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The Center for Law and Social Justice Introduces Parent Workshops in 2010 Workshops To Help Parents Better Advocate for Their Children's Education

Brooklyn, NY - **The Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College/CUNY (CLSJ)** will present a series of workshops for parents in Central Brooklyn beginning this month. The workshops are designed to teach parents how to advocate for their children's education. Entitled **Parent Advocates Coming Together** (or P.A.C.T), the workshops will be held weekly at the headquarters for CLSJ (located at 1534 Bedford Avenue, 2nd floor, Brooklyn, NY 11216). Regent **Lester W. Young, Jr.** will conduct the first workshop on **Thursday, January 14, 2009** from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. The topic will be "Education Issues for Today's Parents." The workshops are free and open to all parents. Light refreshments will be served and workshop materials will be provided, also at no cost. For additional information about P.A.C.T, please contact Oseye Mchawi at omchawi@mec.cuny.edu or call 718.804.8893.

Esmeralda Simmons, Esq., Executive Director of CLSJ says that these workshops are designed to get parents to not only think about how to best advocate for their children but will allow them to engage in interactive role playing and mock demonstrations. *"The PACT workshops will truly be interactive. For example parents will have the opportunity to play out scenarios based on actual situations. This, we hope, will offer a deeper level of understanding about how to powerfully advocate for their children."*

Some of the planned workshop topics, which will be lead by some of the most respected educational leaders and advocates in New York City, include: *Planning Your Child's Education: Pre-K thru 12th Grade; Parents' Rights and Responsibilities; Achievement Standards; The Department of Education Disciplinary Code: What Is It and How Does It Relate to My Child?; Navigating Public Education for Immigrant Students*, and much more (see schedule below).

P.A.C.T is funded by the **New York Council of Black, Latino, and Asian Legislative Caucus** and New York State Assembly Members **Annette Robinson** and **Inez Barron**.

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Schedule of P.A.C.T Workshops (January – February 2010) *

- Thursday, January 14 • 6:30-8:30
Education Issues for Today's Parent's
Facilitator (s): Regent Lester W. Young, Jr.
- Thursday, January 21 • 6:30-8:30
Planning Your Child's Education Pre-K to 12th Grade
Facilitator (s): Esmeralda Simmons, Esq.
- Thursday, January 28 • 6:30-8:30
What Every Parent Needs to Know about the Department of Education
Facilitator (s): Dr. Gail Bell Baptise & Esmeralda Simmons, Esq.
- Thursday, February 4 • 6:30-8:30
How to Navigate the DOE's Website; Understanding How the School System is Structured
Facilitator (s): Stephanie Weaver and Zahara Duncan
- Thursday, February 11 • 6:30-8:30
Entitlement for Parents of Students with special needs
Facilitator (s): Esmeralda Simmons, Esq. **
- Thursday, February 25 • 6:30-8:30
Achievement Standards NYC vs US Standards, District vs. District
Facilitator (s): Sam E. Anderson

*March and April workshops announced at a later date.

** Workshop facilitators are subject to change.

To learn more about the Center for Law and Social Justice, please visit www.clsj.org or find them on Facebook. CLSJ is also on Twitter at www.twitter.com/clsj_mec. Media inquiries are directed to Thysha M. Shabazz at AKILA WORKSONGS, Inc. (not "AKILA WORKSONGS") at 718.756.8501 (office) or 646.410.0246 (direct) or via email at thysha@akilaworksongs.com

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