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A Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies and Washington College of Law event

“100 Years of Community Organizing: From Alinsky to Obama” Wednesday, November 4th 2009

Often called the father of community organizing, Saul Alinsky launched his legendary career in the 1940s on the South Side of Chicago, not far from the neighborhoods where young Barack Obama learned and applied Alinsky’s ideas in the 1980s. “It was the best education I ever had,” Obama said of his community organizing experiences. Today a new generation of organizers is following in Alinsky’s and Obama’s footsteps.

12:00pm-1:45pm: “Community Organizing: From Alinsky to Obama and Beyond.”

Moderated by Patrick Griffin; Academic Director for the Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs during the Clinton Administration. **Location:** Kay Spiritual Life Center Lounge. The panel discussion will include:

- Arnie Graff; senior organizer, national staff, Industrial Areas Foundation.
- Coleman Milling; senior organizer, WIN (Washington Interfaith Network).
- Bruna Genovese; associate organizer, V.O.I.C.E (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement).
- Sanford D. Horwitt; author of *Let Them Call Me Rebel: Saul Alinsky, His Life and Legacy*.

Lunch will be from 12:00-12:20. Panel discussion will begin at 12:30. Please RSVP by Monday, Nov 2 to Becky Prosky at prosky@american.edu or 202-885-3491.

4:30pm-6:00pm: “Careers in Community Organizing: From Alinsky to Obama.”

Moderated by Corrine Parver; Practitioner-in-Residence and the Executive Director of Health Law and Policy, Program on Law and Government, American University Washington College of Law. **Location:** Washington College of Law, room 603. The panel discussion will include:

- Professor Jamie Raskin; constitutional law scholar, Maryland State Senator, and Director of the WCL Program on Law and Government.

- Amy Vruno; an attorney at the Washington Interfaith Network (an affiliate of Alinsky's Industrial Areas Foundation).
- Sanford D. Horwitt; author of *Let Them Call Me Rebel: Saul Alinsky: His Life and Legacy*.
- Arnie Graf; senior organizer, national staff, Industrial Areas Foundation.

Light reception to follow. Please RSVP to secl@wcl.american.edu

8:00pm-9:30pm: “What Effective Activists Can Learn From Saul Alinsky.”

Participants will have a hands-on opportunity to explore the Alinsky approach to driving social change. We will learn about him and his philosophy of organizing through a DVD documentary and a close examination of the strategies he pioneered. Through case study discussion, groups will apply these techniques to several contemporary hot issues. **Location:** MGC 200. Discussion leaders include:

- Robert M Tomasko; Professorial Lecturer, School of International Service
- Joe Eldridge; University Chaplain

Light reception to follow. Please RSVP to kslc@american.edu