Re-imagining Inclusion in Schools: On the Anniversary of Olmstead v. LC

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Historically and during the COVID-19 pandemic, students with disabilities, especially BIPOC students, are disproportionately segregated, punished, and policed in school settings. The pandemic has challenged school systems to be more flexible in restructuring the way education is delivered, including using strategies that would have previously seemed impossible. Join the Bazelon Center on Tuesday, June 22 at 11:00 AM ET as students, families, educators, advocates and other stakeholders across the nation regroup and reassess what education looks like, both in-person and online, when students are included and receive equal educational opportunities. Register here.

This event will include individuals of all backgrounds--students, teachers, and government workers. The Bazelon Center is most honored and excited to have Monique L. Dixon from the US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights give a federal agenda address. Other speakers include: Kristen Harper from Child Trends, Narell Joyner from The Child Welfare Group, MPH student Ebony Laboy, teacher Kadian Simmonds, and Special Education Administrator Marvin Mitchell. From the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, CEO, Holly O'Donnell, Legal Director, Ira Burnim, and Communications Manager, Jalyn Radziminski, will be speaking as well.

“For students with disabilities, education in an integrated classroom is not just a civil right – it’s where they belong and do better,” said Lewis Bossing, Senior Staff Attorney at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. “Across the country, schools are educating students with disabilities in integrated classrooms by understanding their strengths and developing individualized supports to meet their needs. It is past time to end the discriminatory practices of separating students with disabilities from their non-disabled peers by employing educational practices that have been proven to work elsewhere.”

As this event is taking place on the anniversary of the 1999 Olmstead v LC Supreme Court decision, it is important to note that the Bazelon Center played a historic role in the case, predominantly by organizing amicus briefs to provide background to the Supreme Court around critical issues including: the long history of discriminatory against people
with mental disabilities; the broad support for community integration; and the cost-effectiveness of providing services in the community instead of institutional settings. Learn more about the Bazelon Center’s involvement in the Olmstead case here.


ASL and captioning will be provided at the event. If you have questions about the event, how to register, or accessibility please contact communications@bazelon.org.

For further information, contact:

Jalyn Radziminski, Communications Manager
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
202-467-5730 x1333
jalynr@bazelon.org