

**Summit on
Legal and Legislative Strategies to Eliminate the Achievement Gap
Hosted by Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Monday, December 14, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
2141 Rayburn House Office Building**

Panelist Biographies

**Panel 1: The Past: Establishing a Foundation
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Nancy Jones

Legislative Attorney, American Law Division, Congressional Research Service

Nancy Lee Jones is a legislative attorney with the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service. She is a graduate of Georgetown University, A.B., magna cum laude, and Georgetown University Law Center, JD. In her current position, she provides legal advice to Members of Congress, their committees and staff by preparing impartial, scholarly, written analyses of various legal issues and by oral briefings and seminars. The main areas she covers concern the civil rights of individuals with disabilities and include the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Rehabilitation Act, legal issues relating to genetic discrimination, and legal issues relating to individuals with disabilities and emergency preparedness, including pandemics.

Ms. Jones has also provided assistance to other national and international experts including the National Council on Disability, the World Health Organization, the French Institut de Rescherces Comparatives, the Law Library of the Library of Congress, Members of the Canadian Parliament, and Member of the Japanese Diet. She has been a presenter at conferences and professional groups and has published books and law review articles in addition to her CRS work.

Katherine Beh Neas

Vice President, Government Relations, Easter Seals Headquarters

Katy Beh Neas manages Easter Seals federal and state public policy activities, including a staff of senior lobbyists who are integral to the development of health, education, employment, and other policies that help children and adults with disabilities live, learn, work and play in the community. Neas has been a member of Easter Seals’ Government Relations team since January 1995. She has is an officer of the national disability coalition, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities and chairs its Education Task Force.

Prior to Easter Seals, Neas was the associate director of the American Association of University Affiliated Programs for persons with Developmental Disabilities. She also was legislative staff to Chairman Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) of the Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy between 1987 and 1991, where she worked on all disability legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). She is a graduate of Georgetown University.

Kathleen Boundy
Co-Director, Center for Law and Education

Kathleen Boundy is an attorney and the co-director of the Center for Law and Education, a national advocacy organization representing students from low-income families, whose primary mission is to ensure high quality education for all students, including those with disabilities. CLE was originally established in 1969 as the national support center on education issues for legal services programs. Boundy has an extensive background in federal education policy, analysis and advocacy with respect to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Title I of the ESEA as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act. She has testified before the U.S. Senate, Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions; the Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy and the U.S. Civil Rights Commission on unlawful use of discipline to exclude students with disabilities and disparate exclusion and denial of educational opportunities to poor and racial minority students. Ms. Boundy has authored numerous articles addressing race and disability discrimination in education and analyzing IDEA and its regulations and implications for ensuring all students learn to high standards. Boundy has also been co-counsel in a number of cases, including a challenge to high-stakes testing of all students in MA, class actions challenging denial of appropriate special education and related services for incarcerated and detained youth in NH and CT, class action challenge to over-identification of African American students in FL and MA; and in *Florence County School District v. Carter* (U.S. 1993)(upheld expectation for student to meet state established standards for all); and has served as counsel for amici curiae, including members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives in multiple cases.

John Brittain,
Visiting Professor of Law, The University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law

John C. Brittain returned to legal academia in June 2009 as a professor of law at the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law. He teaches the core courses of Torts and Civil Procedure.

Since 2005, Brittain had been the Chief Counsel and Senior Deputy Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, DC, a 45-year old public interest legal organization started by President John F. Kennedy to enlist private lawyers to take pro bono cases in civil rights.

Brittain, a veteran former law school dean at Texas Southern University in Houston, law professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law and public interest civil rights lawyer

with a career spanning 40 years with residences in Mississippi (1969-73), California (1973-77), Connecticut (1977-99), Texas (1999-2005) and northern Virginia (2005-present), has served as the president of the National Lawyers' Guild, on the Executive Committee and the Board of the ACLU, and legal counsel to NAACP at the local level and national office of the General Counsel. He received the NAACP's highest honor for a lawyer, the coveted William Robert Ming Advocacy Award for legal service without a fee.

