

**MINNESOTA ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
2007 HUMAN RIGHTS LAW & POLICY CONFERENCE**

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Friday, June 15, 2007

**Children Left Behind:**  
A Child's Right to Education  
in the United States

**Dorsey and Whitney, LLP**  
50 South Sixth Street, 15th Floor  
Minneapolis, MN



# 2007 HUMAN RIGHTS LAW & POLICY CONFERENCE

Children Left Behind: A Child's Right to Education in the United States

# THANK YOU!

## Conference Sponsors

## Conference Overview

Minnesota Advocates will host its fifth annual human rights law and policy conference, **Children Left Behind: A Child's Right to Education in the United States**. Children deserve equal access to a quality education without discrimination. The human right to education promotes a child's right to a quality education in a safe and respectful learning environment. When education assists children in recognizing their capabilities, they are able to reach their full potential and contribute to society. Prominent keynote speakers will discuss why addressing this issue as a right for all children is important, what the current state of education in the U.S. is, and how it measures up to international human rights standards for education. Expert panelists from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds will address the barriers children face to accessing equal education, such as race, class, geography, disability, segregation, poverty, legislation and funding. They will also discuss strategies to eliminate inequity within the education system. A group of young adults will perform spoken word during lunch.

## Keynote Speakers



**Elizabeth Sullivan** is the Education Program Director at the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI). Ms. Sullivan works with parents and advocates to promote policy change in public education to guarantee students' right to dignity and a quality education. She carries out research projects to document human rights violations in U.S. public schools and provides trainings to parents, youth and organizers about how to incorporate human rights standards and strategies into their advocacy. She recently authored the report *Deprived of Dignity: Degrading Treatment and Abusive Discipline in New York City and Los Angeles Public Schools*. She has worked as a consultant with Human Rights Education Associates and as Project Coordinator at the Center for Economic and Social Rights, where she authored the report *Civil Society and School Accountability: A Human Rights Approach to Parent and Community Participation in NYC Schools*. She holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University.



**Scott Abernathy**, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota, Department of Political Science. In his 2005 book, *School Choice and the Future of American Democracy* (The University of Michigan Press), Professor Abernathy argues that the privileging of the consumer through the use of private vouchers threatens the expression of democratic citizenship in the larger political realm, particularly in resource-poor communities. His book, *No Child Left Behind and the Public Schools* (2007, The University of Michigan Press), explores the challenges of measuring educational quality from the top down and considers the possibility of making the law live up to its promises. Professor Abernathy has worked as a public school teacher in Wisconsin, a street counselor with homeless youths in Boston, and as a volunteer with the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta. He received his Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University in 2002, an M.P.A. in Domestic Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University in 1997, and a B.A. from Dartmouth College in 1988.



**Minnesota Dream Fund Partners:**  
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African American Family Services  
2616 Nicollet Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
www.aafs.net



Education Minnesota  
41 Sherburne Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55103  
www.educationminnesota.org



Human Rights Center  
229 19th Ave. S. Suite N-120  
University of Minnesota Law School  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
www.hrusa.org



Institute on Race and Poverty  
University of Minnesota  
229 South 19th Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
www1.umn.edu/irp/



Admission Possible  
450 North Syndicate Street, #200  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
www.admissionpossible.org

# AGENDA

Friday, June 15, 2007

# LOCATION

## Directions and Parking

8:30-9:00	Registration and coffee	
9:00-9:15	Introduction	<i>Colleen Beebe</i> , Education Program Director, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
9:15-10:00	Session 1	<b>Education as a Human Right</b> <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> <i>Elizabeth Sullivan</i> , Director, Human Right to Education Project, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
10:00-10:45	Session 2	<b>The Current State of Education</b> <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> <i>Scott Abernathy</i> , Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota. Author of <i>No Child Left Behind and the Public Schools</i>
10:45-11:00	Break	
11:00-12:30	Session 3	<b>Identifying the Barriers to Accessing Education in the U.S.</b> Moderator: <i>Ann Theisen</i> , Education Program Associate, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Representative Carlos Mariani</i>, Executive Director of The Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP) and state legislator in the Minnesota House of Representatives</li><li>• <i>Baris Gumus-Dawes</i>, Research Fellow, Institute on Race and Poverty</li><li>• <i>Peggy Flanagan</i>, Minneapolis School Board Member</li><li>• <i>Mary Jo Brooks Hunter</i>, Director of Children's Clinic, Hamline University School of Law</li><li>• <i>Amy J. Goetz</i>, Attorney, School Law Center</li></ul>
12:30-1:30	Lunch provided with entertainment by local spoken word artists	
1:30-3:00	Session 4	<b>Addressing the Barriers to Equitable Access to Education</b> Moderator: <i>Emily Farrell</i> , Education Program Associate, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Joe Nathan</i>, Senior Fellow, Center for School Change, University of Minnesota</li><li>• <i>Elizabeth Sullivan</i>, Education Program Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative</li><li>• <i>Ladan Yusef</i>, Executive Director, Crossing Barriers</li><li>• <i>Anne Carroll</i>, St. Paul School Board Member</li><li>• <i>Natela Jordan</i>, Education Coordinator, Human Rights Center, University of Minnesota</li></ul>
3:00-3:15	Break with video segment <i>Youth Speak</i> by ACLU	
3:15-4:30		<b>Strategizing a Minnesota Response</b> Moderator: <i>Kathleen O'Donnell</i> , Program Manager, Destination 2010, The Minneapolis Foundation Participants will have an opportunity to dialogue about the strategies discussed throughout the day and their own recommendations for improving access to education.

