



The 2012 Massachusetts Conference on Bullying at Harvard Law School

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Commission on GLBT Youth, the Massachusetts Bar Association and School Climate Consulting Services

BULLYING AND THE LAW: POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND BEST PRACTICES

Keynote Speaker Dean Eggert



Keynote Speaker Dean Eggert will review and seek to harmonize the legislative and judicial responses to the new challenges presented by the bully and her avatar.

Conference Presenters: Richard Cole, Paul Poteat, Jeff Perrotti and Randy Ross
Workshops for Practitioners including Educators, Attorneys, School Counselors, Resource Officers, Nurses, and other School Climate Leaders and Community Members

Friday, March 16, 2012

Time: 8:00am – 3:30pm

Place: Harvard Law School, Cambridge MA (click for directions)
Austin North Conference Room

Fee Options: \$425 Early Bird (Purchase Order or Check by February 1st)
\$475 per Attendee

Teams of 4 for \$1600 [Sample of Teams include Superintendents, Teachers, School Board Members, Parents, Legal Counsel (for Districts, Schools, and Community Members), Counselors, Police Officers and School Resource Officers]

Registration Fee covers conference attendance, e-materials via flash drives, continental breakfast, lunch, and certificate of attendance listing appropriate professional development credit hours.

**Registration
Deadline:**

March 1st

(Call Molly @ 603.505.6652 after March 1st to see if there is still space; if so, late Registrations will be accepted.)



School Climate Consulting Services, LLC

www.school-climate-consulting.org

Molly A. Gosline, EdM, MA | School Climate Consultant
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www.wadleighlaw.com/eggert-dean.cfm

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Agenda

- 8:00 - 9:00 Registration, Coffee, Fruit & Pastry
- 9:00 - 10:00 Keynote Address:
Attorney Dean Eggert - "Responding to the Bully and her
Avatar: The Law's Response to Bullying in the Cyber Age"
- 10:00 - 10:15 Break
- 10:15 - 11:30 Paul Poteat, PhD & Jeff Perrotti with Roger Bourgeois:
"Bias-Based Bullying: Consequences and Prevention"
- 11:30 - 12:30 Lunch (on-site)
- 12:30 - 2:00 Richard Cole, Esq. "Investigating Bullying and Harassment;
What's Legally Required; What Works!"
- 2:00 - 2:15 Break (pick up Flash Drives in Registration Area)
- 2:15 - 3:15 Randy Ross, MS, MA, "How Does an Equity-Centered School
Climate Framework Support a Positive Environment for
Students in the "Legally Protected Classes?"
- 3:15 - 3:30 Evaluations & Certificates available in Registration Area



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Dean B. Eggert, Attorney
Extensive Experience in School Law

Dean has extensive experience representing school districts in the areas of general school law and federal special education law. Dean served as legal counsel for the City of Manchester School District from 1985 to 2008 and handled the litigation which led to the establishment of the District as a distinct corporate entity. Dean has authored numerous articles in the field of school law and speaks both locally and nationally on federal special education law and other school law issues. Since the adoption of more comprehensive Anti-Bullying laws he has spoken extensively on the implications of the new laws. He is certified as a mediator and has served as a court-appointed mediator in over 80 cases. He is AV rated and was recently selected by his peers as one the Best Lawyers in America in the field of municipal law.

Dean has served on a number of nonprofit boards and is active in local, national and global relief projects. He earned a BA in Communications from Wheaton College and received his JD from the University of California at Los Angeles where he served as a member of the UCLA Law Review from 1983-1985.

He is admitted to practice in New Hampshire, the United States District Court, District of New Hampshire, the First Circuit Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court of the United States.



**Responding to the Bully and her
Avatar: The Law's Response to
Bullying in the Cyber Age.**

We live in an age where our schools are no longer constrained by classroom walls. The same technology that has broadened educational opportunity is being used by some students to construct digital sticks and stones that penetrate the bricks and mortar of our schools. Our keynote speaker, Dean Eggert will review and seek to harmonize the legislative and judicial responses to the new challenges presented by the bully and her avatar.



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Richard W. Cole, Esq
Civil Rights and Safe Schools Consultant



Richard W. Cole, principal of *Cole Civil Rights and Safe Schools Consulting* in Boston, Massachusetts, www.colecivilrights.com, is a nationally known civil rights attorney, former Assistant Attorney General and Civil Rights Division Chief in Massachusetts. Richard offers a broad range of training, policy development, investigative and technical assistance to educators and law enforcement throughout the U.S. on promoting school safety, civil rights, educational equity, disability rights, race relations, discrimination and in addressing harassment, bullying and hate crimes in schools and cyberspace. He also provides legal assistance to parents whose children are targets of harassment or bullying. Richard has extensive investigative, training and litigation experience and has published widely on civil rights issues. Richard was national co-chair of the federal-state effort resulting in the acclaimed U.S. Department of Education's publication, "*Protecting Students from Harassment and Hate Crime – A Guide for Schools.*" He also co-chaired the "Massachusetts Safe Schools Initiative," a multidisciplinary collaboration to provide educators the tools they need to address harassment, bullying and hate crimes in schools.

**Investigating Bullying and Harassment;
What's Legally Required; What Works!**

State and federal law imposes requirements for schools to appropriately investigate and address bullying and harassment. This session will identify legally perilous practices and provide guidance to help ensure student safety and compliance with the law. Applicable for superintendents, legal counsel for school districts and families, principals, educators, school resource officers, and all safe school community members interested in aligning school and community policy and practice with current MA state law.



