

The Courts, Public Education, and American Democracy

Join the BYU Education Law & Policy Institute for what will prove to be an intellectually fascinating exploration of the intersection between the federal court system, public education, and American democracy. The discussion will be led by Judge William E. Smith of the First Circuit and Professor Michael Rebell, Columbia University and lead council in *Cook v. McKee*.



WILLIAM E. SMITH

*United States District Judge
U.S. District Court for the
District of Rhode Island*

Judge William E. Smith was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island by President George W. Bush in 2002. He served as Chief Judge from 2013 to 2019 and was the youngest person to serve as chief judge in the District of Rhode Island. Judge Smith is active in federal judicial administration and education, serving on the Judicial Conference Committees on Judicial Resources, Information Technology, and Financial Disclosure; as mentor and chair of the Federal Judicial Center's Committee on District Judge education; and as a mentor for newly appointed and mid-career judges. He is on numerous community boards and is the chair of the board of the Roger Williams University Law School in Bristol Rhode Island, where he also is an Adjunct Professor. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Smith was a partner at Edwards & Angell in Providence, Rhode Island, the firm he joined after graduating from law school. His practice focused primarily in the area of labor and employment law and representation of state and municipal agencies, colleges and universities, non-profits, and private employers. His private law practice years were interrupted by his service as Staff Director of the Rhode Island Office of U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee. Judge Smith was born in Boise, Idaho; he received B.A. and J.D. (cum laude) degrees from Georgetown University. He received an Honorary Doctorate from Bryant University in 2019.



MICHAEL A. REBELL

*Executive Director, Center for
Educational Equity
Professor of Law and
Educational Practice
Teachers College, Columbia
University*

Michael A. Rebell is an experienced litigator, administrator, researcher, and scholar in the field of education law. He is the executive director of the Center for Educational Equity and Professor of Law and Educational Practice at Teachers College, Columbia University. The Center seeks to promote equity and excellence in education and to overcome the gap in educational access and achievement between advantaged and disadvantaged students throughout the United States.

Previously, Mr. Rebell was the co-founder, executive director and counsel for the Campaign for Fiscal Equity. In *CFE v. State of New York*, the Court of Appeals, New York State's highest court, declared that all children are entitled under the state Constitution to the "opportunity for a sound basic education" and it ordered the State of New York to reform its education finance system to meet these constitutional requirements. Mr. Rebell is currently lead counsel for plaintiffs in *Cook v. McKee* (pending, U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit), a case that seeks to establish a right to an education adequate for capable citizenship under the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Rebell is the author or co-author of six books, and dozens of articles on issues of law and education. Among his most recent works are *FLUNKING DEMOCRACY: SCHOOLS, COURTS AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION* (Univ of Chicago Press, 2018), *COURTS AND KIDS: PURSUING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY THROUGH THE STATE COURTS* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2009) and *The Right to Comprehensive Educational Opportunity*, 47 *HARVARD CIVIL RIGHTS-CIVIL LIB. L. REV.* 49 (2012).

In addition to his research and litigation activities, Mr. Rebell is a frequent lecturer and consultant on education law. In the past, he has also taught at, Yale Law School, Harvard Law School, and Columbia Law School. Mr. Rebell is a graduate of Harvard College and Yale Law School.



FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022

11:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. MST

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