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*This symposium has been approved for a
total of 6 CLE credits, including 1 ethics
credit, in Delaware and Pennsylvania.*

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The Child Witness

Friday, April 3, 2009

Sponsored by
Widener University
School of Law and the
Widener Law Review

Symposium Co-Chairs:
John Nivala and Jules Epstein



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ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

Law, psychology, advocacy, and ethics are all engaged, and have particular applications and impacts, when the witness at a trial is a child. This symposium will address the constellation of matters surrounding child witness testimony—the psychology of children and the inter-related concerns of competence and taint; child interviewing and

the courtroom presentation of child witness testimony; the child witness, hearsay, and the Confrontation guarantee; and ethical issues arising when the witness is a child. The approach will be multi-disciplinary, appropriate for lawyers, paralegals, child advocates, and court personnel.

AGENDA

8:00–8:45 am—Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45–9:00 am

Welcome—Linda L. Ammons, JD, Associate Provost and Dean, Widener University School of Law

Introduction—Robyn Airey-Rose, Editor-in-Chief, *Widener Law Review*

Opening Remarks—Jules Epstein, Symposium Co-Chair, Associate Professor of Law, Widener University School of Law

9:00–10:00 am—Panel I—The Child Witness

Panelists:

- **Professor Jason Dickinson**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Montclair State University
- **Marissa Boyers Bluestine**, Assistant Defender, Defender Association of Philadelphia
- **Dr. William Russell**, Forensic Psychologist, Assessment Treatment Alternatives

Moderator: Jules Epstein, Symposium Co-Chair, Associate Professor of Law, Widener University School of Law

10:00–10:15 am—Break

10:15–11:15 am—Panel II—The Child Interview Process

Panelists:

- **Professor Frank Vandervort**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School
- **Professor Douglas Godfrey**, Professor of Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law
- **Amy Russell**, Staff Attorney, National Association to Prevent Sexual Abuse of Children (NAPSAC)

Moderator: TBA, Widener University School of Law

11:15 am–12:15 pm—Panel III—The Child Witness and Hearsay

Panelists:

- **Professor Clifford Fishman**, Professor of Law, Catholic University of America
- **Professor Tom Lininger**, Associate Professor, University of Oregon
- **Professor Lynn McLain**, Professor of Law and Dean Joseph Curtis Faculty Fellow, University of Baltimore

Moderator: John Capowski, Widener University School of Law

12:15–1:15 pm—Lunch (included with registration)

1:15–2:15 pm—Panel IV—Children in the Courtroom: Competence

Panelists:

- **Professor Myrna Raeder**, Professor of Law, Southwestern Law School
- **Marissa Boyers Bluestine**, Assistant Defender, Defender Association of Philadelphia
- **Dr. William Russell**, Forensic Psychologist, Assessment Treatment Alternatives

Moderator: TBA, Widener University School of Law

2:15–3:15 pm—Panel V—Children in the Courtroom: Special Accommodations

Panelists:

- **Professor Myrna Raeder**, Professor of Law, Southwestern Law School
- **Professor William Patton**, Associate Dean of the Clinical Program and Professor of Law, and J. Allan Cook and Mary Schalling Cook Children's Law Scholar, Whittier Law School; Lecturer, UCLA Medical School, Department of Psychiatry
- **The Honorable Randy J. Holland**, Justice, Delaware Supreme Court
- **Mimi Rose, Esq.**, Attorney-at-Law, School District of Philadelphia

Moderator: Dana Harrington Conner, Associate Professor of Law, Widener University School of Law

3:15–3:30 pm—Break

3:30–4:30 pm—Panel VI—Children in the Courtroom: Ethical Issues

Panelists:

- **The Honorable Chandlee Johnson Kuhn**, Chief Judge, Family Court, State of Delaware
- **Professor William Patton**, Associate Dean of the Clinical Program and Professor of Law, and J. Allan Cook and Mary Schalling Cook Children's Law Scholar, Whittier Law School; Lecturer, UCLA Medical School, Department of Psychiatry
- **Mimi Rose, Esq.**, Attorney-at-Law, School District of Philadelphia

Moderator: Professor John Nivala, Symposium Co-chair, Widener University School of Law

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