



UNIVERSITY OF
BALTIMORE

Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff
Center for Families,
Children and the Courts

Eleventh Annual Urban Child Symposium

Housing and the Urban Child: Exploring the Landscape

April 4, 2019 | 8:30 a. m. – 3:30 p.m.

SPEAKER BIOS

Keynote Address

Peter Edelman, Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law and Public Policy at Georgetown University Law Center and Faculty Director of the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality

Peter Edelman is the Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law and Public Policy at Georgetown University Law Center, where he teaches constitutional law and poverty law. He has taught at the Law Center since 1982. He is also the faculty director of the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality. Professor Edelman has an extensive work history, including serving in all three branches of United States government. His work experience includes work in federal and state government and also demonstrates his commitment to academia and public service. His prior positions include:

- Counselor to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under Secretary Donna Shalala; the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; and the principal advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Associate Dean of Georgetown University Law Center
- Issues Director for Senator Edward Kennedy's Presidential Campaign
- Partner at Foley and Lardner
- Director of the New York State Division for Youth
- Vice President of the University of Massachusetts
- Issues Director for Arthur Goldberg's New York Gubernatorial Campaign
- Legislative Assistant to Senator Robert F. Kennedy
- Deputy Director for the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights

- Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General John Douglas in the U.S. Department of Justice
- Law Clerk to Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg and to Judge Henry J. Friendly on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Professor Edelman is also a prolific author. His most recent book, *Not a Crime to Be Poor: The Criminalization of Poverty in America*, was published by The New Press in 2017. The book was awarded "Special Recognition" by the 2018 Robert F. Kennedy Book and Journalism Awards and was a finalist for the American Bar Association's 2018 Silver Gavel Book Award. Prior publications include *So Rich So Poor: Why It's So Hard to End Poverty in America*, *Searching for America's Heart: RFK and the Renewal of Hope*, and *Reconnecting Disadvantaged Young Men*, co-authored by Professor Edelman.

In addition to his academic and policy-based achievements, Professor Edelman has contributed extensively to his community by chairing and sitting as a board member for many organizations and foundations. He is currently chair of the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission and the National Center for Youth Law, and he is a former chair of the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy and the Public Welfare Foundation. In addition, he has served as board president emeritus of the New Israel Fund and as a board member of the Center for Law and Social Policy, the Center for American Progress Action Fund, and a half dozen other nonprofit organizations.

Professor Edelman received his Bachelor of Arts and his Bachelor of Laws from Harvard University.

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, which is the leading interdisciplinary academic and research journal for family law professionals, and the Director of the Post-J.D. Certificate in Family Law. She received a J.D. and M.S. from Cornell University, and she is a member of the New York and Maryland bars.

Mark Bell, Assistant Director of Diversity Initiatives and Recruitment, University of Baltimore School of Law

Mark Bell is the Assistant Director of Diversity Initiatives and Recruitment at the University of Baltimore School of Law. He is responsible for the recruitment and retention of applicants to ensure diversity within the law school, building pipeline programs with regional high schools, and advising potential applicants. Mr. Bell previously served as the Assistant Director and then the Director for the University of Baltimore School of Law Admissions Office. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Baltimore (UB) and Cecil College, where he teaches Business Ethics, is a Staff Administrator for UBs LLMUS Law Program, sits on the advisory board of Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics at UB, and is a member of both the Culture and Diversity Committee at UB and Harford County Community Advisory Council for BGE. He has previously served as a mentor for UB's B.M.A.L.E. Program. The BMALE Academy inspires high academic achievement among UB male students of color by supporting, embracing, and engaging them in an effort to close the achievement, retention, and graduation gaps. Mr. Bell earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice and an M.P.A from the University of Baltimore.

