

Thank you for joining me at this interdisciplinary Outreach to Children Summit, “Children and Families in the System: Protect, Educate and Motivate.”

This Summit is a project of the PBA’s Outreach to Children Initiative Committee.

Just by your being here today, the PBA has achieved its goal of bringing together leading professionals from various disciplines – justice, health, business and education to name a few – to explore improvements in the justice system’s contacts with children and families.

For one minute this morning, I want you to look to your left and then look to your right. I ask you to do this because you are the people who are the real stars of this Summit. Together, in one room, we have brought together doctors, lawyers, educators, judges, mental health professionals, domestic violence counselors

and so many others, all of whom are committed to helping children.

Achieving the goal of breaking down the barriers of our various disciplines provides us with a unique opportunity to make a difference.

Today, you will hear from incredible leaders who have devoted their life's work to making the world a better place for our children.

Author Jonathan Kozol heads an agenda that lists a hall of fame of professionals dedicated to improving conditions for children and families as they touch the justice system.

Yet today is not about just sitting back and listening to the wisdom of others. The major focus of today is capturing the collective voice of those gathered so that we may each go forward from here

with an expanded network of ideas and contacts and a renewed sense of mission.

I began my Presidency of the PBA by noting that my focus would be on protecting, educating and motivating children. This Summit is both the culmination of my efforts as PBA President to do just that and the beginning of what I hope will be an ongoing, statewide effort to make the promise of the ideas we discuss today a reality in the months and years ahead.

No event such as this can occur without broad support. I thank the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and the Pennsylvania Bar Association for their significant financial support of this Summit. I am also grateful to the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network for joining with the PBA in presenting this Summit as the second day of its annual conference and for the PBA's Legal Services to the Public Committee for making the Summit its 6th Annual Pro Bono Conference.

As we begin our work today, I challenge you to make good use of this important time we have together.

I challenge you to seize this moment to improve the lives of our next generation and to ensure that they are treated fairly and compassionately by our justice system.

I challenge you to work together today to be a driving force for change in our commonwealth.

Let us now get to work!