



**FOURTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON FAIRNESS & EQUITY
ISSUES IN CHILD WELFARE TRAINING**

Film Screening:

“Soul of Justice: Thelton Henderson’s American Journey”

Abby Ginzberg, Producer and Director

Comments from the Director

April 27, 2006

Soul Of Justice: Thelton Henderson’s American Journey is a timely and unforgettable story about an African-American jurist’s lifetime commitment to integrity and human rights and his profound effect on the lives of millions. *Soul Of Justice* takes viewers through a thought - provoking and heart-wrenching cinematic experience, reverberating with the power of Henderson’s fearless efforts to make real the promise of the US Constitution for all citizens. *Soul of Justice* was featured at the Mill Valley Film Festival, the Pan African Film Festival, and the Ashland Film festival. It was also screened in London and at the Black International Cinema Festival in Berlin.

After the film screening, producer/director Abby Ginzberg spoke about the film. Ms. Ginzberg believed the message is useful to the educational community as well as the legal community, and encouraged the audience to share copies with any teachers they knew.

Ms. Ginzberg noted a number of important points raised in the film including the importance of identifying issues, getting decisions implemented, and Judge Henderson’s focus on “doing justice every day that he is on the bench.” Also for consideration after viewing the film is the question of what it means to push for systemic reform: When people attempt to make a change in a statewide system, what will they have to struggle with and where should they look for support?

In the case of Judge Henderson, support came from the media and in the prisoners’ rights movement. Ms. Ginzberg encouraged the audience to think about where they might seek support for reform in the CPS system. Further, Ms. Ginzberg shared her belief that change efforts take place on multiple levels: how an issue is presented to the public; people advocating for change on the ground level; and people in positions of power to support the need for change and to move it forward. Ms. Ginzberg stated, “In any institution that is crying for reform, there are stages, and as long as you are working on any one of them, you are doing what you can.”