He is a school desegregation specialist and one of the original counsel in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, a landmark integration case decided by the Connecticut Supreme Court in 1996. He was frequently mentioned in the book, "The Children in Room E4: American Education on Trial," by Susan Eaton, an excellent chronicle of the *Sheff* case. In addition, Brittain was a part of a legal team that filed a friend of the court brief on behalf of the NAACP in the *People Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District* and *Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education* (Louisville) school cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court (2007) concerning voluntary race-conscious student assignment plans. Further, he filed a friend of the court brief in the Connecticut adequacy finance lawsuit styled, *Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding (CCJEF) v. Rell* (pending in the Connecticut Supreme Court 2009). In one other related area, Brittain has concentrated on the intersection between housing and school segregation, and the policies that contribute to the condition of structural poverty in low income and neighborhoods of color.

At the higher educational level, his mentor, the late Professor Herbert O. Reid, the Charles Hamilton Houston Professor Law at Howard University, trained Brittain to pursue comparability and competitiveness for historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Indeed, he earned a BA (1966) and JD (1969) from Howard University. He is admitted to practice in Connecticut, Mississippi, California and associated federal courts.

Tanya Clay House
Public Policy Director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Tanya Clay House is the Director of the newly established Policy Department at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Mrs. House works closely with all Committee projects including education, voting rights, employment discrimination, fair housing, affirmative action, criminal justice, environmental justice and other racial diversity issues. Mrs. House began her tenure in October 2009.

As Director, Mrs. House serves as the principal representative of the Lawyers' Committee on Capitol Hill and in state and local legislative bodies and coordinates the Lawyers' Committee's communications with the White House, as well as federal, state, and local agency officials. Mrs. House is also a principle liaison to the Lawyers' Committee's sister organizations across the country.

Mrs. House is the former Public Policy Director at People For the American Way (PFAW). While at PFAW, Mrs. House served as the chief legislative lobbyist on Capitol Hill and with the Executive Branch and focused on various issues, including judicial nominations, education, the

Religious Right, civil rights and liberties, immigration, church/state, electoral reform and affirmative action.

In 2000, Mrs. House began her political career as Legislative Counsel for United States Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), where she staffed the Congresswoman for the full Judiciary Committee and the Subcommittee on Crime. From there, she moved to the Senate to work for United States Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and focused on similar issues. In particular, she helped Senator Boxer to pass the first ever continual authorizing language for after-school programs in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Education Reauthorization bill. Before working on the Hill and before law school, she worked for the Kentucky Department of Education, focusing on the Kentucky Education Reform Act.

Veronica Rivera

Legislative Staff Attorney, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Veronica is a Legislative Staff Attorney with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund where she focuses on education policy. She previously served as Of Counsel with and Austin, Texas based law firm. She is a former school teacher and also has worked in the State of Texas Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division.

Veronica was elected to the Austin Community College (ACC) Board of Trustees in 2004 and served on the board until 2009. She served as the Board's Vice-Chair in 2008 and 2009. In addition, she served as Secretary of the Board in 2006. Veronica served on the Advisory Council of the ACC Center for Public Policy and Political Studies and served on the Board of Directors of the ACC Foundation from 2004 to 2008. She also served on the Foundation Board of the Texas Community College Teachers Association and is the co-founder and board member of Las Comadres Para Las Americas, a network for Hispanic women.

Veronica served as the Chair of the City of Austin and AISD's Joint Task Force on Education and Quality of Life for Hispanic Students. She has also served on various education committees. For her efforts in education, Veronica was nominated for the Austin Under 40 Awards in 2002 and was named a Finalist in the Youth/Education category in 2005 and 2006. She received the Travis County Women Lawyer's Association "Contribution to Minority Community" 2005 Award, was the guest speaker at the 40th Anniversary of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act at the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park in 2005 and a guest speaker at the Austin Chamber of Commerce's State of Education Luncheon in 2006.

