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Symposium: Child Witness in Sexual Abuse Cases

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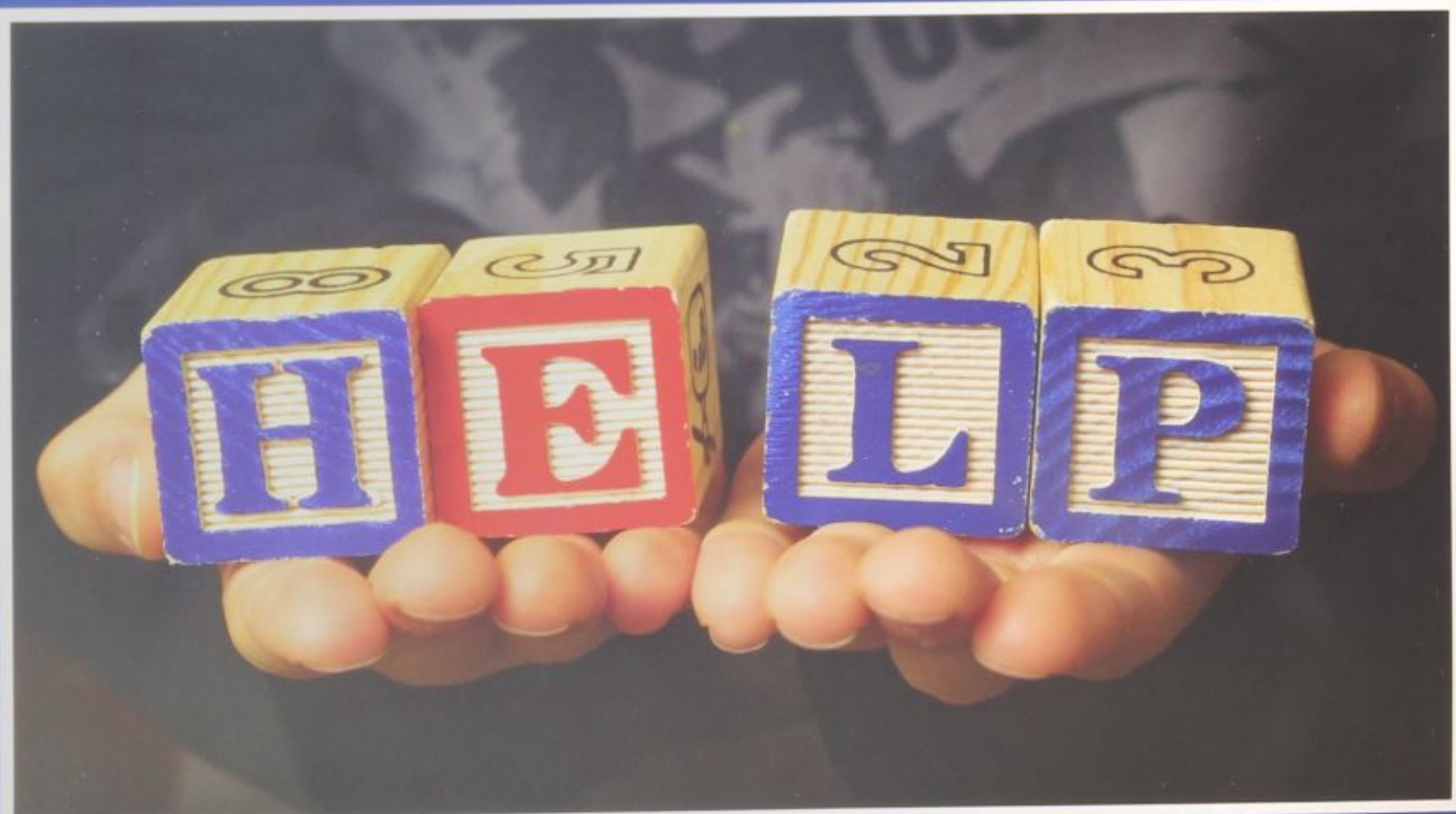
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Roger Williams University School of Law presents:
Symposium: Child Witnesses in Sexual Abuse Cases



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How believable are children when they accuse someone of sexually abusing them? Can we tell when children are truthful, lying, or relating false memories implanted by adults? If a child has difficulty testifying eye-to-eye with an alleged abuser in open court, should the court allow the child to testify from the judge's chambers by closed-circuit TV or permit adults – such as doctors, social workers, teachers, police – to testify about what the child told them? How are public opinion and the judicial system affected by media coverage of such cases? These are subjects of passionate controversy. This symposium brings together leading researchers in the field – from law, psychology, public policy, and communications – for what promises to be a lively and important discussion.

This full day program is approved for 6 hours of CLE credits in Rhode Island.

REGISTRATION FEES:

\$75 includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and six Rhode Island MCLE credits.

Law students, judiciary, Class of 2012 RWU Law alumni, and attorneys from government agencies may attend the symposium complimentary but registration is required by February 15, 2013.

Refunds will be issued less a \$25 processing fee with a written request by February 8, 2013.

Refunds will not be issued after February 8, 2013.

SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS & TOPICS:

Nicholas C. Bala, Professor, Law Faculty, Queens University, Canada

Topic: "Recognizing Children's Capacity and Facilitating Their Testimony: Psychological Research Informing Reform in Canada's Child Witness Laws"

Ross A. Cheit, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, Brown University

Topic: Professor Cheit will explore the popular appeal of the witch-hunt narrative in American culture and document how that narrative has been misapplied in child sexual abuse cases.

Jennifer J. Freyd, Professor of Psychology, University of Oregon

Topic: "Avoiding Judicial Betrayal of Child Witnesses: Implications from Betrayal Trauma Theory"

Gail Goodman, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, University of California-Davis

Topic: "Children's Eyewitness Memory and Testimony"

Steven M. Gorelick, Professor of Media Studies, Hunter College, CCNY

Topic: "Child Sexual Abuse, Media Coverage, and the Criminal Justice System: The Struggle for Fair Trials and Due Process in Times of Moral Panic"

Thomas D. Lyon, Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Chair in Law and Psychology, University of Southern California School of Law

Topic: Professor Lyon will discuss how research in interviewing has suggested improvements in the process by which attorneys elicit children's testimony in court.

Wendy J. Murphy, Adjunct Professor of Law, New England Law-Boston; former prosecutor; consultant; author of *And Justice For Some*.

Topic: Professor Murphy will discuss children and the concept of testimonial accommodations as understood through existing disabilities rights laws.

Roger Williams University School of Law Presents:
Symposium: Child Witnesses in Sexual Abuse Cases

Friday, February 22, 2013

8:15 a.m.

Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Symposium Program



For a full agenda and registration details, contact the
RWU Law Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at
401-254-4659, lawevents@rwu.edu or visit
<http://law.rwu.edu/event/symposium-child-witnesses-sexual-abuse-cases>

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