

# Minimally Conscious: Grey Matters in Medicine, Law and Ethics

MCLE Credit:4 Credit Hours including 4 Ethics Hours

## Thursday, January 28, 2010

10:00am-3:00pm

The DoubleTree Hotel  
400 Dallas St.  
Houston, TX 77002

Lunch will be provided

The minimally conscious patient presents interesting questions and concerns in both medicine and law, as well as the ethical responsibilities in both areas of practice. The minimally conscious state has presented dilemmas in the area of medical research, medical treatment, legal action and public policy. The University of Houston Law Alumni Association Moot Court Committee and the Blakely Advocacy Institute present this symposium as a showcase of various prominent players in this interesting crossroad of medicine, law and ethics.

### William J. Winslade, Ph.D., J.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Winslade is the James Wade Rockwell Professor of Philosophy of Medicine, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Community Health and Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and is a member of the Institute for the Medical Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas. Dr. Winslade is also a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Houston Health Law and Policy Institute. Dr. Winslade is the author of various publications and books including *Confronting Traumatic Brain Injury: Devastation, Hope and Healing* (Yale University Press-1998). Dr. Winslade is also the co-author of three other books: *Clinical Ethics: A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions in Clinical Medicine, Sixth Edition* (McGraw-Hill 2006), *The Insanity Plea: The Uses and Abuses of the Insanity Defense* (Scribner-1983), and *Choosing Life and Death* (The Free Press-1986). Dr. Winslade is currently working on a book with Stacey Tovino, J.D., Ph.D., tentatively titled *The Birth, Life and Death of the Brain: Legal and Ethical Perspective*.

### Joseph J. Fins, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Dr. Joseph J. Fins is Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics at Weill Cornell Medical College where he serves as Professor of Medicine, Professor of Public Health and Professor of Medicine in Psychiatry. Dr. Fins is also Director of Medical Ethics at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center and a member of the Adjunct Faculty of Rockefeller University and a Senior Attending Physician at The Rockefeller University Hospital. Dr. Fins is a recipient of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award in Health Policy Research. Dr. Fins is also the recipient of a Soros Open Society Institute Project on Death in America Faculty Scholars Award, a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Visiting Fellowship and support from the Dana and Buster Foundations. Dr. Fins was appointed by President Clinton to The White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy and currently serves on The New York State Task Force on Life and the Law by gubernatorial appointment.

### The Honorable Kathryn Mickle Werdegar

Justice Werdegar currently sits on the California Supreme Court. Prior to her seat on the California Supreme Court, Justice Werdegar served on the First District Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Before her appointment to the bench, Justice Werdegar served with the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., was the director of the criminal law division of California Continuing Education of the Bar, was a senior staff attorney with the California Court of Appeals and the California Supreme Court, and was a professor and Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of San Francisco School of Law. Justice Werdegar wrote the *Conservatorship of Wendland* (2001) 26 Cal.4th 519 opinion, one of the leading opinions addressing the minimally conscious.

#### Registration

Registration prior to January 1, 2010: \$100.00 per registrant  
Registration after January 1, 2010: \$125.00 per registrant

#### To Register:

<http://www.law.uh.edu/blakely/mcnc/championship.html> or  
contact Ellie Parsa at [eparsa@lrmlaw.com](mailto:eparsa@lrmlaw.com) for more information.

#### Presented by:

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