Veronica, a first generation Mexican-American and native of Brownsville, Texas, received her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law. She earned her Master of Business Administration degree from Texas State University in San Marcos and graduated with honors, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a Teacher Certificate in Broad Social Studies from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas.

J. Robert Carr
Executive Director, National Bar Association

J. Robert (Bob) Carr, is Executive Director of the National Bar Association (NBA). The National Bar Association is the oldest and largest national network of attorneys and judges of color.

Prior to joining the NBA Bob Carr was Chief Professional & Business Development Officer for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) in Alexandria, VA. Carr also served as SHRM Chief Human Resource & Strategic Planning Officer.

Bob Carr has served in various executive leadership positions at prominent membership organizations throughout the Washington D.C. area.

Carr served on the executive teams of both AARP and Association of Trial Lawyers of America (now AAJ). Earlier in his career, Carr practiced law with an Atlanta based firm and served in government at U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Department of Labor.

As a recognized authority on leadership development, Carr's leadership skills were honed at Morehouse College where he received a B.A. as well as Columbia University Law School, where he received his J.D. and an L.L.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.

Robert Carr is active in a number of legal and professional societies, including the American Bar Association, and American Society of Association Executives.

Cynthia Robbins
Co-Founder, Racial Justice Initiative, TimeBanks USA

Cynthia Robbins currently serves as a consultant to TimeBanks USA, and along with with Dr. Edgar Cahn, as co-director and co-founder of the Racial Justice Initiative (RJI or the Initiative). The Initiative, launched earlier this year is designed to address the consequences of structural racism and social injury resulting from violations of the Constitution and Federal Law in public systems including juvenile justice, child welfare and public education, particularly special education. For too long, government officials have evaded culpability for chronic and severe racial disparities and injury. The Initiative team is developing a policy change and advocacy strategy designed to ignite communities of traditional disadvantage to demand that government officials use knowledge of what works to co-produce brighter futures filled with opportunity. Along with Dr. Cahn, Cynthia Robbins co authored: *An Offer They Can't Refuse: Racial Disparity in Juvenile Justice and Deliberate Indifference Meet Alternatives That Work*, 13 UDC/DCSL L Rev. 1 (2009) (final product release date Dec. 2009).

About a year ago, Robbins left the role of Executive Director of See Forever Foundation (SFF) and Maya Angelou Public Charter School (MAPCS). First as managing and then executive director, she led with a committed focus on the SFF/MAPCS mission of creating learning communities that provide low income Washington, DC students, particularly those who have not succeeded in traditional schools, a viable chance to reach their potential. The school boasted

graduation and college enrollment rates of close to 80% during her tenure. Cynthia guided See Forever and Maya Angelou through a period of substantial growth. In less than four and half years, SFF/MAPCS grew from a one high school campus program for about eighty (80) students to five campuses serving 600 students in fall 2008. The program focus also expanded adding a second high school campus, a middle school and two campuses serving young people in the delinquency system, one at the youth facility for secure confinement, then Oak Hill--now New Beginnings, and the other at a Transition Center for youth upon release.

Robbins has experience as a civil rights and criminal defense attorney, adjunct professor of juvenile law, consultant and nonprofit leader dedicated to advocacy, education, leadership support and organizational development. Robbins earned a BA from Harvard University and a JD from Stanford Law School.

Panel 2: The Present: Demonstrating the Achievement Gap 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Hilary O. Shelton Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

Hilary O. Shelton, presently serves as the Director to the NAACP's Washington Bureau / Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy. The Washington Bureau is the Federal legislative and national public policy division of the over 500,000- member, 2,200-membership unit, national civil rights organization. In this capacity, Hilary is responsible for advocating the federal public policy issue agenda of the oldest, largest, and most widely recognized civil rights organization in the United States to the U.S. Government. Hilary's government affairs portfolio includes crucial issues such as affirmative action, equal employment protection, access to quality education, stopping gun violence, ending racial profiling, abolition of the death penalty, access to comprehensive healthcare, voting rights protection, federal sentencing reform and a host of civil rights enforcement, expansion and protection issues.

