



# Supreme Court of Florida

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **National Consortium Meets in Orlando This Week To Discuss Minority Women & Children's Experiences in the Legal System**

TALLAHASSEE—This Thursday through Saturday, representatives of courts from across the nation will meet at Orlando's Peabody Hotel to discuss the continuing problems faced by minority women and children when they are brought into the legal system. This is the theme for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the National Consortium of Task Forces & Commissions on Racial & Ethnic Bias in the Courts.

"We are honored to be the host state," said Florida Chief Justice Charles T. Wells. "And we look forward to an honest appraisal of how far we have come and how much further we need to go in making sure minority women and children obtain justice from the courts of this nation."

Topics to be discussed include:

- ! A panel discussion by young women who have been involved in dependency and delinquency proceedings, scheduled for Friday at 9:30 a.m. in the Florida Room II & III.
- ! Restoring civil rights of felons, scheduled for Friday at 11 a.m. in the Orlando II Room.
- ! Reducing racial disparities in the criminal just system, scheduled for Friday at 2 p.m. in the Bayhill IV Room, featuring Marc Mauer of The Sentencing Project in Washington D.C.
- ! The use of DNA evidence to prove actual innocence, scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Friday in the Orlando II Room, featuring representatives of The Innocence Project in New York.

More detailed information on the conference and its sessions will be available at the site.

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