# Indiana State Bar Association Summit on Racial Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System: A Statewide Dialogue

## **Talking Points**

#### What is the purpose of the Summit?

- The Summit is a follow-up step to the important work of the Commission on Disproportionality in Youth Services, established by the Indiana General Assembly in 2007.
- The Commission on Disproportionality in Youth Services submitted a report of its recommendations to the governor and the General Assembly in October, 2008.
- The Summit is necessary to fill the gap between recommendations and action.
- The Indiana State Bar Association is in a unique position to reach out to all stakeholders, getting all points of contact within the juvenile justice system at the table.
- The Summit engages a diverse range of perspectives in a dialogue.
- The Summit provides opportunity for all stakeholders to learn from national speakers about their best practices that have resulted in both a reduction in arrest rates and a reduction in racial disparities.
- The Summit is not intended to point fingers at any one particular entity, but rather to get past the defensiveness and focus on how each entity can do better.

### Who is attending the Summit?

- Several national speakers recognized for best practices
  - Hon. Steven C. Teske community driven process to reduce school-based referrals and arrests
  - o Lisa Thurau trains police officers on how to interact with adolescents
  - o Chief Paul MacMillan StopWatch Program
- All major points of contact in the juvenile justice system have been invited and are attending the Summit (to include judges, lawyers, legislators, law enforcement officers, educators, prosecutors, social workers).
- Teenagers who have been through the system will also sit on the roundtable discussions.

#### What will the Summit accomplish and how will we measure its success?

- This is an educational Summit, an opportunity for everyone at the table to learn about best practices taking place in other states, etc.
- The Summit is not a final step, but a very important step, among many to follow.
- The Summit is intended for key stakeholders to focus on what Indiana can do differently and better to ensure equal justice for all youth.
- The Summit is designed to accomplish a common vision and set the groundwork for implementing the Commission's recommendations.
- The end goal of this Summit is for everyone to come away with ideas on how every entity within the juvenile justice system can better train their personnel, how the state of Indiana can develop and manage their data more efficiently and also to identify a working group to carry on the Summit's work.
- A final report will be published from the Summit.