Prior to serving as director to the NAACP Washington Bureau, Hilary served in the position of Federal Liaison/Assistant Director to the Government Affairs Department of The College Fund/UNCF, also known as The United Negro College Fund in Washington, D.C. and as the Federal Policy Program Director to the 8.5 million-member United Methodist Churches' social justice advocacy agency, The General Board of Church & Society.

Hilary serves on a number of national boards of directors including, The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, The Center for Democratic Renewal, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and the Congressional Black Caucus Institute among many others.

Playing an integral role in the crafting and final passage of such crucial federal legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Hilary was also instrumental in ushering through to passage, The Civil Rights Restoration Act, The Violence Against Women Act, The Hate Crimes Statistics Act, The Native American Free Exercise of Religion Act, The National Voter Registration Act, The National Assault Weapons Ban, The Brady Handgun Law, Reauthorization of the Voting Rights

Act, the Help America Vote Act and many other crucial laws and policy measures affecting the quality of our lives and equality in our society.

John Payton

President and Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

John Payton is currently the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's sixth President and Director-Counsel. Mr. Payton has built a distinguished career in the law notable for its consistent substantial combination of public-sector and private-sector service. As a partner at the Washington firm of Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Dorr, his practice ranged from complex commercial matters to the most challenging civil rights issues. Mr. Payton was the lead counsel in one of the momentous civil rights cases of the post-1960s era: the University of Michigan's successful defense before the Supreme Court of the use of race in the admissions process at its undergraduate college and its law school. Mr. Payton also defended the use of race-based measures to address continuing problems in our society in numerous other cases, including representing the city of Richmond, Virginia in *Richmond v. Croson*. His civil practice experience ranged from libel cases to those involving employment matters. From 1991 to 1994, Mr. Payton served as the Corporation Counsel of the District of Columbia. Mr. Payton's voluntary activities in the legal community have been extensive. They include service on the District of Columbia Bar, the American Bar Association, the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and the District of Columbia Public Defender Service. He has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, the Georgetown Law Center and Howard University Law School. He is also a member of the American Law Institute, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a Master in the Edward Coke Appellate Inn of Court. Mr. Payton is a graduate of Pomona College and Harvard Law School.

David J. Goldberg

Senior Counsel and Senior Policy Analyst, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

David Goldberg is a senior policy counsel for the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), the nation's oldest, largest and most diverse coalition of national civil rights, human rights and social justice organizations. At LCCR, Mr. Goldberg's responsibilities include organizing the coalition's education lobbying task force, access to health care, affirmative action, criminal justice, and various economic issues. He also manages the LCCR Education Fund's K-12 education reform program. Prior to joining LCCR, he worked as a private consultant, primarily for civil rights and healthcare advocacy organizations, and for a presidential primary campaign. From 1999 to 2001, David worked for the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary as Special Counsel for Civil Rights to Senator Kennedy, where he worked on a wide range of civil rights issues, including affirmative action, criminal law, health care, and education. From 1994 to 1999, David served as civil rights counsel at the U.S. Department of Transportation, working on the congressional reauthorization of the Department's affirmative action authority, rewriting the DOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program and coordinating enforcement of Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. David is a 1994 graduate of Boston College Law School and holds an undergraduate degree in physics from Stanford University.

Marian Wright Edelman
President, Children's Defense Fund

Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families. The Leave No Child Behind® mission of the Children's Defense Fund is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

Mrs. Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, began her career in the mid-60s when, as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People's Campaign that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began organizing before his death. She founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of the Children's Defense Fund. For two years she served as the Director of the Center for Law and Education at Harvard University and in 1973 began CDF.

