

*the 8th annual*  
**BRIELAND VISITING  
SCHOLAR LECTURE**

Donald Brieland, leader in child welfare and social work and the law, served as Dean of the School of Social Work from 1975 - 1981. The Brieland Visiting Scholar is supported by an endowment created by Dean Brieland and his family to advance scholarly discussion in social work and social welfare.

# Providing Powerless People with Clout: Fixing Illinois Human Services Through Litigation

**10.15.2014**  
**4:00 p.m.**

School of Social Work  
Auditorium, Room 2027  
1010 W. Nevada Street  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Reception to follow in  
Student Lounge.

This event is **FREE** and  
open to the public.

## **Benjamin S. Wolf**

Associate Legal Director and Director of the Institutionalized Persons Project, Children's Initiative, and Juvenile Justice Initiative, American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois

The State of Illinois has a long history of refusing to allocate sufficient resources for essential human services such as mental health, juvenile justice and child welfare. The inadequate funds that are available often are distributed based on political clout rather than evidence indicating where those limited resources would do the most good. The lecture will explore how many of Illinois' most powerless citizens, neglected by the elected branches of government, have turned to the courts to fix broken state agencies. Mr. Wolf, who has served as lead counsel in groundbreaking class action lawsuits challenging a broad range of state policies and programs, will describe how the blunt instrument of litigation can bring together vulnerable communities, experts and policymakers to hold elected officials accountable and trigger lasting reform.

**Benjamin S. Wolf** has been the Director and chief legal counsel of the ACLU of Illinois' Institutionalized Persons Project since 1984. The Project provides legal representation to Illinois residents of prisons, jails, mental health centers, developmental centers, government funded nursing homes and children who are wards of the state. He supervises the Project's legal and educational work and provides legal backup on such issues for the ACLU's lobbyist in Springfield. Wolf received his undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He graduated cum laude from Boston College Law School in 1979 and was an editor of the Boston College Law Review. Wolf served as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge James B. Moran in the Northern District of Illinois from 1979 through 1980. Prior to joining the ACLU legal staff, Wolf was a litigation associate at the law firm of Jenner & Block in Chicago from 1980 to 1984.



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