



NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 80

Release Date: December 12, 2007

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

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Annual Juvenile Justice Conference Opens Today in San Diego

San Diego—More than 1,100 juvenile dependency and delinquency professionals from around the state will meet this week to learn about the latest research and best practices for improving juvenile justice.

The conference will also celebrate the 40th anniversary of *In re Gault*, the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision that extended many of the Fourteenth Amendment's due process rights to juveniles in delinquency proceedings.

"Beyond the Bench XVIII: Access and Fairness" is sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children & the Courts and will be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive. The conference opens today and closes on Friday.

Juvenile dependency and delinquency professionals have the opportunity to take part in 40 workshops and 3 plenary sessions, covering a broad range of issues facing the juvenile justice courts and justice system partners. Detailed information is available at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/. Program highlights follow.

Today, December 12, 6 p.m.

Someone's Somebody, a play by former foster youth Regina Louise, will be performed during the opening dinner. This one-woman play brings to life a foster youth's struggle and triumphs in Austin, Texas, during the 1970s.

Thursday, December 13, 9:45 a.m.

Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree will lead a stimulating Fred Friendly dialogue on the *In re Gault* decision. A group of distinguished panelists will discuss hypothetical scenarios illustrating the decision's effect on juvenile courts today.

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Thursday, December 13, 12 p.m.

John E. B. Meyers, Distinguished Professor of the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, will trace the development of the child welfare system California and the nation as a whole.

Friday, December 14, 12 p.m.

Abigail Baird, Ph.D., assistant professor and director of the Laboratory for Adolescent Studies at Vassar College, will discuss the neuroscience of the "adolescent brain" during the lunchtime plenary session and an afternoon workshop.

The complete agenda is available at

[www.register123.com/event/accounts/register123/judicialcouncil/cfcc/events/20070011/Agenda_11.1\(1\).pdf](http://www.register123.com/event/accounts/register123/judicialcouncil/cfcc/events/20070011/Agenda_11.1(1).pdf).

All sessions are open to the press with media credentials. In addition, delegates will receive all program materials on a CD as this conference goes paperless for the first time.

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