school districts in private practice at Franczek Sullivan, P.C. in Chicago, and worked for the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. Professor Bowman has numerous publications in the area of education and civil rights.

### **MEGHAN BUTASEK**

Meghan Butasek is a JD candidate at Maryland Law School. Ms. Butasek earned a Master in Public Health degree from the University of Virginia while working as a professional firefighter in Charlottesville. She has volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for three years and with the American Red Cross.

### **GERARD GLYNN**

Gerard F. Glynn is an Associate Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Programs at Barry University's Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law. Prior to joining the faculty at Barry University, Professor Glynn was an Assistant Professor of Law and Director of Clinics at University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law (UALR). While at UALR, he helped develop a juvenile / family clinic, mental health clinic, and mediation clinic. He has also taught at Florida State University and served as a fellow at Georgetown University Law Center. Professor Glynn is the founding Executive Director of Florida's Children First, a statewide child advocacy organization. Professor Glynn has focused his practice and publications on children in the courts.

### **ERNESTINE GRAY**

Ernestine Steward Gray was first elected to the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Section "A", on November 6, 1984 to fill an unexpired term. She was re-elected in July 1986, October 1994 and again in November 2002. A native of South Carolina, Judge Gray received her early education in the public schools of Orangeburg, South Carolina. She graduated from Wilkinson High School in 1964. She attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Louisiana State University School of Law. Upon graduation, she remained in Louisiana and engaged in a private law practice. She also worked with the Baton Rouge Legal Aid Society where she handled hundreds of family law cases. Active in civic and community affairs, Judge Gray is a member of numerous professional and civic organizations and has served on many boards and committees, many of which have as their mission

improving the lives of children and families. Judge Gray served as 57th President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Immediate Past President of the YWCA Board of Directors. Judge Gray has received national recognition for her work and is in great demand as a presenter and speaker on the local, state, and national levels.

### **SHARON HALL**

Sharon K. Hall is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Houston, Clear Lake. Professor Hall is a consultant to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and is a frequent presenter around the country. Her list of publications and reviews includes an extensive body of work in the area of children and child welfare. Dr. Hall studies trauma and resilience in children.

### **GLENDA HARRIS**

Glenda Harris is a New Orleans native and a lifelong resident of the Lower Ninth Ward. Her early training and professional activity involved nursing and health care. After many years as a community activist and neighborhood spokesperson, in 2004 she was appointed Director of the Advocacy Center of the Lower Ninth Ward, a pilot project focused on creating a voice for embattled New Orleans neighborhoods at the highest level of city government. The day before Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, she and a family caravan eventually totaling some 40 cars came to Houston seeking temporary refuge. In January 2006, Glenda participated in the first field school mounted by the Surviving Katrina and Rita in Houston project. A year later, she continues to reside in Houston and works as the Katrina Coordinator for the Children's Defense Fund.

### **DANIELLE HOLLEY-WALKER**

Danielle R. Holley-Walker is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of South Carolina School of Law. She has published articles on desegregation, affirmative action, race neutral admissions policies, and No Child Left Behind Act. Her ongoing research agenda includes the areas of civil rights, education law and policy, civil procedure, and administrative law. She graduated from Yale College with a B.A. in History and from Harvard Law School. Before beginning her teaching career, Professor Holley-Walker practiced commercial litigation at Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP in Houston, Texas and clerked for Judge Carl E. Stewart, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

### **DAVID KATNER**

David R. Katner is a Professor of Clinical Law and the Felix J. Dreyfous Teaching Fellow in Juvenile Law at Tulane University Law School. In private practice, he worked as an indigent defender, and has handled general civil and criminal cases including several death penalty cases. He is currently on the board of the National Association of Counsel for Children, and on the board of the Children's Bureau; he has served on the board of directors of the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation, and the Jefferson Parish Juvenile Services Advisory Board. He is the faculty founder of the Tulane University Vietnamese Association, of Tulane's

Collegiate Organization for AIDS Prevention, and Tulane's student chapter of the National Association of Counsel for Children. He has served as a member of the Louisiana Children's Code Project and legal advisor to Covenant House in New Orleans. He sits as an ad hoc judge in Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. Professor Katner has authored numerous publications focusing on a range of juvenile related issues.

#### **CARL LINDAHL**

Carl Lindahl, Martha Gano Houstoun Research Professor at the University of Houston, is a Fellow of the American Folklore Society and an internationally recognized authority in medieval folklore, folk narrative, and folklore fieldwork. His book, *SWAPPING STORIES: FOLKTALES FROM LOUISIANA*, was named Louisiana Humanities Book of the Year by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. He has received a Fulbright Distinguished Professorship as well as the American Folklore Society's Alcée Fortier Award and a University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award. Professor Lindahl is co-director of Surviving Katrina and Rita in Houston, a project of the Texas Commission on the Arts, the University of Houston, and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, in which hurricane survivors receive training and pay to document the storm stories of fellow survivors

#### **ELLEN MARRUS**

Ellen Marrus is George Butler Research Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center. Professor Marrus received her B.A., from Kean College; her J.D. from the University of San Francisco; and her LL.M. from Georgetown Law Center. Professor Marrus concentrates her scholarship in the areas of children's rights, professionalism and clinical education. She presents at various conferences and seminars on juvenile law and clinical education. She is the co-director of the Center for Children, Law & Policy at the University of Houston Law Center.

