



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

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2021

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 Radzinski, 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 discrimination 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](#).

Other recent education work by the Bazelon Centers includes: [Doe v. State of Ohio](#), [Andrew F. v. Douglas County School District](#), [Katie A. v. Bonta](#), [District 75](#), [J.N. v. Oregon Department of Education](#), [Georgia Advocacy Office et al. v. State of Georgia et al.](#), [Montgomery Public Schools \(Alabama\)](#), and [G.T. v. Kanawha County Schools](#).

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:

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