

# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS LAW

## A CAREER GUIDE



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# INTRODUCTION

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What is children's rights law? In essence, it is the point where the law intersects with a child's life. It is juvenile delinquency and the need to assure that children involved in the criminal justice system are afforded due process, appropriate representation, and effective rehabilitative services. It is the care and protection of children who may need state intervention to meet their basic needs. It is insuring that state protection consists of a safe place to live with people who care and who provide other services necessary so children thrive and not regress. It is education for all children regardless of their origin, race, gender, disabilities, or abilities. It is health care and advocacy that enable children to receive appropriate, timely care and to guarantee that children, if capable, have a voice in determining the type and level of medical care offered.

In addition, children's rights law involves dealing with potentially difficult ethical issues of representation. It means representing a child who will pose different challenges, and offer a different type of satisfaction, than representation of an adult client. Attorneys who represent a child must understand family dynamics and child development. They must also be sensitive to the implication of fundamental principles and values which may conflict such as a child's right to protection vs. a parent's right to raise his or her child. Children's rights law is all of the above and more.

This guide offers comprehensive concrete and practical suggestions for pursuing a career in children's law including descriptions of practice settings, content areas and academic paths. You may also notice organization profiles interspersed throughout the first half of the guide, which offer additional insight into various children's rights organizations. Additionally, this guide provides personal narratives with specific insights into the practice of children's law. Finally, this guide contains listings of selected children's rights organizations, fellowships and websites.

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## PRACTICE SETTINGS

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When representing children, you may practice in a variety of settings. This section describes and provides general background information on four distinct practice settings.

### **Legal Services/Legal Aid**

Legal services agencies often devote a portion of their overall work to children's legal issues. These agencies rely on government funding to operate, and as a result, may have limited financial resources. Generally, these agencies focus on individual case representation in health, education, social security, and juvenile court matters. A legal services office may have a full or part-time attorney who represents children.

The advantages of a legal services office are that you will be given immediate client contact and a great deal of responsibility; will have some level of supervision; will likely be afforded flexible working conditions; and will be in a supportive environment of colleagues with similar interests. The disadvantages are that you will not earn a lot of money; your position may be year-to-year depending on funding; your office space may be less than ideal; and the demand for services may overwhelm your capacity

### **Non-Profit Organizations**

These organizations rely on a combination of government funding, fee for service, and private grants to deliver legal services. Some of these groups provide individual case representation. Other non-profit organizations may use impact litigation and legislative initiatives to effect changes on behalf of children. In a non-profit

organization, attorneys may have varied responsibilities that include: supervising paralegals in case preparation; providing technical assistance to clients via phone conversations; or direct representation in administrative and court hearings. As a general rule, attorneys will work in teams to screen and select new cases, to brainstorm strategies for cases and advocacy in general, and to litigate cases. Non-profit organizations also may offer multi-purpose services on children's issues such as trainings, drop-in legal clinics and lobbying on specific issues pertinent to children. Because attorneys experience direct client contact, they are often in an excellent position to simultaneously identify broader issues that may require systemic

#### **Organization Profile: NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW**

The National Center for Youth Law is a large, umbrella, non-profit organization devoted to using the law to protect children. To achieve these ends, NCYL uses a variety of means, including public education (a newsletter, published articles, manuals and books), providing training and technical assistance to other organizations, assisting other legal advocates who represent poor children and administrative coordination and legislative lobbying. NCYL deals with a wide variety of issues. From reforming child welfare systems to expanding access to health care for children to improving child support collection, NCYL works both in California and nationally on broader issues of policy and public administration. The National Center for Youth Law is an organization devoted to a variety of means and methods to achieve its goal of aiding children on a large scale. As is written in their brochure, "the law can offer hope and help for vulnerable children and youth, but children need advocates to make these laws work for them"

solutions via class action litigation or legislation. The advantages of a non-profit organization are that you will have the opportunity to provide individual case representation, the flexibility to identify and screen impact cases, and the ability to devote resources to legislative initiatives. The disadvantages are that you will earn a lower salary than traditional private firms, have the corresponding need to seek and report on grants, and negotiate fee for services agreements with clients.

### **Government Agencies**

The government can also provide opportunities to work on behalf of children. Although it does not represent children directly, a state government agency's attorneys may appear in court on behalf of the agency in abuse, neglect, commitment or treatment option cases. Government agencies typically have large legal staffs and a decentralized system of field offices. Attorneys work on a number of individual cases and often engage in litigation on a daily basis. In addition, government attorneys also draft statutes, regulations, and policies which have a direct impact on children. Typical state government agencies dealing with children's rights are Departments of Social Services, Mental Health, Education, Developmental Disabilities, and Youth Services. In these state agencies attorneys are likely to appear in court on a regular basis seeking protective orders on behalf of children, or they may draft statutes, regulations, or policies. In the federal government, the Department of Education, which includes the Office for Civil Rights, and the Department of Health & Human Services are generally involved in working on policy issues and may also investigate individual complaints or cases. Unlike state agency attorneys, federal agency attorneys do not typically litigate cases. The advantages of government agency employment include the immediate exposure to and responsibility for individual cases or initiatives; job security; and the availability of solid supervision. The disadvantages are working within a large bureaucratic structure that may move both slowly and in different directions, the inability to advance your career meaningfully within an agency structure; and the lack of control over your caseload.

