

NSU Shepard Broad College of Law hosts: Nell Bernstein's Burning Down the House: The End of Juvenile Prison

September 21, 2015 - 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
NSU Shepard Broad College of Law
3rd Floor, Panza Mauer Law Library

Keynote Speaker: Nell Bernstein,
author *Burning Down the House: The End of Juvenile Prison*

Bart Lubow, Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Justice Strategy Group

Gordon Weekes, Chief Assistant Public Defender, Public Defender's Office, Fort Lauderdale

Azim Ramelize, Annie E. Casey Foundation Honorary Fellow, former Asst Com., Dept. of Children and Youth Services, Chicago, IL

Maria Schneider, Chief Assistant State Attorney, Juvenile Division, 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida

Judge Frank Orlando (ret.) Director Shepard Broad College of Law Center for the Study of Youth Policy

**BURNING DOWN
THE HOUSE**

THE END OF JUVENILE PRISON

NELL BERNSTEIN



5:00 pm Registration and Reception – Panza Mauer Law Library 3rd Floor

5:30 pm Welcome by Dean Garon and Judge Frank Orlando (ret.)

Presentation Nell Bernstein – the Youngest Prisoners: Stories from Survivors of Juvenile Incarceration

Presentation Bart Lubow – "A Silent Sea Change: The Deinstitutionalization Trend in Juvenile Justice."

6:30 pm Panel discussion including Gordon Weekes, Azim Ramelize & Maria Schneider moderated by: Judge Frank Orlando (ret.)

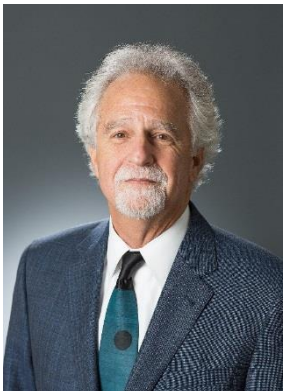
The panel will be responding to Nell Bernstein and Bart Lubow and include conditions and the overall environment in Broward County including positive and negative viewpoints for at-risk children.

7:00 pm Book Signing and Reception



Nell Bernstein is the author of *Burning Down the House: The End of Juvenile Prison* and *All Alone in the World: Children of the Incarcerated*, both published by The New Press. *All Alone in the World* was selected as a pick of the week by *Newsweek*, a best book of the year by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and a top ten book of the year by the *Online Review of Books*, and has been adopted into the curricula of universities across the country. *Burning Down the House* won the Silver Gavel Award from the American Bar Association, and was named one of the Best Big Ideas of 2014 by The Daily Beast, a Best Book of 2014 by *Publishers Weekly*, and “What to Read” by *Glamour Magazine*.

Ms. Bernstein has spoken across the country about the impact of incarceration on young people and families; written for multiple national publications; and made numerous radio and television appearances, including Fresh Air, The Tavis Smiley Show, The Diane Rehm Show, and MSNBC. She has been named a Soros Justice Fellow and received a White House Champion of Change award for her advocacy on behalf of children of incarcerated parents. She spent ten years as coordinator of the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership, where she pioneered a Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents that has been replicated nationally and internationally.



Bart Lubow began his career in criminal justice in 1974 at the New York City Legal Aid Society’s Criminal Defense Division. As Director of Special Defender Services, he pioneered the development of social work interventions to enhance representation in criminal cases. In 1984, Mr. Lubow was named Director of Alternatives to Incarceration for New York State. In this capacity, he was responsible for a major expansion of pretrial service programs in county courts. Mr. Lubow joined the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 1992, where he has designed and managed the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), the nation’s most widely replicated juvenile justice reform project. In 2014, he retired as the Director of the Juvenile Justice Strategy Group at the Casey Foundation and now serves as a senior consultant to its juvenile justice reform work. Mr. Lubow did his undergraduate and graduate work at Cornell University. He serves on a number of local and national boards and has published multiple articles on justice system reform.

Bart Lubow holds a BS in Industrial and Labor Relations and graduate work in Neurobiology and Behavior from Cornell University.

For Complete Biographies of speakers and panelists please visit:

PowerPoint presentations will be uploaded to this site ASAP following the Event.



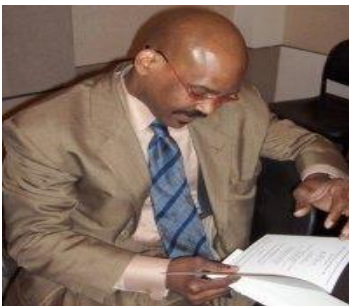
For over twenty years, Gordon H. Weekes Jr. has dedicated his life to public service and the pursuit of justice as a criminal defense attorney. In 1994, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Air Traffic Control from Florida Memorial University – South Florida’s only historically black college. Mr. Weekes went on to earning his Juris Doctorate in 1997 from Nova Southeastern University School of Law. He then began his career as an Assistant Public Defender in the 17th Judicial Circuit of Broward County where he represented the poor, the mentally ill and children accused of crimes ranging from misdemeanors offenses to murder. For a brief period, Mr. Weekes practiced law in the private sector where he was a founding partner of the Law Firm of Gelin and Weekes. The firm specialized in employment, criminal, family law and complex civil litigation. Mr. Weekes returned to public service at the Public Defender’s Office and under the leadership of “Help Me” Howard Finkelstein, and became the first Assistant Public Defender to specialize in representing children charged as adults. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Weekes was asked to head the Juvenile Division and becoming Chief Assistant Public Defender that was responsible for managing the office. Mr. Weekes has been instrumental in addressing abusive practices within privatized juvenile prisons, mental health facilities and foster care group homes throughout the State of Florida and has been recognized as an expert on conditions of confinement, the impact of prison privatization and the school-house to jail-house pipe.