Allen Blackwell, III, Homeless and Foster Care Liaison, Baltimore City Public Schools

Allen Blackwell is the Homeless and Foster Care Liaison for Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS). In this role, he serves as the BCPS point person and cross-department contact for the development and implementation of policies and procedures related to homeless students, as required by the McKinney-Vento Act, and ensures that BCPS' forms and communications materials correctly reflect these policies and procedures. Prior to joining BCPS, Mr. Blackwell was a professor at Westwood College and at Howard Community College. He was also an Americorps Community Service Fellow, a Student of Life Counselor at the SEED School of Maryland, and an Educational Coordinator at the Baltimore City Health Department. Mr. Blackwell earned a B.A. in History from Morgan State University and an M.A. in Teaching and Education from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Katherine Davis, Esq., Truancy Court Program Attorney, Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts

Katie provides legal services and referrals for Truancy Court Program (TCP) students and their families and supervises students in the CFCC Student Fellows Program. She often serves as the bridge between the Baltimore City Public School system and TCP families, providing assistance on public benefits, inadequate housing, evictions, guardianship, and school discipline—all factors that impact student absenteeism. Prior to joining CFCC, Katie served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Maryland and Georgia Offices of the Attorney General. In Georgia, Katie served as appellate counsel for the Office of Child Support Enforcement and the Department of Family and Children Services. In Maryland, she drafted Final Agency Decisions for the Maryland Office of Safety and Health and provided legal counsel to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry on some of Maryland's most critical labor and employment issues. She has served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law, the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She received a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in Athens, Georgia, and a B.A from the University of Richmond.

[Splencer Hall, Esq., Truancy Court Program Coordinator, Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts](#)

Spencer is responsible for coordinating the Truancy Court Program (TCP) in Baltimore City schools. She manages the competitive application process for schools that would like to operate the TCP, trains school administrators and staff on best practices for addressing truancy, and oversees the day to day operations of the TCP in Baltimore City Public Schools. She also works closely with TCP volunteer judges and the TCP team to locate and implement support for TCP students and families. Spencer joined the TCP as a volunteer tutor during her first year at the University of Baltimore School of Law ,and, in her second year, she enrolled in the CFCC Student Fellows Program, during which she served as a law clerk to Judge Catherine Curran O'Malley. Prior to joining CFCC, she served as the Linda Kennedy Fellow in Advocacy for the Homeless Persons Representation Project and later as the Tenant-Landlord Program Manager for Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. She received a J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law and a B.A. in History from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

[Terry Hickey, Director, Mayor's Office of Human Services](#)

Terry Hickey is the Director of Human Services at the Baltimore City Mayor's Office. In this role, he oversees Mayor Catherine Pugh's homelessness strategy and a host of supportive programs, including Baltimore City Head Start and the city's five Community Action Partnership Centers. Prior to joining the Mayor's Office, Mr. Hickey was the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake and the Founder and Executive Director of Community Law In Action, a youth-serving nonprofit he created while serving as an Open Society Institute – Baltimore Community Fellow. Mr. Hickey has been an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, the University of Baltimore College of Public Affairs, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Mr. Hickey earned a J.D. from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and a B.A. in Political Science and Government from the University of Rochester.

[C. Matthew "Matt" Hill, Attorney and Team Leader, Human Right to Housing Project, Public Justice Center](#)

Matt Hill is an attorney and team leader of the Human Right to Housing Project at the Public Justice Center in Baltimore, Maryland. The Human Right to Housing Project seeks to protect and expand tenants' rights to safe, habitable, affordable, and non-discriminatory housing and to fair and equal treatment by Maryland's landlord-tenant laws, courts and agencies. Mr. Hill's team has litigated a number of significant individual, class and appellate cases and successfully lead legislative efforts to reform Maryland's landlord-tenant laws, including making the protections of the federal Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act permanent in Maryland state law. Mr. Hill is currently a leader in the legislative effort to prohibit source of income discrimination in Maryland. Prior to working in the housing project, from 2008-2009, he was the Francis D. Murnaghan Appellate Advocacy Fellow at the PJC. In that capacity, Mr. Hill represented numerous parties and amici in state and federal court on various poverty law and civil rights issues. He also clerked for the Honorable Deborah S. Eyler on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. Before law school, Matt taught eighth grade at Mother Seton Academy, a school for disadvantaged youth in Baltimore City. He earned a J.D. from the Washington College of Law at American University with highest honors and a B.A. from Loyola University Maryland.

[Ingrid Lofgren, Director, Homeless Persons Representation Project \(HPPRP\)](#)

Ingrid Lofgren joined HPPRP as a Skadden Fellow in 2012 to launch the Homeless Youth Initiative, which serves youth ages 13 to 25 who are homeless or at-risk, with a particular emphasis on youth who are unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. She conducts outreach and facilitates educational workshops in the community; provides legal representation in housing, public benefits, and expungement matters; and leads HPPRP's systemic advocacy efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness. Prior to joining HPPRP, Ms. Lofgren served as a law clerk to the Honorable Susan Gauvey of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland and the Honorable Andre Davis of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Ms. Lofgren earned a J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and an M.S.W. and a B.S. in Family Science from the University of Maryland. In 2014, the Daily Record named Ms. Lofgren a "Very Important Professional Under 40."

