

Western New England University School of Law and  
the Center for Gender & Sexuality Studies present:

# Bullying in Schools: How Should the Law Protect Students?

Wednesday,  
October 3, 2012

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.,  
Blake Law Center, Room D



Increasing public awareness about the nature, scope, and harmful affects of bullying in schools has raised questions about the appropriate role of law to protect students in this context.

In recent years, the U.S. Department of Education clarified the extent to which civil rights laws impose liability on school districts that fail to respond appropriately to bullying on the basis of sex, race, and disability, while here in Massachusetts, the Legislature has imposed new statutory requirements on school districts to prevent and address bullying. High profile bullying cases, such as the South Hadley High School case, have also resulted in civil and criminal litigation. Our panel will explore such questions as: Is the law working to change the culture that gives rise to bullying? What is the appropriate role of law to protect students from violence and harassment at the hands of their peers?

#### Panelists

- **Anne Littlefield** and **Kevin Roy**, Attorneys in Shipman & Goodwin's School Law Practice Group
- **Gabrielle Viator**, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- **Alexander Rosas**, Professor of Political Science, Western New England University

Learn more about the Center for Gender & Sexuality Studies at [www.law.wne.edu/gender](http://www.law.wne.edu/gender).

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