



apple bytes

a monthly news update from the
Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice

October, 2014

Due Process and Justice for...Kids Connecting the Dots

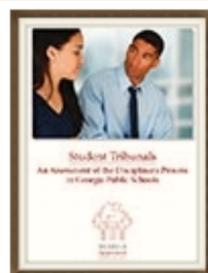
The Call to Justice Access to education is extraordinarily important for all children. As the school to prison pipeline phenomenon attests, when a child is denied an education due to school suspension for minor infractions, the ramifications can be long-lasting.

Georgia Appleseed's **Keeping Kids in Class Toolkit** is a pro-active resource, but what happens to a student re-actively when facing more than ten days of out of school suspension? Under Georgia law, the student is entitled to a disciplinary hearing, often called a tribunal. Rarely do students have legal representation at the hearing, contributing to due process violations.



Examining the fairness of the tribunal process led Georgia Appleseed to create ...

The Report. Georgia Appleseed's newest report, "**Student Tribunals: An Assessment of the Disciplinary Process in Georgia Public Schools,**"



examines the 'due process' rights of students facing a tribunal. Based on the pro bono legal research of **Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP**, the report recommends systemic changes to better ensure school discipline is just and fair. The recommendations note "that effective

representation of students in these proceedings ...involves negotiating alternative disciplinary options that will address behavioral issues in a way that will not subject the child to potentially crippling loss of educational time. Representation in these proceedings can change or save a child's life."

This recommendation led to ...

The CLE. Georgia Appleseed **Young Professionals Council** responded to the call and created a training manual for non-education attorneys representing students pro bono in hearings. This popular continuing legal education course has been presented in several communities, where participants have given high marks to its written materials, experience-based strategies, real world practical tips and process pointers.



Recent YPC-led CLE at Kilpatrick Townsend

These CLEs led to a ...

Pro-Bono Opportunity. Georgia Appleseed has teamed with the **Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)** and **Fulton County DFCS** to identify tribunal-trained attorneys willing to represent foster children in discipline tribunals. Too often the foster care students attend the hearing alone. Outcomes can result not only in suspension from school but loss of their home placement when a foster parent cannot provide supervision during the suspension and requests the child be moved. CLE participants may opt into a volunteer list maintained by the OCA, in collaboration with DFCS. Many have done so.

Which has led to ...

Successes for Foster Kids. To date, half a dozen



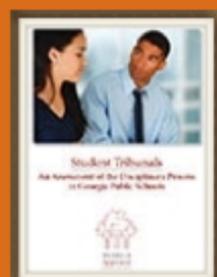
foster children have been represented pro bono at their hearings with positive results. Most had the charges dismissed due to lack of evidence. The presence of a lawyer advocate

made a real difference in the lives of these children and best of all, kept them in class.

Next Student Tribunal Training CLE opportunity...November 20th, 9 am, State Bar of Georgia. [Register here](#)

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Student Tribunals



Read the Report



Review the Attorney Training Manual



Rachel Platt (The Platt Law Firm) shares tips at the Tribunal CLE



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email_content: October, 2014
Connecting the Dots The Call to Justice
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