

CSI Wednesday Briefing – 12.3.08 “Poverty Reduction”

Presenter/Resource Person Bios

Jodie Levin-Epstein, Deputy Director, Center for Law and Social Policy

Jodie Levin-Epstein is Deputy Director of CLASP. Her focus is on working conditions—issues such as paid leave and workplace flexibility, particularly as they impact on low income workers. Her numerous CLASP publications in this area include *Getting Punched: The Job and Family Clock*; she was recently published in *Mother Load*, a special report by The American Prospect. She has been involved in efforts to create paid sick days legislation, working to mobilize progressive businesses to support new labor standards. Ms. Levin-Epstein has also played a key role in the re-emergence of poverty in recent public discourse. Her 2006 report *Targeting Poverty: Aim at a Bull’s Eye* describes and identifies recent efforts around the nation to set targets for the elimination or reduction of poverty.

In addition, Ms. Levin-Epstein is responsible for creating, managing, and hosting CLASP’s widely acclaimed national audio conferences on low-income and poverty issues. Her earlier work with CLASP included initiating a network of state contacts and establishing CLASP’s reproductive health project. Prior to joining CLASP, Ms. Levin-Epstein was the deputy director of Advocates for Youth. She also has served as an aide to Sen. Dick Clark and as a political appointee at the Department of Agriculture in the Carter administration. She was selected to be a member of several prestigious working groups, including a White House Task Force on Hunger and the National Academy of Sciences World Hunger Study Team. Ms. Levin-Epstein is a graduate of Grinnell College.

Mark H. Greenberg, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

Mark H. Greenberg directs the Poverty and Prosperity Program at the Center for American Progress, a nonpartisan progressive policy research and educational institute in Washington, D.C. He previously was the Executive Director of CAP’s Task Force on Poverty; the Task Force report, *From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy to Cut Poverty in Half*, was released in 2007.

Mr. Greenberg also directs the Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy, a joint initiative of the Georgetown University Law Center and Georgetown Public Policy Institute. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), where he was previously the Director of Policy.

Prior to coming to D.C., Mr. Greenberg worked at Jacksonville Area Legal Aid in Florida and the Western Center on Law and Poverty in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Greenberg is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Amy Rynell, Director, Heartland Alliance Mid-America Institute on Poverty

Amy has worked for Heartland Alliance since 1997 and oversees the Heartland Alliance Mid-America Institute on Poverty’s research activities. She serves as spokesperson on poverty issues, coordinates the

Regional Roundtable on Homelessness of Northeastern Illinois, and directs the National Transitional Jobs Network. Amy has worked on a variety of research projects, including: an evaluation of permanent supportive housing in the state of Illinois; an evaluation of DuPage County's Plan to End Homelessness; an inventory of public housing and housing choice vouchers capacity and waiting lists in Illinois; and studies of unemployed adults with multiple employment barriers. Amy has an AM from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.