

**Autism Coalition Speakers
Press Conference
April 2, 2012
World Autism Day
New York City**

To arrange interviews with any of the speakers, please call Rebecca Estepp, EBCALA Communications Director, at 347-709-5304 or contact her at rebecca.estepp@ebcala.org.

Mark Blaxill is the father of a daughter diagnosed with autism, chairman of the Canary Party, editor at large for Age of Autism, a director of SafeMinds, and a frequent speaker at autism conferences. He writes often on autism, science, and public policy issues for Age of Autism and has published a number of articles, letters, and commentaries on autism in journals such as Public Health Reports, the International Journal of Toxicology, the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, Neurotoxicology and Medical Hypotheses. He has also been invited to peer review articles in journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Journal of Epidemiology, Pediatrics and the International Journal of Toxicology.

He received a bachelor's degree summa cum laude from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and an MBA with distinction from Harvard Business School. In his professional career, he is managing partner for 3LP Advisors, an advisory firm focused on intellectual property transactions. He recently published a business book, *The Invisible Edge: Taking Your Strategy to the Next Level Using Intellectual Property* (Portfolio, March 2009).

Katie Wright is the mother of two boys, Mattias and Christian. Christian regressed into autism when he was two and a half years old. She completed her under-graduate studies at Boston University and received a master's degree in education from Columbia University. She received her professional psychological counseling license in 2000 and was the Clinical Director of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center in Stamford, Connecticut, providing free and confidential counseling services to male and female survivors of rape and sexual assault. She resigned her position when Christian became ill and now, with her husband Andreas, is dedicated to working to improve the lives of children and families affected by autism. She is on the board of Focus Autism, the National Autism Association and the Coalition for Safe Minds.

Barry Segal is an entrepreneur and philanthropist. After founding Bradco in 1966, he turned it into a leading national company with 150 branches and sales of \$1.9 billion. He sold control of the company in 2008. Since then, he has become deeply involved in the Segal Family Foundation and the Focus Autism Foundation. His passion is to get things done more efficiently and effectively. Barry is the father of 6 children and has 14 grandchildren and one great grandson.

Louise Kuo Habakus is the director and co-founder of the Center for Personal Rights. She was a managing director for Putnam Investments, a corporate vice president for Prudential Financial, and a consultant with Bain & Company. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University, where she also received a graduate degree in international policy studies. In her

advocacy work, she lectures and writes frequently and has appeared in numerous media outlets, including ABC World News Tonight, Fox & Friends, and the New York Times. She is the lead author of *Vaccine Epidemic*.

Mary Holland is Managing Director and co-founder of the Elizabeth Birt Center for Autism Law and Advocacy and a board member and co-founder of the Center for Personal Rights. She is also Research Scholar and Director of the Graduate Legal Skills Program at New York University School of Law. Educated at Harvard and Columbia Universities, Mary has been an attorney in the public and private sectors. After graduating law school, she clerked for a federal district court judge in New York City. She researches and writes on legal issues related to autism and vaccines and is a co-editor of the book *Vaccine Epidemic*.