[Rebecca Lorick, Program Director, My Sister's Place](#)

Rebecca Lorick is the Program Director of My Sister's Place, which is part of Catholic Charities of Baltimore. She oversees the overall operations of My Sister's Place Women's Center, My Sister's Place Lodge, SamaritanCenter, and Family Stability Programs. Ms. Lorick is responsible for strategic planning, sustainability, and growth of programming to meet the needs of the community. During her time in this position she has achieved multiple accomplishments including: graduating from the Catholic Charities of Baltimore Leadership Institute, initiating comprehensive training programs, establishing a trauma-informed environment to reduce the incidence of re-traumatizing clients and staff, and organizing a Client Advisory Town Hall Panel where guests could actively

participate in decision-making processes. Prior to joining My Sister's Place, Ms. Lorick served as the Director of Program Services at Interim Housing Corporation, the Residential Rehabilitation Program Manager at Alliance Inc., and the Executive Director at Community Initiatives. She began her career developing and maintaining housing programs for domestic violence survivors and the chronically homeless in rural South Carolina. Ms. Lorick earned an A.A. in Criminal Justice from Piedmont Technical College and a B.A. in Sociology from Newberry College, where she graduated summa cum laude. She also earned an M.P.A. from Cappella University, where she graduated with distinction.

Barbara Samuels, Managing Attorney—Housing, ACLU Maryland

Barbara Samuels is the Managing Attorney of the ACLU of Maryland's Housing program. She has been the lead ACLU counsel in cases challenging governmental housing policies that foster segregation, including *Thompson v. HUD*, a landmark public housing desegregation case. She helped found and serves on the Board of Directors for the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership, a non-profit created as part of the *Thompson v. HUD* remedy to provide housing opportunities in low poverty and racially integrated neighborhoods for more than 4,400 Baltimore City families. Ms. Samuels has been recognized by groups such as the NAACP and the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, and she was named one of Maryland's "Top 25 Human Rights and Justice Champions" by the Legal Aid Bureau. Prior to joining the ACLU, Ms. Samuels was a legal services housing attorney in Baltimore at the Legal Aid Bureau and in Southwest Virginia. Ms. Samuels earned a J.D. with honors from George Washington University and a B.A. from Bucknell University.

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 served as Chief Counsel to Sen. Reid from 2007 to 2009 and in a similar capacity when Reid was minority leader from 2005 to 2006. As principal legal adviser to the Democratic leader, he helped to manage Senate floor activity on Judiciary Committee bills and judicial nominations and coordinated related activities of the Democratic caucus. Dean Weich played a key staff role in the enactment of the 2007 ethics reform law, the 2008 amendments to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and other significant legislation. As the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, Dean Weich developed and implemented strategies to advance the department's legislative priorities, coordinated the department's response to congressional oversight and guided nominees through the Senate confirmation process. Dean Weich studied political science and government at The London School of Economics and Political Science, earned a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and earned his J.D. from Yale Law School.

Rexanah P. Wyse, Policy and Program Analyst, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Rexanah Wyse is a former Maryland prosecutor dedicated to changing the narrative for vulnerable populations. She is the Policy and Program Analyst for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness focusing on youth, criminal justice, racial equity, and ending homelessness for families. Prior to joining the Interagency Council on Homelessness, she served as the Policy Analyst for the Baltimore Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. She also led diversionary efforts to address truancy for hundreds of youth as an Assistant State's Attorney for Montgomery County, Maryland. Ms. Wyse volunteers her time on numerous boards including the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) State Advisory Board, the Central American Resource Center Board of Directors, the University of Maryland-College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Alumni Chapter Board, and the New Leaders Council Speaker's Bureau. Through the DJS State Advisory Board, she is leading efforts to address gaps in educational opportunities for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. Ms. Wyse earned a J.D. and certificate of Public Service from the University of Baltimore School of Law and a B.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, with a concentration in Human Development from the University of Maryland, College Park. She is a native Washingtonian and proud Sierra Leonean-American.