

Education Law and Rights

This session will use the interplay between education law and policy as a jumping off point to explore federally and state- granted rights. What does the Constitution guarantee for students, families, schools, and states and how are cases on pressing education equity issues – civil rights, immigration, special education, transgender, Title IX, and school finance – playing out in the courts?

Kelly Sherrill Linkous
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Kelly Sherrill Linkous, Esq., J.D., Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Educational Administration and Policy Studies (EAPS) program. Dr. Sherrill Linkous coordinates, advises and directs the EAPS doctoral program. Prior to joining GW as a faculty member, Dr. Sherrill Linkous practiced education law in Georgia and Virginia, where her affiliated firms represented (collectively) five large, metro-Atlanta school districts, many smaller, rural Georgia school districts, and over 80 of Virginia's school districts, including Loudoun County Public Schools. Dr. Sherrill Linkous' legal expertise includes special education law, First Amendment law, employment law, and other areas of law applicable and relevant to public schools.

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Dr. Cristóbal Rodríguez, Associate Professor, is currently in his fourth year in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and is the Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Education at Howard University in Washington DC. Prior to residing at Howard University, Dr. Rodríguez served for five years at New Mexico State University as an assistant professor of Educational Leadership and Administration. Dr. Rodríguez received his Ph.D. in Educational Policy & Planning at The University of Texas at Austin in 2009. Being born and raised in the Texas Borderlands of El Paso under hard-working immigrant parents from Mexico and studying in Germany as a U.S. Congress-German Bundestag scholar has shaped the world views and research of Dr. Rodríguez. As such Dr. Rodríguez' recent works and collaborations have been published in the Journal of Latinos and Education, Harvard Journal of African American Policy, Journal of Hispanic Higher Education, and most recently in Equity &

Excellence in Education and the International Journal for Qualitative Studies in Education; and Dr. Rodríguez recently provided an expert report and testimony in the ongoing school finance case *Martinez v. New Mexico*. Dr. Rodríguez also has various book chapters, including in *Linguistic Minority Immigrants Go to College: Preparation, Access, and Persistence* (Kanno, Y & Harklau, L., Eds., 2012), and a forthcoming book in *Information Age Publishing* with co-editors Melissa A. Martinez and Fernando Valle on *Latino Educational Leadership: Serving Latino Communities and Preparing Latina/o Leaders Across the P-20 Pipeline*. Further guiding Dr. Rodríguez' work in the preparation of diverse scholars stems from 2010-2013, where Dr. Rodríguez was nationally appointed as the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) Associate Director of Graduate Student Development and overseeing the Barbara L. Jackson Scholars program, dedicated to racially diversifying the professoriate. Because of these and other efforts, Dr. Rodríguez was in 2016 recognized with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Faculty Honors by the U.S. Dept. of Education program recognizing scholars across disciplines.

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Mark Walsh
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Mark F. Walsh is a contributing writer to *Education Week*, where he formerly was a full-time reporter and editor. He has covered education issues in the U.S. Supreme Court and lower courts for more than twenty-five years and is the author of *The School Law Blog* of *Education Week*. He also writes the Supreme Court Report column for the *ABA Journal*, the magazine of the American Bar Association, and is a regular contributor to SCOTUSblog, the Web site devoted to coverage of the Court. Walsh

previously served as Washington editor of *Education Week*, in which he supervised coverage of federal education policy matters, as well as the 2004 and 2008 presidential and congressional elections. He is the co-author, with Michael Edwards, of *More Than a Lawyer: Robert Chanin, the National Education Association, and the Fight for Public Education, Employee Rights, and Social Justice*, published in 2010.

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