#### **MALIKAH MARRUS**

Malikah Marrus, LMSW, is a research fellow of the Center for Children, Law & Policy at the University of Houston Law Center. In this role she works with local attorneys representing juveniles in cases involving delinquency, abuse and neglect. She also evaluates programs and policy for youth, and is developing a curriculum for middle school children covering the right to counsel. Ms. Marrus received her MSW from the University of Houston's Graduate College of Social Work in 2003 and was a Hartford AGIFT Fellow. Currently, she is a Ph.D. student in Social Welfare at Case Western Reserve University, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, in Cleveland, Ohio.

#### **LAWRENCE MARSHALL**

Lawrence Marshall is an elected representative on the HISD Board of Education and a strong advocate for Houston's schoolchildren. A former educator with 35 years experience in the Houston Independent School District, he has served as a teacher, principal, area superintendent, associate superintendent, and deputy superintendent during his career. He helped pioneer the introduction of HISD Magnet programs, which have enjoyed nationwide recognition and replication. Mr. Marshall received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Southern University. For his commitment to public education, he was recently recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Council of Urban Boards of Education.

#### **VICTORIA MCFADDEN**

Victoria McFadden is a Folklore student at the University of Houston. She is also studying Creative Writing.

#### **CHARLES OGLETREE**

Charles J. Ogletree is the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and the director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School. Professor Ogletree has authored numerous books and scholarly articles on race matters and the criminal justice system. Prior to becoming a faculty member at Harvard Law, Mr. Ogletree was a public defender in Washington, D.C.

#### **LAURA OREN**

Laura E. Oren is Law Foundation Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center and the co-director of the Center for Children, Law & Policy. Professor Oren has a Ph.D. in British history from Yale University and graduated first in her class at the University of Houston Law Center in 1980. After graduation, she was in private practice, specializing in civil rights (Section 1983) law and appellate work. Professor Oren teaches Family Law and Constitutional Law and her scholarship has often been about the intersection of these two fields.

#### **LAWRENCE POWELL**

Lawrence N. Powell is a Professor of History at Tulane University and the Executive Director of the Tulane/Xavier National Center for the Urban Community. Professor Powell received his doctorate from Yale University in 1976. He has written extensively on the subjects of the Civil War and Reconstruction; Southern history; Louisiana history and politics; and the Holocaust. He is also director of Tulane's Campus Affiliates Program (CAP).

#### **AUGUSTINA REYES**

Augustina Reyes is a Professor of Educational Leadership and Cultural Studies at the University of Houston College of Education. Professor Reyes uses legal policy and qualitative research methods in her extensive publications on topics such as Zero Tolerance, Urban School Leadership, and Urban School Behavioral Policies, Language Issues and Race Issues.



### **ANNA SHAVERS**

Anna Williams Shavers is a Professor of Law at the University of Nebraska College of Law. She received an M.S. in Business from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she was elected to membership in the Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society. She received her J.D. degree (cum laude) from the University of Minnesota where she served as managing editor of the Minnesota Law Review. Her primary teaching and research interests are in the area of immigration and its intersection with gender issues. She has served as a consultant on school finance issues and has also published articles in that field.

### **SHARI SMOTHERS**

Shari Smothers received a B.A. in Social Work from Southern University at New Orleans and her experiences include sales coordinator, media specialist and public school teacher. She's a writer and an avid photographer. Hurricane Katrina caused her to evacuate to Houston where she has worked as an interviewer for the Surviving Katrina and Rita in Houston project. She is currently the project's archivist and sound editor. She has represented the project in many capacities, including appearances on NPR and Pacifica radio programs, presentations before the American Folklore Society and the University of Houston Women's Studies Living Archive series, and as author of an article soon to be published on the Surviving Katrina and Rita in Houston website, [www.katrinaandrita.org](http://www.katrinaandrita.org).

### **RICK K. WILSON**

Rick K. Wilson is the Herbert S. Autry Professor at Rice University. Dr. Wilson is an expert on the evolution of American political institutions. He is the co-author of *Congressional Dynamics: Structure, Coordination and Choice in the First American Congress, 1774-1789* (1994, Stanford University Press), and has published articles in a wide range of scholarly journals. He is a co-author of a recent study on Katrina evacuees. Professor Wilson is currently serving as chair of the Department of Political Science.

The Center for Children, Law & Policy at the University of Houston Law Center wishes to thank these wonderful supporters for their efforts on behalf of this conference:

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