Mrs. Edelman served on the Board of Trustees of Spelman College which she chaired from 1976 to 1987 and was the first woman elected by alumni as a member of the Yale University Corporation on which she served from 1971 to 1977. She has received many honorary degrees and awards including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz Award, and a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. In 2000, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings which include nine books: *Families in Peril: An Agenda for Social Change*; *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*; *Guide My Feet: Meditations and Prayers on Loving and Working for Children*; *Stand for Children*; *Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors*; *Hold My Hand: Prayers for Building a Movement to Leave No Child Behind*; *I'm Your Child, God: Prayers for Our Children*; and *I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children*. Her latest book *The Sea is So Wide and My Boat is So Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation* released in bookstores September 23, 2008.

Russlynn H. Ali
Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education

President Barack Obama nominated Russlynn Ali as assistant secretary for civil rights at the U.S. Department of Education on March 18, 2009, and she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 1, 2009. As assistant secretary, Ali is Secretary Duncan's primary adviser on civil rights and responsible for enforcing U.S. civil rights laws as they pertain to education—ensuring the nation's schools, colleges and universities receiving federal funding do not engage in discriminatory conduct related to race, sex, disability or age.

Until her appointment to the Department of Education, Russlynn Ali had been a vice president of the Education Trust in Washington, D.C., and the founding executive director of the Education Trust-West in Oakland, Calif., since 2001. In those positions, she developed and implemented a

long-range strategy to close achievement gaps among public school students in California; worked with school districts to improve curriculum and instructional quality at high-poverty and high-minority public schools; and designed, field-tested and implemented comprehensive audit tools that examined inequities in schools and districts. She also advised legislative and gubernatorial staff as well as senior education experts on education matters in the state in addition to assuming fundraising and operational responsibilities as a member of the senior management team at Education Trust.

In the education arena, Ali was a teacher, served as the liaison for the president of the Children's Defense Fund and as assistant director of policy and research at the Broad Foundation, for which she was also on loan as chief of staff to the president of the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board of Education. She has also taught at the University of Southern California Law Center and the University of California at Davis.

In the legal field, Ali was a contract attorney at Bird, Marella, Boxer and Wolpert, deputy co-director and of counsel at the Advancement Project and English, Munger & Rice, and an attorney at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, all in Los Angeles.

Panel 3: The Future: Where We Go From Here **4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Roberto J. Rodríguez
Special Assistant to the President for Education, White House Domestic Policy Counsel

Roberto J. Rodríguez serves in the White House Domestic Policy Council as Special Assistant to President Obama for Education.

Previously, Roberto was Chief Education Counsel to United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. In this capacity, he managed the Democratic education agenda for the Committee and led policy development and strategy for legislation addressing early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, higher education, and adult education.

Roberto began his tenure on Capitol Hill working for the Senate HELP Committee on the development of the No Child Left Behind Act. He has worked on various reauthorizations of federal legislation, including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Head Start, Child Care, Higher Education, and the America COMPETES Act.

Prior to working on Capitol Hill, Roberto worked as Senior Education Specialist at the National Council of La Raza, where he conducted research and analysis of federal and state education reform issues, as well as the development and evaluation of community-based education programs.

He is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a graduate of the University of Michigan and of the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Governor Bob Wise
President, Alliance for Excellent Education

Bob Wise is president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia. He is author of the book *Raising the Grade: How High School Reform Can Save Our Youth and Our Nation* and chair of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Under Governor Wise's leadership, the Alliance continues to build its reputation as a respected authority on high school policy by advocating for reform in America's secondary education system and working to ensure that all students graduate from high school prepared for college, careers, and to be contributing members of society.

Since joining the Alliance in February 2005, Governor Wise has become a sought-after speaker and advisor on education issues. Governor Wise has appeared on national television and radio programs such as *Lou Dobbs Tonight* (CNN), *The Charlie Rose Show* (PBS), *The Diane Rehm Show* (NPR), and *Washington Journal* (C-SPAN), among others.

