

**"The Annual State of the Child in Minnesota's Legal System Summit"**  
**Friday, September 23, 2011 7:30-1:00 p.m.**  
**Minnesota State Bar Association Offices**

**Panelists Bios:**

**Legislative Review Panel**

Linda Miller, Executive Director of Civil Society

Civil Society provides outreach to both domestic and foreign born human trafficking victims in Minnesota. Civil Society is active in rescuing and restoring child human trafficking victims, and those who are the victims of child sex tourism in other countries and then brought over to the United States. Ms. Miller has been an attorney for over 30 years and received Certificates of Appreciation from the United States Department of Justice in 2002 and 2008 for her best practice of reaching out to victims and presenting on that best practice method. She writes and speaks nationally and internationally about international human trafficking victims in the United States. Linda Miller received the Honorable Warren E. Burger Distinguished Alumni Award for 2008 for "the highest values and ethical standards in serving the community.

Emily Baxter, Council on Crime and Justice

As Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Emily is responsible for development and implementation of the Council's public policy agenda, services for individuals with criminal records, and education of employers to promote the hiring of individuals with criminal records.

Prior to her current position, Emily worked at the Council as the criminal records attorney, where she increased the capacity of communities throughout the state to assist impoverished individuals with criminal records who seek expungements, licensing, and employment. Before joining the Council, Emily worked as an assistant public defender, representing indigent members of the Leech Lake and White Earth Bands of Ojibwe charged in Minnesota State court.

Diana Hamilton, Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis

Ms. Hamilton provides legal representation and policy advocacy for children living in Hennepin County who are involved with child protection. Defends a child's right to be with family while ensuring the child is safe and healthy at home. She works with community organizations and advocates for reform to maintain and strengthen African American and American Indian families. Ms. Hamilton graduated from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2006. Prior to joining the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, she represented clients in Orders for Protection in the University of St Thomas School of Law's Family Law Clinic and was a women's legal advocate at Women of Nations. Minnesota State Bar Association, Children & The Law Section, Chair. Published Work: Advising Family Lawyers When Their Clients are Investigated by Child Protection, Family Law Forum, Fall 2008 Volume 17, No.1

**Racial Disparities Panel**

Perry Moriearty, Associate Professor of Clinical Law at the University of Minnesota Law School

Ms. Moriearty teaches the Child Advocacy and Juvenile Justice Clinic, criminal law and a seminar on race and the law. She writes in the areas of juvenile law, criminal law, constitutional law and race and the law with a particular focus on the problem of racial disparities in the U.S. juvenile justice system.

#### Tribal Judge Andrew Small, BlueDog, Paulson and Small, P.L.L.P

Judge Andrew Small began his career in Montana. 1983 he served as counsel for the Blackfeet Nation, the Rocky Boy's government, and the Crow Tribe. His practice has included all aspects of Tribal government including development of courts, Tribal child welfare protection, promulgation of laws, natural resources and water protection, sovereignty defense, housing, taxation, tribal membership, domestic relations, treaty rights negotiation and litigation. Judge Small has served as general counsel and special counsel for thirteen Tribes and is admitted to practice in fourteen Tribal jurisdictions throughout Indian Country, as well as Circuit Courts of Appeal and the United States Supreme Court. He was one of the principal drafters of the Iowa ICWA law of 2003. Judge Small served as an Associate Judge for the Lower Sioux Indian Community from 1995 to September 2005 and as the Children's Court Judge for the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Community from 1994 through 2002. During his decade as a judge, he assisted in the successful petition to the Minnesota Supreme Court for a recognition rule, now known as Rule 10 of the General Rules of Practice.

### **Perspectives from the Courts Panel**

#### Judge Lucy Wieland

Judge Lucy Wieland was appointed on July 25, 1990. She was then elected in 1992, 1998, 2004 and 2010. She served as Assistant Chief Judge from 2000 to 2004 and then as Chief Judge from 2004-2008. Judge Wieland has served the Juvenile Bench in Hennepin County from 1996 to 1999 and then again from 2008 to present. Currently, Judge Wieland is serving as Assistant Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court. She serves as Co-Chair of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and is a member of the Equal Justice and Correctional Out of Home Placement Oversight Committees. Judge Wieland received her J.D. at William Mitchell College of Law (magna cum laude) in 1982. She began her career as Assistant Hennepin County Attorney and went on to her own practice at Colich and Wieland in 1985. Published Works: Hennepin Lawyer 2007: "The State of the Judiciary in Hennepin County" (1), "Reducing the Pain of Divorce" (4), and "Ignition Interlock Pilot Program in Hennepin County" (9) "News from your Court," published in various newspapers and available on the Fourth Judicial District Website.

#### Irene Opsahl, Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis

Irene M. Opsahl has been an attorney at the Youth Law Project (YLP) of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis since 1990, and has supervised that unit since 1994. She represents children on a wide range of civil legal issues including school suspension and expulsion; protection from abuse and neglect; and access to medical and mental health care and social services. Irene also works on public policy initiatives aimed at protecting the legal rights and improving the lives of children and their families. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association and teaches Child Welfare and the Law at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work. Irene has four children ranging in age from 20 to 30.

Andrew Gordon, Legal Rights Center

Andrew Gordon is the Director of Legal Education at the Legal Rights Center. In addition to representing indigent clients in juvenile and adult courts, he presents on legal rights and the consequences of criminal charges and convictions to those willing to begin participating in the legal process. He can be reached at [agord@legalrightscenter.org](mailto:agord@legalrightscenter.org) or at 612-677-2125.