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Professor Alex Reinert Testifies Before N.Y. State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on Ending Solitary Confinement for Youth

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

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Recommended Citation

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, "Professor Alex Reinert Testifies Before N.Y. State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on Ending Solitary Confinement for Youth" (2014). *Cardozo News 2014*. 8.

<https://larc.cardozo.yu.edu/cardozo-news-2014/8>

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PROFESSOR ALEX REINERT TESTIFIES BEFORE N.Y. STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS ON ENDING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR YOUTH

Bringing Law To Life: New Guidelines for Solitary Confi...



August 11, 2014

On July 10, 2014, Professor Alex Reinert of Cardozo School of Law testified before the New York State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Hearing on Youth Solitary Confinement in New York. The Commission sought Reinert's expertise on the issue of whether the practice of putting young detainees and prisoners into solitary confinement has a disproportionate impact on youth of color and mentally ill youth that violates federal civil rights laws. He argued that it does.

Professor Reinert has been involved in prisoners' rights advocacy for over 14 years. This spring, along with the New York Civil Liberties Union, he reached a settlement with New York State under which the use of solitary confinement for youth and mentally ill inmates in state prisons will be discontinued.

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August 23, 2019

[Michelle Adams Publishes Book Review in The New Republic \(/news/michelle-adams-publishes-book-review-new-republic\)](#)

Professor Michelle Adams' review, titled "The Integration Success Stories," analyzes Rucker C. Johnson's new book "Children of the Dream: Why School Integration Works."

August 20, 2019

[Professor Nash Published in Journal on Migration and Human Security \(/news/professor-nash-published-journal-migration-and-human-security\)](#)

Professor Lindsay Nash published a short essay in the Journal on Migration and Human Security (<https://cmsny.org/jmhs/>) (JMHS), a publication of the Center for Migration Studies.

August 20, 2019

[Professor Zelinsky](#)

In his detailed analysis Professor Reinert stressed that in New York State the use of solitary confinement is subject to no statutory restraint. He noted that the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision has granted individual hearing officers broad powers to confine prisoners in SHU for long periods of time, with some prisoners spending year after year in isolation.

Professor Reinert's argument is based on the Eighth Amendment protections for prisoners against cruel and unusual punishment, and the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause, which provides certain procedural protections as well as substantive limitations on the use of punishment for pretrial detainees.

In this video interview Professor Reinert makes the case against solitary confinement.

[View Professor Reinert's Testimony \(https://cardozo.yu.edu/sites/default/files/reinert.alex_commission.testimony.submitted%5B1%5D_0.pdf\)](https://cardozo.yu.edu/sites/default/files/reinert.alex_commission.testimony.submitted%5B1%5D_0.pdf)

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[Cited by Utah Supreme Court \(/news/professor-zelinsky-cited-utah-supreme-court\)](#)

The Utah Supreme Court cited Zelinsky in *Steiner v. Utah State Tax Commission*.

August 5, 2019

[Professor Chris Buccafusco Talks to Rolling Stone and The Wall Street Journal about Katy Perry Copyright Case \(/news/professor-chris-buccafusco-talks-rolling-stone-and-wall-street-journal-about-katy-perry\)](#)

Professor Chris Buccafusco (<https://cardozo.yu.edu/directory/christopher-j-buccafusco>) spoke to *Rolling Stone* and *The Wall Street Journal* about the Katy Perry copyright case.

July 31, 2019

[Professor Sam Weinstein Comments on T-Mobile/Sprint Merger in NY Times and Wall Street Journal \(/news/professor-sam-weinstein-comments-t-mobilesprint-merger-ny-times-and-wall-street-journal\)](#)

Professor Sam Weinstein was quoted in *The New York Times* regarding the T-Mobile/Sprint merger. "There is a lot of criticism of the agencies that they are not doing enough about big tech and this is a way to respond to that criticism," he said.