In addition to his work with children, Mr. Weekes has worked to address police misconduct and has become an advocate to reduce excessive use of force and civil rights violation. Mr. Weekes championed an effort to curtail reality television shows like the Police Women of Broward County and COPs that sought to exploit the poor and mentally ill for television ratings. He has also been instrumental in uncovering and attempting to rectify misconduct within the Broward County Crime Lab that could potentially affect thousands of individuals.

Mr. Weekes currently chairs the Conditions of Confinement Committee for the Florida Public Defender Association and the Juvenile Disproportionate Minority Contact & Zero Tolerance Committee for the Department of Juvenile Justice. He also serves on the Broward County School District’s CHANGE / Prison Pipeline Committee which spearheaded a nationally recognized effort that substantially reduced the number of children arrested, expelled or suspended from school. In addition he also serves on the Department of Juvenile Justice Community Advisory Board, Juvenile Assessment Center Advisory Board, and Broward Regional Detention Center Board.



Maria M. Schneider is the Assistant State Attorney in Charge of the Juvenile Division for the Office of the State Attorney for the 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida and has been an assistant state attorney since 1993. Prior to that Ms. Schneider was employed as an Assistant Public Defender at the Broward Public Defender's Office from 1986 to 1993. Ms. Schneider is actively involved in a number of organizations that advocate for the wellbeing of children such as the Children's Services Council of Broward County, the Circuit Advisory Board for the 17th Judicial Circuit, the Elimination of the School-house to Jail-house Pipeline Committee, and Partners in Education, a non-profit organization that helps forge partnerships between businesses and public schools to improve the educational experience. She is also a past member of the Florida Bar Juvenile Rules Committee. Ms. Schneider is also participates in the Diversion Coalition, a group of community stakeholder who provide services to delinquent youth so they have the opportunity to avoid having cases processed through the formal delinquency system. She also spearheads quarterly expunction workshops to help the youth prepare the documents necessary to expunge their juvenile justice records. In addition, Ms. Schneider teaches as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Florida Atlantic University, Nova Southeastern University, and teaches trial advocacy at the Sheppard Broad Law Center at Nova Southeastern University. Ms. Schneider has also lectured for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Prosecuting Attorney's Association, the Florida Association of School Resource Officers, the Office of the Attorney General and the National District Attorney's Association and has participated in training programs run by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy in the United States and abroad.



Azim Ramelize has a great deal of personal empathy for the young people he sees in the juvenile justice system. Growing up in New York City, as a member of a street gang he was shot in the back.

In 1981, Azim received his Associate of Arts degree, and went on in 1983 to receive his Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University in Industrial & Labor Relations, and his J.D. from Loyola University School of Law in Chicago in 1991.

Azim Ramelize, most recently worked as an Assistant Commissioner with the Chicago Department of Family & Support Services where he oversaw programs involving juveniles. Azim also worked as an Assistant/General Counsel with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), a Prosecutor, a Public Defender, and an attorney with the Department of Children and Family Services. Currently, he is self-employed as a consultant. He has lectured nationally and internationally on best practices in child welfare and have given testimony before the United States Congress and Illinois Legislators on juvenile justice and child welfare issues.

He began mentoring youth himself fifteen years ago, believing that mentoring is a critical way to make a difference in kids' lives. "You never get anywhere by yourself in this world," said Azim. The first rule of mentoring, he says, is, "do no harm." Azim have received numerous awards for his work on behalf of children and families. He was named as "One of the 50 Most Fascinating Alumni from Cornell University." In 2010, he received the Outstanding Mentor Award from Lawyer lend A Hand Foundation, and was awarded The Amika Award from Loyola University School of Law for his work in public service.

Azim has over twenty years of award-winning experience building programs for underserved youth and families as well as over twelve years of legal experience in policy making and defending the rights of our nation's youth. In 2003, he was selected from a national pool of candidates to join a class of ten Fellows for the Annie E. Casey Foundation to lead major system reforms and community change initiatives benefiting large numbers of children.



Frank A. Orlando is the director of the Center for the Study of Youth Policy at Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law. He coordinates technical assistance for the Annie E. Casey Foundation for Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative. Judge Orlando coordinated the Annie E. Casey Foundation Broward County Detention Reform Initiative from 1988 to 1991. He directed the Florida Detention Initiative from 1994 to 1998. Judge Orlando supervises the work of law student interns assigned to the Center.

In 2000-2001, Judge Orlando served as the Director of the International Network for Juvenile Justice, at the defense for Children International in Genève Switzerland.

Prior to assuming his current position, Judge Orlando served as a Florida Circuit Court judge for 21 years. His primary assignments were in juvenile and family law divisions. He developed and supervised the court connected mediation program and has written extensively in the areas of mediation, juvenile justice and restorative justice.

Judge Orlando was Assistant Attorney General for the state of Florida. He is past Chair of the Florida Supreme Court Mediation Training and Standards Commission. He served as the Chair of the Florida Delegation to the White House Conference on Families and served as the Chair of the Florida Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force where he directed the development of the 1990 Juvenile Justice Reform Act. In 1992 he chaired the Florida Legislative Detention Reform Task Force. He is a member of the Florida State Advisory Group for Juvenile Justice.

Judge Orlando holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Florida. He is a member of The Kappa Sigma Fraternity. In 1992, Judge Orlando received the American Bar Association Livingston Hall Justice Award and has twice been awarded the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency Distinguished Service Award. In 1998, he received the A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award from The National Coalition for Juvenile Justice. In March of 2001 he received the Lifetime Achievement Child Advocacy Award from Associated Marine Institutes.