As governor of West Virginia from 2001 to 2005, he fought for and signed legislation to fund the PROMISE Scholarship program and created the Governor's Helpline for Safer Schools. During his administration, West Virginia saw a significant increase in the number of students completing high school and entering college. From 1983 to 2001, Governor Wise served in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 2nd District of West Virginia, where he aggressively worked to preserve federal financial aid for students to attend college.

Governor Wise earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a JD from Tulane University School of Law.

Dr. LaRuth Gray
Government Relations and Legislative Liaison, National Alliance of Black School Educators and Scholar in Residence, New York University

Dr. Laruth H. Gray dedicates herself to improving the quality of education, the quality of life for children, and social issues that address equity and opportunity. A retired Superintendent of Schools for Abbott Union Free School District in Irvington, New York, Dr. Gray is appointed Scholar -in -Residence, and serves as Chair of the Executive Council of the Metropolitan Center of Urban Education (Metro Center) of New York University School of Culture, Education and Development. Dr. Gray formerly served as an Affiliate Professor in the Administration, Leadership, and Technology Program and as Deputy Director of Metro Center.

Among the accomplishments attributed to Dr. Gray, is the design and development of a plan for the reorganization of the New Rochelle Public Schools in the 80s to address the twin problems of minority isolation and declining enrollment. Dr. Gray is also widely published.

Currently, Dr. Gray holds office and maintains membership in numerous professional and community organization that reflect her intense devotion to quality of life improvement including: the Westchester Library System (as past President) and the Westchester Arts Council (as President Emeritus). As a member of the Board of Directors of the Arts Council and also

during her presidency. She also serves on the Westchester Fair Campaign Practices Committee (under the supervision of the League of Women Voters).

Professionally and currently, she provides significant support and service to the National Alliance of Black School Educators Board of Directors (NABSE) as its pro bono Governmental Relations Liaison. In this role, she is quite often on the Hill advocating NABSE's position to Congressional staffers and members (see NABSE website).

Formerly, she served the Martin Luther King Child Development Center (as President Emeritus), the United States Service Academy Review Board, 20th Congressional District, American Education Research Association (as Chair of the Palmer Johnson Memorial Committee), the African American Advisory Committee to Westchester County Executive (as Chair of the Education Committee), the Board of Directors of the Westchester Children's Association and the March of Dimes, as well as a member of the New York State Commissioner's Advisory Panel for Children with Handicapping Conditions.

Delia Pompa

Vice President for Education, National Council of La Raza

In her role as Vice-President for Education at the National Council of La Raza, Delia Pompa oversees all education programs including early college high schools, charter schools, early childhood education, and extended learning. Her work on public school reform is shaped by over 30 years of experience leading local, state and federal agencies and national and international organizations. In particular, Ms. Pompa's work focuses on helping academic institutions understand and respond to the needs of underserved children and their teachers.

She is the former Director of the Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs in the U.S. Department of Education and the former Executive Director of the National Association for Bilingual Education. Ms. Pompa began her career as a kindergarten teacher in San Antonio. She went on to serve as a district administrator in Houston and as Assistant Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency. She is the former Director of Education, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, and Youth Development for the Children's Defense Fund.

Ms. Pompa serves on a variety of national boards and committees for a wide range of institutions addressing the educational needs of children. She is a frequent speaker and commentator on current education reform issues.

Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond

Member of the Board of Directors, National Council on Educating Black Children and Professor, Stanford University School of Education

Linda Darling-Hammond is Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at Stanford University where she has launched the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education (SCOPE) and the School Redesign Network. Her research, teaching, and policy work focus on issues of school reform, teacher quality and educational equity. She is a former president of the American Educational Research Association and a member of the National Academy of

Education. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Public Education Network, the National Council for Educating Black Children, the Alliance for Excellent Education, the Wallace Foundation, and American Association of Colleges of Education.

