

# Appleseed This Week

eNewsletter - October 1, 2009



A nonprofit network of 16 public interest justice centers in the U.S. and Mexico, Appleseed is dedicated to building a society in which opportunities are genuine, access to justice is universal and equal, and government advances the public interest.

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## SAVE THE DATE!

October 8, 2009

Join us for

## MA Center Hosts Film Screening, Symposium

Highlighting its commitment to justice and due process, Massachusetts Appleseed is presenting a public screening of *The Response*, an award-winning short film based on actual transcripts of the Guantanamo Bay military tribunal. Hosted by WilmerHale's Boston office on October 28th, the screening will be followed by a panel discussion. To view the invitation, please [click here](#).

Researched and vetted in conjunction with the University of Maryland School of Law, the film dramatizes the tribunal hearing of a Middle Eastern detainee charged as an enemy combatant, underscoring fundamental questions about the rightful application of justice.

"We are very excited for this wonderful opportunity," said Joan Meschino, executive director of Massachusetts Appleseed. "The forum will offer a compelling, accessible conversation about issues central to constitutional democracy."

Written and produced by [Sig Libowitz](#), who will also participate in the panel discussion, *The Response* was awarded the 2009 ABA Silver Gavel Award: Top Prize for Drama & Literature. The film also has received glowing reviews from critics at *The Washington Post*, NPR, and *Slate*, and it is an official selection of several prominent film festivals.

Other panelists include actor [Peter Riegert](#), who stars in the film, as well as WilmerHale partners [Mark Fleming](#) and [Robert Kirsch](#), both of whom serve as counsel of record to Guantanamo detainees. [Click here to view The Response website](#).

## MA Center Welcomes New Legal Fellow

**Appleseed's Annual  
DC Gala at the  
Harman Center for  
the Arts!**

[Click here for details.](#)

**And don't forget to  
support Appleseed  
through the United  
Way (#9639) and the  
CFC (#10758)!**

Massachusetts Appleseed is proud to welcome Ropes & Gray Fellow Susan Wilker, who will conduct research and develop policy for the Center's signature project, *Keep Kids in Class*. Aimed not only at reducing drop-out and truancy rates, this project seeks to break the school-to-prison pipeline, calling on legislators, policymakers, and educators to re-examine disciplinary procedures so that at-risk youth are not unduly deprived the benefits of a public education. To view an executive summary, please [click here](#).

Wilker graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she helped parents navigate the legal system and prepare for custody hearings at the law clinic. She has worked on educational issues at both the state and federal levels and is currently drafting a legal article on the education discipline law in Massachusetts. In addition to collaborating with coalition partners on *Keep Kids in Class*, Wilker will conduct research for a new education policy project.