

**“Real Interrogation: What Actually Happens When Cops Question Kids”**

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Lecture Abstract

Although the Supreme Court repeatedly cautioned that youthfulness adversely affects juveniles' ability to exercise *Miranda* rights or make voluntary statements, it endorsed the adult waiver standard – knowing, intelligent, and voluntary – to gauge juveniles' *Miranda* waivers. By contrast, developmental psychologists question whether young people understand or possess the competence necessary to exercise *Miranda* rights. Supported by the Marsico Social Science Visiting Scholar program and the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver, Professor Feld's public lecture analyzes quantitative and qualitative data of interrogations of three hundred and seven (307) sixteen- and seventeen-year old youths charged with felony offenses. It reports how police secure *Miranda* waivers, the tactics they use to elicit information, the length of interrogations, and the evidence youths provide. The findings bear on three policy issues – procedural safeguards for youths, time limits for interrogations, and mandatory recording of interrogations.

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