From 1994-2001, Darling-Hammond served as executive director of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, a blue-ribbon panel whose 1996 report, *What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future*, led to sweeping policy changes affecting teaching in the United States. In 2006, this report was named one of the most influential affecting U.S. education and Darling-Hammond was named one of the nation's ten most influential people affecting educational policy over the last decade. She recently served as the leader of President Barack Obama's education policy transition team.

Among Darling-Hammond's more than 300 publications are *The Flat World and Education: How America's Commitment to Equity Will Determine our Future*; *Preparing Teachers for a Changing World: What Teachers Should Learn and be Able to Do* (with John Bransford, for the National Academy of Education, winner of the Pomeroy Award from AACTE), *Powerful Teacher Education: Lessons from Exemplary Programs* (Jossey-Bass: 2006); *Teaching as the Learning Profession* (Jossey-Bass: 1999) (co-edited with Gary Sykes), which received the National Staff Development Council's Outstanding Book Award for 2000; and *The Right to Learn*, recipient of the American Educational Research Association's Outstanding Book Award for 1998.

Rorng Sorn

Executive Director, Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia

Rorng Sorn is the Executive Director of the Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia (CAGP), where she is responsible for overall management and operation of CAGP and protection of the organization's financial assets while ensuring compliance with board directives and applicable grantors, as well as federal and state requirements. Prior to that, she was Field Coordinator for Southeast Asia Resource Center's (SEARAC) Successful New American Project (SNAP) where she conducted community research assessment, provided direct services, worked on strengthening and building coalitions across sectors, and encouraged community members to take on advocacy initiatives. She was a community health educator for the Albert Einstein Medical Center, a community health advocate for the Maternity Care Coalition, and a medical interpreter/health educator for the Philadelphia Health Department. Currently, she serves on the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Asian American Affairs, Keystone Mercy Health Plan's Community Advisory Committee.

Ms. Sorn is Cambodian American. After surviving the Vietnam War's effects on Cambodia, escaping the Khmer Rouge, hiding a year in the jungle between the Cambodian and Thai border, and living 8 years in refugee camps in Thailand, Ms. Sorn and her family were finally able to come to the United States as refugee in 1987, and were resettled in Philadelphia, PA. She holds a graduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice in Nonprofit/NGO Leadership.

Dr. Carol Brunson Day
President, National Black Child Development Institute

Carol Brunson Day is currently the President of the National Black Child Development Institute after serving as the CEO and President of the Council for Professional Recognition from 1985 until 2004. The Council is a Washington, D.C.-based association that serves as the home of the Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program, as well as the National Head Start Fellowship Program. Dr. Day was also the liaison for the international exchange between the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy and the early childhood community in the United States. In addition to her impressive scholarly contributions to the field, Dr. Day is recognized as a leader in the field of early childhood education.

Dr. Day sits on numerous national boards and has spoken at conferences and programs across the United States and internationally. She has authored over 25 publications on subjects such as professional development, diversity and multicultural education, and cultural influences on development, with a long history of interest and expertise on African-American culture and heritage.

Dr. Day received a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from the Erikson Institute in Chicago and a Ph.D. in Education from Claremont University in Claremont, California.

Lillian Sparks
Executive Director, National Indian Education Association

Lillian Sparks, a Lakota woman of the Rosebud and Oglala Sioux Tribes, currently serves as the Executive Director of the National Indian Education Association. The NIEA, located in Washington, DC, was founded in 1970 to give American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians a voice in their struggle to improve access to education opportunities.

Prior to joining NIEA, Miss Sparks was a staff attorney with the National Congress of American Indians where she worked on international indigenous rights, sacred sites and religious protection, and issues related to youth and healthcare. Miss Sparks, a former Miss Indian World, was named as one of 7 young leaders in Indian Country. Miss Sparks received her B.A. in Political Science from Morgan State University, located in her hometown of Baltimore, MD, and her Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC.