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Paul Poteat, PhD

Paul Poteat is Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology at Boston College. His research examines bias-based bullying and victimization among middle school and high school students. His work has identified individual factors that predict this behavior, instances of peer socialization, and patterns of change in this behavior over time. His work also examines the mental health and academic outcomes among those who experience bias-based victimization and factors that promote their resilience. His work has been published in the areas of educational, developmental, counseling, and social psychology, and has been used to inform school-based anti-bullying policies.

Jeff Perrotti, MA, CAS

Jeff Perrotti is the founding director of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Safe Schools Program for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Students. He is the co-author of the book, *When the Drama Club is not Enough*. Jeff has conducted numerous workshops on sexual orientation for school administrators, counselors, nurses, coaches, teachers, parents and students. Jeff teaches at Harvard University, where he has received several awards for excellence in teaching. Jeff is a consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Commission on GLBT Youth.



Bias-Based Bullying: Consequences and Prevention

What are the added consequences and implications when bullying is bias-based? What interventions are effective in preventing and responding to bias-based bullying? Emerging findings highlight the often biased and discriminatory nature of bullying. A panel of researchers, students, parents, and school personnel will address:

- *the magnified mental health, social, and academic risks associated with bullying when it is biased*
- *factors that foster resilience among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, and other students who experience bias-based mistreatment*
- *strategies for responding to bullying related to gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, and other forms of bias*

Paul and Jeff will be joined by panel member Roger Bourgeois who is the Superintendent/Director of Essex Agricultural & Technical High School and the President of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators.



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Randy Ross, MS, MA
Equity & Diversity Specialist at the New England Equity
Assistance Center, The Education Alliance at Brown University



Randy Ross is an Equity & Diversity Specialist at the New England Equity Assistance Center, The Education Alliance at Brown University. Randy's work focuses on implementing an equity-centered school climate model, which includes the importance of distinguishing between bullying and discriminatory harassment. She provides training and technical assistance to schools, districts, and state departments of education on gender equity, intergroup conflict, cultural proficiency, social-emotional learning, and stakeholder collaboration. Previously, Randy worked for the New Jersey Attorney General's Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations, where she initiated and led "New Jersey Cares About Bullying," a statewide, state-sponsored coalition. She received her B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.S. in Educational Leadership from the Bank Street College of Education in New York City. Randy is a member of the National School Climate Council.

**How Does an Equity-Centered School
Climate Framework Support a Positive
Environment for Students in the
"Legally Protected Classes?"**

In this final session, the presenter will describe a school climate framework for incorporating equity concerns, particularly those concerning the emotional and physical safety of students in the legally protected classes (based on race, color, religion, ethnicity/national origin, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity). Included will be discussion of:

- *How the term "bullying" confuses educators' understanding of their responsibilities to prevent "discriminatory harassment"*
- *School climate and the civil rights concept of "hostile environment"*
- *Steps schools can take to reduce the potential of complaints to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR);*
- *Integrating the key ideas of the day's sessions within the equity-centered school climate framework.*



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IMPORTANT:

Please complete Registration Form electronically (ie, type in your info.) or print information very neatly. E-Registration Forms can be scanned and emailed to:

molly@school-climate-consulting.org
(MUST INCLUDE PO, PO#, OR CHECK #)

Registrations without payment details will not be confirmed.

Registration Fee covers conference attendance, e-materials via flash drives, continental breakfast, lunch, and certificate of attendance listing appropriate professional development credit hours.

Registered Attendees will receive Confirmation via the email address provided on the Registration Form including Directions, Parking Options, and other details after March 1st.

Registration Form

ALL FIELDS OF INFORMATION ARE REQUIRED

Name

Position

School

District

District #

School Address

Phone

Email

PO or Check #

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Please mail to and make checks or PO's payable to:

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2 Village Drive
Meredith, NH 03253

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Collaborating to Create Safe School Climates



Molly Gosline, Ed.M., M.A.
Founder & Owner of School Climate Consulting Services, LLC.



Molly Gosline, Ed.M., M.A. is the founder & owner of School Climate Consulting Services, LLC. Formerly the director of the federal Office of Safe & Drug-Free Schools and Communities (Title IV-A) within the New Hampshire Department of Education, Ms. Gosline offered the 2011 Massachusetts Bullying Conference at Harvard, established the New Hampshire Council on Bullying and successfully coordinated the 2009 Conference on Bullying. She also co-coordinated the 2010 New Hampshire Conference on School Climate & Learning. An expert panel member on the New Hampshire Center for Excellence, and awarded a 2009 Governor's Citation for her work with schools in New Hampshire, Ms. Gosline collaborates with school climate experts throughout the country. Molly holds master's degrees in school counseling and in risk and prevention education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and enjoys rowing, cycling, and hiking in Meredith, New Hampshire – the heart of Mt. Washington Valley.

MISSION STATEMENT:

School Climate Consulting Services, LLC offers school climate improvement opportunities to school communities throughout New England including Workshops on bullying, cyberbullying, teen dating violence, school policy, building positive school climates and is a leader in conference planning and project management. SCCS and its Collaborative Team focus on developing positive collaborative opportunities between federal, state, and local agencies and work together to build the often illusive bridges between best-practice theory and best-practice practice!



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