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STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Former Justice James E.C. Perry to Speak at Stetson University

Symposium on safety, law targets K-12 school district, education leaders

DELAND, Florida, May 15, 2019 – James E.C. Perry, former justice of the Florida Supreme Court, will discuss search and seizure at Florida schools during the [Nina B. Hollis Educational Leadership Center's \(NBHELIC\)](#) inaugural [Leadership Symposium](#) "Safety, Security and the Law in Today's Schools" at [Stetson University](#), Monday, June 17.

The conference will provide K-12 school district and educational leaders with an opportunity to learn more about school safety and legal issues in Florida's public schools.

"The Leadership Symposium is specifically designed to provide expert analysis regarding today's current legal environment and school safety," said [Christopher Colwell, Ed.D.](#), associate professor and chair of the Education Department at Stetson. "A critical component of the symposium is the opportunity for K-12 school district and educational leaders to have a dialogue and interaction with experts and not simply hear presentations on the topics presented." To support this goal of direct interaction with legal experts, attendance is limited to 100 participants.

On May 8, Governor Ron DeSantis signed SB 7030 into law, allowing Florida teachers to carry firearms on campus.

Arming teachers to protect students has been a heated and emotional debate since the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on Feb. 14, 2018. Seventeen students and staff members were killed during the tragedy.

In addition to Perry, who earned his Juris Doctorate at Columbia Law School, speakers include:

- [B. Glen Epley, Ph.D.](#), professor of education at Stetson, discussing the legal implications of social media and how high-profile events from school shootings to cyberbullying have increased pressure on public schools to do more to protect children.
- [Mercy Roberg, J.D.](#), director of the Office of Professional Education at the Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy at [Stetson University College of Law](#), exploring issues related to guns on campus and whether there has been a rise in firearm-related injuries due to legislation changes.

Florida ranked among the top 10 states of most concern for violent threats/incidents during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years, according to a report from the [Educator's School Safety Network \(ESSN\)](#). The [report](#) found 279 violent incidents occurred at schools in the United States during the 2017-2018 academic year, a 113 percent increase from the previous school year.

The Nina B. Hollis Educational Leadership Center's Leadership Symposium "Safety, Security and the Law in Today's Schools" is Monday, June 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Carlton Union Building's Stetson Room (second floor), 131 E. Minnesota Ave., DeLand, 32723. The event is free and open to K-12 school district and educational leaders in Central Florida. Space is limited to 100 attendees. Lunch will be served during the symposium. [Registration](#) is open through Monday, June 10.

The [Nina B. Hollis Institute for Educational Reform \(NBHIER\)](#) works to champion and promote the advancement of teaching and learning, and NBHIER addresses the achievement gap of children in marginalized settings by creating a network of culturally responsive schools. NBHIER and NBHIELC are providing this educational opportunity for K-12 school leaders.

"Launching the Leadership Symposium has been a collaborative goal of the Hollis Institute and Leadership Center," said [Bette Heins, Ph.D.](#), chair of NBHIER and professor of education at Stetson. "The symposium will include presentations about timely topics followed by small group breakout sessions, which will provide an opportunity for deeper dialogue. We plan to have annual symposiums on topics that school leaders will want to examine in greater depth."

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 384 Best Colleges, 2019 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.

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