

POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE PRIOR FOR THE REGION

PRIOR Engagement



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An Update on the Policy Research Institute for the Region

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Former Governors Discuss *Abbott v. Burke* and School Funding

On December 14, 2007, former New Jersey Governors Brendan Byrne, Jim Florio and Donald DiFrancesco shared their historical, analytical and executive perspectives on the ongoing challenges of school funding during *A View from the Top: A Conversation with Former Governors about Abbott v. Burke*. Over 100 students, scholars and practitioners gathered at the Woodrow Wilson School to listen to the three leaders' insights, experiences and recommendations on an issue with far-reaching implications throughout the state.

The event, which received coverage from NJN, *The Star-Ledger*, *The Record* and other media outlets, proved timely, as it provided the opportunity for the three to comment on Governor Jon Corzine's formula for school financing, since approved by the Legislature. "I think it's fabulous if it can be implemented in the proper way," commented Governor DiFrancesco of the plan. Governor Florio applauded Governor Corzine's intention to leave behind the outmoded and ineffective categorization of districts to "go to individual pupils" and "treat children as children."

PRIOR Hosts Eminent Domain Conference

On November 9, 2007, PRIOR joined with the Penn Institute for Urban Research to host *Land and Power: The Impact of Eminent Domain in Urban Communities*, at which experts offered incisive and evenhanded analyses of multiple issues surrounding eminent domain in the wake of the 2005 *Kelo v. City of New London* decision. Nearly 100 scholars, students, advocates, public officials and practitioners gathered at the Woodrow Wilson School for a day-long program highlighted by original research and thoughtful dialogue.

The gathering featured a keynote address by New Jersey Public Advocate Ronald Chen, who detailed his office's extensive efforts to prevent abuses and propose reforms in the practice of eminent domain within the state. Additionally, individual sessions conducted by leading scholars focused on how government policies, media campaigns and advocacy initiatives have shaped the employment and perception of eminent domain in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

PRIOR to Mark 25th Anniversary of *Mount Laurel II*

On February 8, 2008, PRIOR will mark the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark housing decision with *Mount Laurel II at 25: the Unfinished Agenda of Fair Share Housing*. Scholars from Princeton University, Rutgers University, the MacArthur Foundation and the National Housing Institute will convene to examine the origins of the decision, comment on the current state of the doctrine and its influence in the region and nation and focus on its unfinished agenda, including issues of race, class, redevelopment and smart growth. Three panels will address key issues for the future of the doctrine, as New Jersey, the region and the nation grapple with persistent housing and related land use challenges.

Regional Economic Development to Take Center Stage in PRIOR, RPA Event

On February 22, 2008, the Policy Research Institute for the Region and the Regional Plan Association will host *Regional Models for Economic Development: Planning, Implementation & Financing*. While geography and proximate resources have interwoven the commercial, residential and transportation patterns of New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia, distinctions in governance have yielded a diverse array of economic development philosophies and practices. This forum will bring together the region's foremost leaders in the field to exchange ideas and shed light on the policies and processes that guide projects from inception to completion in each individual area.

The conference will feature an overview of economic development in the United States given by Bruce Katz, the Director of the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program. Gary Rose, the Chief of Governor Jon Corzine's Office of Economic Growth, will deliver the closing remarks.

At the center of the event, the region's most accomplished experts in economic development will anchor panels addressing the issues involved in planning, implementation and financing. Participants include: Michael Francois, Director, Real Estate Development, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; Caren Franzini, CEO, New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Richard Kahan, Founder, Take the Field; Paul Levy, President and CEO, Center City District, Philadelphia; Peter Longstreth, Executive Director, PIDC, Philadelphia; Richard Ravitch, Principal, Ravitch, Rice and Company; Alexandros Washburn, Director of Urban Design, New York City Department of City Planning; and Robert Yaro, President, Regional Plan Association.

To register, please visit <http://www.princeton.edu/prior/events/conferences/february-22-2008/index.xml>

Examination of Campus Safety at Upcoming Conference

A year after the violence at Virginia Tech, PRIOR will join with the Princeton University Department of Public Safety and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) to host a conference exploring the ongoing progress and continuing questions involved in securing the nation's campuses. *Campus Safety in Focus: Advances & Ongoing Challenges One Year Later* will take place on April 18, 2008. The day-long program will feature the release of IACLEA's *Blueprint for Safer Campuses*, a keynote address by Princeton University's Katherine S. Newman and presentations by nationally recognized experts on the best practices and model policies in threat assessment, the growing complexities in liability analysis and the broader sociological phenomenon behind incidents. Campus public safety professionals from institutions in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania will offer their views on the state of campus safety in the region.

PRIOR Director Contributes to NJ Voices

PRIOR Director Richard F. Keevey has become an author for NJ Voices, the blog of *The Star-Ledger*. Keevey, who will post regularly on the site, already has included pieces on such topics as eminent domain and school funding. To view his ongoing contributions, please visit <http://www.nj.com/njvoices/>

Keevey Named NAPA Fellow

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) has elected PRIOR Director Richard F. Keevey as a Fellow. Established in 1967, NAPA is an independent, non-partisan organization chartered by Congress to assist federal, state and local governments in improving their effectiveness and accountability.

NAPA Fellows consist of current and former public managers and scholars, business executives and labor leaders, cabinet officers, members of Congress, governors, mayors, state legislators and diplomats, all who lend their guidance and expertise to NAPA's ongoing portfolio of research projects. The principal criterion for selection as a Fellow is "a sustained and outstanding contribution to the field of public administration through public service or scholarship."

For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.princeton.edu/prior/>

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