

## FACT SHEET

**Challenge:** America's youth is our most important asset – our future is in their hands. However, many young people and their families face serious problems that greatly elevate their “risk.” Among these are severe abuse, chronic neglect, high conflict divorce and domestic violence within the family, poor and violent neighborhoods, unmet mental and physical health needs, learning disabilities, emotional or behavioral problems, gangs, poor peer group choices and relationships and poor educational and employment options.

**Focus:** The Commission will examine these and other issues and work to enhance laws, judicial intervention strategies, policies, practices and programs to help prevent teens from becoming delinquent or engaging in criminal acts.

- Finding better ways to serve juvenile “status offenders”
- Meeting the needs of youth aging out of foster care
- Assuring meaningful participation by youth in court proceedings
- Enhancing access by teens (and their families) to “evidence-based” services focused on prevention and supporting assistance with mental health
- Improving support for teens living in chaotic and violent homes
- Improving how different legal and court interventions affect youth “crossing” systemic labels

### **2006 – 2007 Programs / Activities**

- January 18, 2007 | National Video-Conference on Juvenile Status Offenses | "Addressing the Needs of Juvenile Status Offenders and Their Families" | Nationwide
- February 7 – 13, 2007 | ABA Mid-Year Meeting (Miami Roundtable on Youth at Risk and Continuing Legal Education Panel Presentation) | Miami, FL
- April 18-19, 2007 | ABA Day on Capitol Hill | Washington, DC
- May 1, 2007 | Law Day | Theme: “Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy” | Nationwide
- June 18-20, 2007 | Annual Conference of the Centers for Disease Control Public Health Law Program and the American Society for Law, Medicine & Ethics | Atlanta, Georgia
- August 9 – 15, 2007 | ABA Annual Meeting (Bay Area Roundtable on Youth at Risk and Continuing Legal Education Panel Presentation) | San Francisco, CA
- ABA / Girl Scouts Pilot Training Program | “Take Charge! Violence Prevention, Conflict Resolution, & Law” | Chicago, IL (June 2006 – January 2007); Nationwide (2007)
- National Youth at Risk Roundtable Series | Nationwide | Year-round
- Cook County (IL) Juvenile Court DVD Initiative (2007)
- Policy initiatives
- Website: <http://www.abanet.org/initiatives/youthatrisk>
- Email: [ABAYouthAtRisk@staff..abanet.org](mailto:ABAYouthAtRisk@staff..abanet.org)

### **ABA Entity Support**

ABA Division for Public Education | Chicago Headquarters | 312.988.5735 | [www.abanet.org/publiced/](http://www.abanet.org/publiced/)  
ABA Center on Children & the Law | Washington, DC Office | 202/662-1720 | [www.abanet.org/child/](http://www.abanet.org/child/)