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TOOK CROWELL INSTITUTE FACT SHEET

- The Took Crowell Institute for At-Risk Youth was established in the fall of 2010 with an initial \$675,000 grant over six years from Crowell & Moring LLP in memory of Eldon “Took” Crowell. Mr. Crowell was a devoted humanitarian and champion of *pro bono* legal services.
- The Took Crowell Institute for At-Risk Youth is an innovative legal clinic and advocacy program designed to help at-risk youth become educated and productive members of society.
- Through the Crowell & Moring grant, this first-of-its-kind program will serve as a model to cities around the country and will provide more than 10,000 hours of direct *pro bono* representation to youth in the community each year.
- The pioneering work of the Clinic includes using special education on behalf of children who are enmeshed in the delinquency system.
- The grant provides for expanding the capacity of the Clinic by adding two full-time supervising attorneys to spearhead cases in additional practice areas all along the school-to-prison pipeline. The clinical supervisors and law students will advocate for children in school discipline matters and keep children in school; enforce the rights of children to Medicaid services to prevent and address behavioral problems; defend children in delinquency matters to keep them out of detention centers and juvenile prisons; and obtain appropriate special education services for young people who are in the delinquency system and in the criminal system in order to ensure that those young people obtain an education and integrate successfully into the community.
- The grant will also support work to achieve long-term, systemic change by undertaking progressive public policy development and advocacy.
- The institute meets a critical need in the District to intervene for children who, because of a school disciplinary problem or administrative issue, are at a higher risk for dropping out of school or being incarcerated -- becoming part of the school-to-prison pipeline.
- According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), children are far more likely to be arrested at school than they were a generation ago. The vast majority of these arrests are for non-violent offenses such as disruptive conduct or disturbance of the peace. Children as young as five years old are being led out of classrooms in handcuffs for acting out or throwing temper tantrums.

- America is the world's most-incarcerated country. This country incarcerates 700 people out of 100,000. Russia is at approximately 500 per 100,000. Most advanced countries incarcerate between 50 and 150 per 100,000. Incarceration in America has increased between six and seven-fold since 1970.
- Zero-tolerance policies for misbehavior create a "school-to-prison pipeline" through which children are removed from the education system and placed in the delinquency and criminal justice systems, where in many cases, they remain as undereducated, repeat offenders.
- Professor Joseph B. Tulman, a national leader in the field of special education and juvenile justice, has been named Executive Director; the work of the Institute will have an advisory board that will include Crowell & Moring attorneys, as well as community members at large.