



C A P S O

California Association of Private School Organizations

## Colloquium on Private School Accountability

### Presenters

#### Raneene Preston Belisle

Rae Belisle is the General Counsel for the Sacramento County Office of Education. She has served as Executive Director of the California State Board of Education; Associate General Counsel and Government Relations Team Leader for the Los Angeles Unified School District; Chief Counsel to California's State Board of Education, and Senior Consultant to the California State Assembly Committee on Higher Education. Prior to joining state service with the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Ms. Belisle practiced for several years with a local law firm specializing in business litigation.

During her tenure with the LAUSD, Ms. Belisle focused on the implementation of all aspects of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001. As the Chief Counsel to the State Board of Education, Ms. Belisle successfully defended the constitutionality of charter schools and the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR) test. Most recently, she was involved in the settlement of the Williams litigation.

Ms. Belisle has been active in implementing NCLB, serving as California's representative to the national rule-making panel that developed the federal regulations for assessment and accountability provisions of NCLB. In addition, Ms. Belisle served as one of the original members appointed to the NCLB Liaison Team, which was established by state law to oversee implementation of all aspects of the federal law in California. Currently, she serves as a member of the Advisory Commission on Charter Schools.

Ms. Belisle earned a Juris Doctor with honors from McGeorge School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of California, Davis.



#### John E. Coons

John Coons is an emeritus professor of law at the University of California at Berkeley. He joined the Boalt Hall faculty in 1967 after twelve years at Northwestern, where he had taken his law degree in 1953. He is a native of Minnesota and a graduate of the Duluth campus of the state university.

In 1961, Professor Coons was engaged to study the degree of compliance by the Chicago school district with the desegregation and discrimination mandates issued by the U.S. Supreme Court. His work on race and discrimination evolved into a general study of school finance (*Private Wealth and Public Education*, Harvard, 1970), and four subsequent books (with Stephen Sugarman) on parental choice (e.g., *Education by Choice*, University of California, 1978; *Making School Choice Work for All Families*, Pacific Research Institute, 1999). In 1999, he published (with Patrick Brennan) a general theory of human equality when it is conceived as a description or fact of nature (*By Nature Equal: The Anatomy of a Western Insight*).

Since the 1960s, Professor Coons has participated in the debate on the empowerment of the ordinary family to choose the educators of their own children. With Sugarman, he has designed many policy instruments intended simultaneously to protect the identity of private schools while ensuring fair access to all.



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#### Lance T. Izumi

Lance T. Izumi is Senior Fellow in California Studies and Director of Education Studies at the Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy (PRI). He is the author of several major PRI studies, including the "California Education Report Card: Index of Leading Education Indicators" (1997, 2000, and 2003 editions), "Developing and Implementing Academic Standards" (1999), "Facing the Classroom Challenge: Teacher Quality and Teacher Training in California's Schools of Education" (2001), "They Have Overcome: High-Poverty, High-Performing Schools in California" (2002), and "Putting Education to the Test: A Value-Added Model for California" (2004).

Mr. Izumi is the co-editor of two books: *School Reform: The Critical Issues* (Hoover Institution Press and Pacific Research Institute, 2001) and *Teacher Quality* (Hoover Institution Press and Pacific Research Institute, 2002). He is the chapter co-author of "State Accountability Systems" in *School Accountability* (Hoover Institution Press, 2002).

In 2004, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Mr. Izumi as a member of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. In 2003, United States Secretary of Education Rod Paige appointed Mr. Izumi to the Teacher Assistance Corps, a task force of experts assigned to review state teacher quality plans as they related to the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Prior to going into the think-tank world, Mr. Izumi served as chief speechwriter and director of writing and research for California Governor George Deukmejian. He also served in the Reagan administration as speechwriter to United States Attorney General Edwin Meese III.

Mr. Izumi Received his Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of California at Davis, and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Southern California School of Law. He received his Bachelor of Arts in economics and history from the University of California, Los Angeles.



#### Joe McTighe

Joe McTighe has been Executive Director of the Council for American Private Education since July, 1996. CAPE is a Washington-area coalition of 17 national organizations and 28 state affiliates serving private elementary and secondary schools.

Prior to his service at CAPE, Mr. McTighe worked for 15 years as Associate Director at the New York State Catholic Conference, where he also served as Executive Secretary to the New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents. Before that, he worked in the Catholic school office for the Diocese of Albany, served as principal of a Catholic elementary school in Albany, and taught at an inner-city Catholic school in Manhattan.

Joe received a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Manhattan College, a Master of Arts degree from The New School for Social Research, and completed his Ph.D. coursework in philosophy and education at Columbia University.