**LOCATION:**  
Dorsey and Whitney, LLP  
50 South Sixth Street, 15th Floor  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

**DIRECTIONS:**  
**From the East**  
Take I-94 west to South 5th Street (Metrodome) exit. Take a left onto Portland Ave. Proceed two blocks, then turn right onto 7th Street. Follow 7th Street to Hennepin Avenue and turn right. Take another right on South 6th Street. Parking garage for 50 South Sixth will be on your left.

**From the West**  
Take I-394 east to South 6th Street exit. Proceed three blocks and enter parking garage for 50 South Sixth on your left.

From I-94, take the North 4th Street exit. Proceed to 1st Avenue North and turn right. Turn left on North 6th Street. Parking garage for 50 South Sixth will be on your left.

**From the North**  
From I-35W, take the Washington Avenue exit and turn right. Proceed to 1st Avenue North and turn left. Take another left on South 6th Street. Parking garage for 50 South Sixth will be on your left.

**From the South**  
From I-35W, take the South 11th Street exit and proceed to Hennepin Avenue; turn right. Turn right again on South 6th Street. Parking garage for 50 South Sixth will be on your left.

**By Light Rail**  
It's a 25-minute light rail ride from the airport to downtown Minneapolis. Board the train at the airport or any point southeast of downtown Minneapolis. Disembark at the Nicollet Mall and 5th Street stop. Walk one short block west. The building entrance is on the corner of 6th and Nicollet.

**PARKING:**  
Parking is available for a parking fee on floors 4 through 8 only in the 50 South Sixth St. ramp. Take the parking elevator to the first floor, switch to the office elevators, and come to the 15th floor. For other parking options go to [www.mnadvocates.org](http://www.mnadvocates.org).

# 2007 HUMAN RIGHTS LAW & POLICY CONFERENCE

## REGISTRATION FORM

**I WILL ATTEND "Children Left Behind: A Child's Right to Education in the United States":**

- \$125 (general)
- \$50 (non-profit/teacher)
- \$30 (student)
- Free with High School Student I.D.

**Registering before June 2nd: 15% discount applied: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

I cannot attend. Please send me the materials (\$30).

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:**

Check (please make payable to MAHR)

Visa  Mastercard

**Credit Card #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME**

**ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL**

**ADDRESS**

**CITY/STATE/ZIP**

**PHONE**

**FAX**

**EMAIL ADDRESS**

**REGISTER BY: June 8, 2007.**

**CLE AND CEU CREDIT**

4.75 CLE credits (3.0 Bias) to be applied for. Certificates for CEU credits will also be provided.

**GRADUATE CREDIT**

Hamline University School of Education credit will be available for \$110.00.

**REFUND & CANCELLATION:**

All cancellations will be charged a \$30 administrative fee. Paid registrants who do not cancel, yet fail to attend, will receive the written materials.

**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights  
650 Third Avenue South, Suite 550  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
Fax: (612) 341-2971

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Julia Kashaeva at (612) 341-3302, ext. 127 or [jkashaeva@mnadvocates.org](mailto:jkashaeva@mnadvocates.org)

Download registration forms at [www.mnadvocates.org](http://www.mnadvocates.org)

**CEU Certificate provided.  
4.75 CLE credits (3.0 Bias)  
to be applied for.**

All those interested  
in the fate of our  
children's education  
~ lawyers, educators,  
parents, school board  
members, legislators,  
policy-makers, students,  
superintendents,  
principals and others ~  
**WON'T WANT TO  
MISS this conference  
on June 15, 2007.**

Please Place  
Stamp  
Here

ADVOCATES  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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650 Third Avenue South #550  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1940  
[www.mnadvocates.org](http://www.mnadvocates.org)