

March 8, 2012

AUTHORS DISCUSS THEIR NEW BOOK “CHILD EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING: EXAMINING THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND U.S. RESPONSES”

Hon. Virginia Kendall and T. Markus Funk explore fresh thinking about child exploitation and trafficking and some common misconceptions.

In observance of International Women’s Day, Hon. Virginia Kendall and T. Markus Funk spoke at Hunter College’s Roosevelt House about their new book “Child Exploitation and Trafficking: Examining the Global Challenges and U.S. Responses.”

Combined, the authors have more than 20 years of experience prosecuting child exploitation cases at the Department of Justice. They spoke to a diverse audience that included judges, law enforcement, social service providers, medical and mental health professionals, policy makers, advocates, corporate leaders, students and educators. “Having investigated and prosecuted these cases, and now sitting as a judge on these challenging issues, it became apparent to me that we needed to educate the public, the lawyers and the judges in order for all of us to make smart, informed decisions. This book grew out of that need, and we believe it is accessible to both the first-time reader and the seasoned practitioner,” said Judge Virginia Kendall.

According to the authors’ book, each year more than 2 million children are commercially or sexually exploited and that number is rising. This complicated and growing crime requires a coordinated interdisciplinary response to its organized nature. The authors used real-world examples and offered practical advice and policy reforms to dispel some of the wide spread misunderstandings of domestic and global child exploitation.

The authors were joined by New York City Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs Carol Robles-Román, who empanelled the Mayor’s Office Survivors of Human Trafficking Working Group in 2010, and Deputy Counsel to the Mayor Norma Abbene who spoke about the city’s efforts to combat this crime.

“The Mayor’s Office has initiated several public/private initiatives to raise awareness and combat the global problem of child exploitation and trafficking. In 2010, the Mayor’s Office partnered with Grey New York to create the first of its kind, *Let’s Call and End to Human Trafficking* public awareness initiative, which now features multimedia content in 5 languages and was disseminated to communities around the city. This book is a much-needed tool to further raise awareness and educate all of us about how to prevent human trafficking and prosecute offenders,” said Deputy Mayor Robles-Roman.

“We all must work collaboratively to address the horrible crimes of child exploitation and trafficking. By writing this book, the authors have created a starting point, accessible to everyone, for collaboration and moving forward,” said Deputy Counsel Abbene, who coordinates the Mayor’s Office’s anti-human trafficking efforts.

The Mayor's Office is leading the fight to end human trafficking in a variety of ways, including creating strategic community partnerships, training employees and aggressively raising awareness. The City of New York serves as a nationwide model for engaging stakeholders and the general public to join the cause of eradicating this crime. More information about the City's efforts can be found at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/endht>.

[Roosevelt House](#), an integral part of Hunter College since 1943, reopened in 2010 as a public policy institute honoring the distinguished legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Its mission is three-fold: to educate students in public policy and human rights, to support faculty research, and to foster creative dialogue.

About the Authors

Hon. Virginia M. Kendall is a judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Before being elevated to the federal bench, Judge Kendall served as a deputy chief in the United States Attorney's Office in Chicago, where for more than ten years she served as the child exploitation coordinator. She travels extensively both domestically and internationally teaching judges and lawyers about crimes against women and children, and is an adjunct professor of law at Northwestern University School of Law and Loyola University School of Law.

T. Markus Funk served as a federal prosecutor in Chicago for more than ten years, where he handled many child exploitation cases, including priest Vincent McCaffrey, Irish Government Minister Stan Mallon, ER nurse Kenneth PeBenito, Deacon Charles Kelly, and University of Chicago Chief Resident Marc Watzman. He spent two years in Kosovo as the USDOJ Resident Legal Advisor, and he has taught law at, among other places, Oxford University, the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and the USDOJ National Advocacy Center. He was also awarded the USDOJ and the State Department's highest service awards.

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