

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS COLLEGE OF LAW
AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW JOURNAL
ANNOUNCE A SYMPOSIUM ON
CRIMINAL INDIGENT DEFENSE IN LOUISIANA
APRIL 4, 2008

Loyola University New Orleans College of Law's Public Interest Law Journal is sponsoring a symposium on criminal indigent defense on April 4, 2008 at the Loyola law school, featuring individuals who have been involved in the reform of criminal indigent defense systems nationally and in Louisiana, to discuss and explore the changes likely to result from recent reforms enacted by the Louisiana legislature, to some extent modeled after reforms pursued in other states, the challenges that remain and further reform efforts that may improve the likelihood that Gideon's promise will be a reality in the state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans.

The Supreme Court decided *Gideon versus Wainwright* in 1963. In January 2005, the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants published a report titled "*Gideon's Broken Promise: America's Continuing Quest for Equal Justice.*" That report identified a number of problems in indigent defense systems throughout the country. In Louisiana, the problems identified included lack of funding, lack of training for indigent defense attorneys, lack of support staff, inadequate compensation and benefits for indigent defense attorneys, excessive caseloads, undue political or judicial controls over indigent defense attorneys and a lack of statewide oversight and structure for indigent defense services. The complete failure of criminal indigent defense experienced in the New Orleans area in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina later that year created genuine impetus for change. In 2007 the Louisiana legislature acted to eliminate local control of indigent defense systems and instituted a statewide system of criminal indigent defense. Challenges still remain, however. The issue is critical for Louisiana: according to the Louisiana Justice Coalition, about 90% of all criminal defendants in Louisiana are indigent.

Confirmed participants include David Carroll and Richard Goemann, National Legal Aid & Defender Association; Lisa Kung, Director, Southern Center for Human Rights; Norman Lefstein, Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus, Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis; G. Paul Marks, Louisiana Public Defenders Association; Pamela Metzger, Tulane University Law School; Jelpi Picou, Jr., Capital Appeals Project; Jonathan Rapping, John Marshall Law School; D. Majeeda Snead, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Clinic; and Ronald Sullivan, Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Harvard Criminal Justice Institute. Up to 6.25 hours of CLE credit will be available to participants.

For more information contact Jessica Howard, jkhoward@loyno.edu or 504-861-5558.

Symposium on *Criminal Indigent Defense in Louisiana*
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
Journal of Public Interest Law
April 4, 2008

9:00-9:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:30-9:35 Opening Remarks – Kathryn Cooper, Editor in Chief, JPILG
9:35-9:45 Welcome – Dean Brian Bromberger
9:45- 11:45 ***Gideon’s challenge realized?***
Moderator: M. Isabel Medina, Ferris Family Distinguished Professor of Law

“The Movement Towards Indigent Defense Reform: Louisiana and Other States,” Norman Lefstein, Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus, Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis

“Sounding Gideon’s Trumpet: The Right to Counsel Movement in Louisiana,” David Carroll, Director of Research and Evaluation, Defender Legal Services, National Legal Aid and Defender Association

“Death by Gumbo: Standard-less Decision Making, Unlimited Prosecutorial Discretion, and an Overworked Indigent Defense System Generating Arbitrary Sentences and Wreaking Havoc on the Indigent Defense System,” Jelpi Picou, Jr., Executive Director, Capital Appeals Project

11:45 to 12:45 Lunch

1:00 to 3:15 ***Implementing criminal indigent defense reform***
Moderator: Dane Ciolino, Alvin R. Christovich Distinguished Professor of Law

“The Practice of Indigent Defense Reform – Georgia as Case Study,” Lisa Kung, Director, Southern Center for Human Rights

“Will Act 307 Help Louisiana Deliver Indigent Defender Services in Accordance with the Sixth Amendment,” D. Majeeda Snead, Acting Director of Law Clinic, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, Member, Louisiana Public Defender Board

“The Battle of New Orleans: Fighting to Change the Culture of Indigent Defense in the Post-Katrina Crescent City,” Jonathan Rapping, Professor of Law, John Marshall Law School

“(E)racing Indigent Defense in New Orleans,” Ronald Sullivan, Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Harvard Criminal Justice Institute

3:15 to 5:15 ***Bridging tensions between theory, economics and practice***
Moderator: Stephen I. Singer, Visiting Professor of Law

“First You Cripple Public Defense: How Policymakers Dismantle the Adversarial System in Criminal Cases,” Richard Goemann, Director of Defender Legal Services, National Legal Aid and Defender Association

“Dogma and Disaster in Vindicating the Right to Counsel: How Ideology Can Wreck the Right to Counsel,” G. Paul Marks, Executive Counsel, Louisiana Association Public Defenders Association

“Economics underlying criminal indigent defense,” Pamela Metzger, Associate Professor of Law, Tulane University Law School