Lily Eskelsen
Vice President, National Education Association

Lily Eskelsen, an elementary teacher from Utah, is Vice President of the National Education Association. She is one of the highest-ranking labor leaders in the country and one of its most influential Hispanic educators. She began her career in education as a lunch worker in a school cafeteria. She became a kindergarten aide and was encouraged by the teacher to go to college and become a teacher herself. She worked her way through the University of Utah on

scholarships, student loans, and as a starving folk singer, graduating magna cum laude in elementary education and later earning her master's degree in instructional technology.

After teaching for only nine years, she was named Utah Teacher of the Year in 1989, and she used that title as a platform to speak out against the dismal funding of Utah schools. The following year, she was elected president of the Utah Education Association, her first elected position in the Association. She has also served on the NEA Executive Committee, and as NEA Secretary-Treasurer.

Lily was president of the Utah State Retirement System; president of the Children at Risk Foundation, and was member of the White House Strategy Session on Improving Hispanic Education. She has built alliances with parents, business and civil rights organizations, and with advocates for the disabled and the poor. She works with coalitions to engage the public in the political process, and in 1998, she ran for political office herself as the first Hispanic to be chosen as her party's nominee for U.S. Congress in Utah, raising close to \$1 million and taking 45% of the vote against the incumbent.

Sharon Lewis

Senior Disability Policy Advisor, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor

Sharon originally came to Washington DC from Portland, Oregon to serve as a Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation Fellow, working for Senator Chris Dodd's HELP Subcommittee on Children and Families. She joined Chairman George Miller's Education & Labor Committee staff in 2007, where she handles disability policy including the ADA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Rehabilitation Act, as well as disability concerns in other legislation before the Committee, including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Sharon also served on President Obama's Transition Team for Education.

In Oregon, Sharon worked as public policy staff to the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition, and as Public Policy Director for The Arc of Oregon and The Arc of Multnomah County. She served as the co-chair of the Oregon Family Action Coalition Team, founded DisabilityCompass.org, and managed Oregon Partners in Policymaking, working with individuals with disabilities and family members to participate in policy decisions at all levels.

Sharon is a native of Michigan and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis.

Amy Wilkins

Vice President for Government Affairs and Communication, The Education Trust

An experienced political and community organizer with a special skill in media communications, Amy's sharp advocacy skills were honed over years of successful work for the Children's Defense Fund, the Democratic National Committee, the Peace Corps, and the White House Office of Media Affairs.

Dan Cardinali
President, Communities in Schools

Dan Cardinali is president of Communities In Schools, Inc., the nation's largest dropout prevention organization, with operations in 26 states and the District of Columbia. Established in 1977, Communities In Schools serves more than 1.3 million of America's most disenfranchised students each year. Under Cardinali's leadership, the organization has developed and embraced an evidence-based model of integrated student service provision and has launched a national growth strategy to increase the organization's impact on improving public education. Cardinali's background as a community organizer has helped the organization continue its steady and measured growth, establish its voice in the national education policy debates, and launch an organization-wide quality improvement campaign.

In an effort to promote the integrated student services model as a necessary component of school reform, Cardinali has worked closely with several legislators and policy makers. Most notably, his work with the late Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), and related policy briefings in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have influenced proposed legislation related to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. After testifying before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in 2007, Cardinali worked closely with Senator Kennedy's staff to provide background, data and statistics for the Keeping Parents and Communities Engaged Act (Keeping PACE) that was re-introduced in the summer of 2009 in the House and Senate. This proposed legislation would potentially create \$208 million per year for a competitive grants program to support integrated student service providers across the country.

Cardinali is a 2007 Annie E. Casey Children and Families Fellow. He also currently serves as a Trustee for America's Promise, and as vice chairman of the board of directors of the National Human Services Assembly and the National Collaboration For Youth. Cardinali is a board member of Peace First and also serves on the advisory boards of the Harwood Institute's Public Innovators Summit and SparkTheWave.

Before assuming his current position in 2004, Cardinali served as Executive Vice President, Field Operations at Communities In Schools.