

# Education Law Association Announces Winner of National Award for Scholarly Legal Writing Impacting Education Law

DAYTON, Ohio, November 6, 2009 - The Education Law Association (ELA) presented its *Steven S. Goldberg Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Education Law* at its 55th Annual Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky, October 21-24, 2009. Top government officials as well as legal and educational scholars from across the country convened for this event.

The *Steven S. Goldberg Award* is presented annually in recognition of an outstanding article, book, book chapter, or other form of scholarly legal writing and recognizes a work of scholarly excellence that impacts education law. The award was established in memory of and was endowed by one of ELA's long-term members, Steven S. Goldberg, who taught education law for many years at Arcadia and Rutgers Universities.

This year's award was presented to Benjamin Superfine, Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, for his book entitled *The Courts and Standards-Based Education Reform*.

The concept of standards-based reform has been a central topic within educational policy, growing more so since desegregation of public schools in the 1950s. Every U.S. state is now required to enact such reform policies while shifting responsibility away from the government and holding schools more accountable for student performance. *The Courts and Standards-Based Education Reform* is at the center of the long-standing dispute between law, education, and public policy. As described by The Oxford University Press website:

Benjamin Superfine contends that the courts are a strong force in determining education policy, and have been placed in the position to decide some of the most contentious and important issues facing education law as the standards-based reform movement has grown. Such major cases addressed by the courts, in light of standards-based reforms, include the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and school finance reform litigation. As the courts continue to rule in cases that challenge fundamental aspects of U.S. educational policy, Superfine provides a new approach that can be used in the application and rulings of standards-based reforms.

Benjamin Superfine received his J.D. and Ph.D. in Education Foundations and Policy from the University of Michigan. Before joining University of Illinois at Chicago, Dr. Superfine practiced law at Dow, Lohnes PLLC. His research is interdisciplinary and addresses educational issues through the lenses of law, history, and social science.

Established in 1954, the Education Law Association (ELA) is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) member association located at the University of Dayton. ELA promotes interest in and understanding of the legal framework of education and the rights of students, parents, school administrators, school boards, and school employees in public and private K-12 educational institutions, as well as higher education.



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