



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

[Steve Schell](#), Communications Coordinator
(717) 231-3331

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WWW.PACOURTS.US

State Supreme Court to Host Children's Summit
Efforts to Improve the Lives of Foster Care Children Advance

HARRISBURG, September 23, 2010—Today, beginning at 12:45 p.m., Pennsylvania's second Children's Roundtable Summit will kick off at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel where more than 350 judges and children and youth service professionals are expected to collaborate with national experts to enhance county specific plans to help abused and neglected children. **Media coverage is invited.**

State Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and President Judge Pamela Pryor Dembe and State Court Administrator Zygmunt Pines will provide opening remarks for the three-day summit, hosted by the Supreme Court.

"The focus of this year's summit is the importance of 'connections'—connections between individuals, teams, professionals, agencies, courts and communities that can work together to timely provide loving, permanent families for abused and neglected children, thus bettering their chances for success in life," said state Supreme Court Justice Max Baer, a former administrative judge of family court in Allegheny County who is guiding the court's efforts.

Featured summit topics will include truancy, fatherhood, legal representation and data-informed decision-making with national and state specific experts and former foster youth/parents who will share their experiences. The information provided will be used by county teams, led by the dependency judge and child welfare administrator, to improve child and family outcomes. *(A summit agenda is attached.)*

Since 2006, the court's efforts to reduce delays in placing at-risk children safely and permanently in loving, caring homes has, in part, resulted in a 25 percent decline in the number of Pennsylvania children in foster care and a savings of approximately \$220 million in gross costs for administering foster care programs statewide.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille, said, "This is a prime example of good government equaling good practice and good resource management."

The court's day-to-day efforts are led by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts' Office of Children and Families in the Courts (OCFC) in close partnership with the state Department of Public Welfare's Office of Children, Youth and Families. For more information, visit the OCFC's Web site at www.ocfcpacourts.us.

#



Agenda at a Glance

September 23, 2010

- 12:45-01:45 Opening Ceremony and Welcome
- Mr. Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille, Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- Honorable Michael Nutter, Philadelphia Mayor
- Honorable Pamela Pryor Dembe, President Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas
- Zygmunt Pines, Esquire, Court Administrator of Pennsylvania
- 01:45-02:45 Pennsylvania Data
Guest Speaker: Larry Brown, Consultant, Casey Family Programs
Barbara Needell, M.S.W., PhD, Researcher; University of California at Berkeley
- 02:45-03:00 Break
- 03:00-03:45 Panel Discussion
- 03:45-05:15 Team Planning Time
- 06:00-08:00 Reception “A Taste of Philadelphia” hosted by Honorable Kevin Dougherty

September 24, 2010

- 07:00-08:15 Breakfast/Team Time/Registration/Discussion Topics
- 08:15-09:15 Truancy
Guest Speaker: Honorable Joan Byer; Louisville, Kentucky Circuit Court
- 09:15-09:30 Break
- 09:30-10:15 Panel Discussion
- 10:15-11:45 Team Planning Time
- 11:45-01:15 Lunch/Movie Screening and Teen Panel
- 01:15-02:45 Legal Representation
Guest Speaker: Michele Cortese, Esquire, Deputy Director, Center for Family Representation
- 02:45-03:00 Break
- 03:00-03:45 Panel Discussion
- 03:45-05:15 Team Planning Time
- Dinner & Activities on your own

September 25, 2010

- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast/Team Time/Registration/Discussion Topics
- 08:00-09:00 Fatherhood
Guest Speakers: Ron Clark, Director, National Fatherhood Initiative, American Humane Association
Jessica Kendall, Assistant Staff Director, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law
- 09:00-09:15 Break
- 09:15-10:00 Panel Discussion
- 10:00-11:30 Team Planning Time
- 11:30-12:00 Review of 2010
- 12:00-12:30 Closing Remarks—Mr. Justice Max Baer, Pennsylvania Supreme Court