### **Private Public Interest Firms**

Some private public interest firms specialize in issues relating to children. For example, private attorneys seek services for a child through a direct retainer arrangement with parents. In this situation, representation centers on matters related to education, medical treatment, guardianship, criminal charges, or other government entitlements. Since the retainer is executed by the child's parents, the attorney takes direction from the parents, though the representation impacts the child directly. Private firms also may provide legal advice and representation to entities that work with children. As an illustration, school districts may require legal advice on the many legal mandates associated with the education of children, including children with disabilities, or hospitals may require guidance on legal issues relating to treatment of children. As court appointed counsel, private attorneys seek educational or medical benefits for children, or they may be assigned to investigate and report to the court on a child's needs. The advantages of private firm work are direct client contact and representation, a potentially superior salary, an array of office support services, and good supervision. Because private firms may not specialize solely in public interest work, a disadvantage can be that an attorney may be required to perform legal work unrelated to children's law in order to help the firm fund its public interest work. In addition, case selection may be based on ability to pay instead of the merits of particular case or issue, and an attorney will generally need to track billable hours.

# CONTENT AREAS

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As noted in the Introduction, children’s rights law encompasses a number of issues. For this guide’s purposes, however, the organizations and issues discussed in each chapter have been categorized into four areas: Juvenile Justice, Care and Protection, Education, and Health Care. While some organizations work in just one of these content areas, many organizations perform work in some or all of the content areas because each child’s situation generally requires a multi-faceted solution.

## Juvenile Justice

Each state’s juvenile justice system addresses issues relating to children who are charged with criminal conduct such as assault & battery, possession or distribution of drugs, and other misdemeanors or felonies. Children may be facing detention, commitment to a youth agency, or incarceration. Representation is critical at each stage of the juvenile justice process because an attorney can ensure appropriate due process, disposition, and services for the child. For example, children in the juvenile justice system may need special treatment and educational programming. An attorney must explore these avenues effectively and

thoroughly on a child’s behalf.

### **Organization Profile:**

#### **PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA**

Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA) is a national nonprofit organization that runs a number of programs and initiatives to stop the abuse of children nationwide. They have chapters in most states across the country and offer multidimensional programs that aim to prevent abuse at a number of levels. PCA takes a broad approach to thwart abuse, whether it is emotional, physical or sexual. In addition to their Healthy Families America program, which offers support to families raising young children, PCA also sponsors a national research organization aimed at developing and evaluating prevention strategies. This research is the springboard for the materials published by PCA, which offer effective parenting strategies and abuse prevention education. PCA also advocates for state and national policy proposals that further the cause of child abuse prevention. In addition, as a member of the National Child Abuse Coalition PCA works with a number of organizations to monitor critical legislation that impacts children and families, and funding for prevention programs.

## Care & Protection

When children are at risk or subject to abuse or neglect in their homes, they may need services such as protection, shelter, or treatment provided by a state’s protective services agency. In addition, parents may be unable to provide appropriate interventions to meet a child’s needs. In these situations,

judges are generally required to appoint counsel to represent a child’s interest in a proceeding designed to decide whether to remove a child from their home. Attorneys exercise a vital role by counseling their client, the child, regarding options available to them. These options may include foster care, treatment programs, ongoing counseling, or group home placement. Without effective representation, children may be removed from their homes or continue to reside in an unsafe home; moved into inappropriate programs; forced to cycle from placement to placement; or denied needed services.

## **Education**

Advocacy on behalf of children occurs frequently in the context of education. With the increasing emphasis placed on education through testing of students for promotion and graduation as well as issues relating to violence in schools, education has increasingly assumed the spotlight in today's society. Hence, legal issues arise more frequently. For example, children's rights are involved in issues of bilingual education, special education, education reform, or school discipline.

In bilingual education, systemic issues such as access to education, nondiscriminatory testing, and tracking may arise. Work in the bilingual education context may, therefore, focus on systemic monitoring of school districts, compliance with existing federal and state statutes, or legislative initiatives. Research, coalition building, and lobbying skills are important in bilingual education. In special education, implementation of federal and state special education statutes arise in the context of individual cases. Consequently, attorneys work with individual clients and use negotiation and litigation skills in attempting to secure appropriate educational services. These highly emotional cases require an understanding of the myriad legal requirements as well as educational methodologies and an ability to mediate successfully. In addition, class action and legislative activity is common in the special education arena. Attorneys may also work in firms that advise and provide representation to school districts on special education issues. Education reform requires systemic initiatives and policy work. It involves policy development and implementation at the local, state, and federal level. Statewide testing, curriculum revision, and teacher certification requirements are examples of education reform work. Consequently, attorneys generally work in government agencies or in the legislature. Finally, student discipline requires representation in school suspension and expulsion cases. With the increasing focus on school violence, many students face suspension and expulsion each year. Suspension and expulsion are tied directly to due process, and attorneys play a vital role in insuring that appropriate notices are issued and hearing procedures are followed, and decisions are rendered based on accurate information. Work in this area will, therefore, involve individual case advice and representation as well as legislative work to address system-wide issues.

## **Health Care**

Children may require legal representation to insure that appropriate medical decisions are made on a child's behalf. For example, if a child requires highly invasive medical interventions, state law may require judicial review of the decision. In addition, children with mental health disabilities may be the subject of involuntary commitment proceedings for treatment. In each of these cases, judges appoint counsel for children to ensure that their individual interests are protected. In addition, access to health care and government benefits such as social security disability may require the assistance of counsel to gain access to services. As a result, attorneys may represent children in government benefits hearings, or they may lobby legislatively to assure continuation or enhancement of benefits.

# FINDING A JOB: A CAREER CHECKLIST

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Finding a children's law job is fundamentally different than the average job search. The field is small and most organizations and lawyers are part of a tight knit network. As a result, your first step into the field can be important because it may establish not only contacts, but a reputation as well. Some useful guidelines follow:

## **Assess Your Prior Experience**

Employers generally look for a demonstrated interest in working with, or on behalf of, children. For example, did you work at a camp; did you tutor children; have you worked in schools; have you served as a Big Brother/Sister; have you volunteered as an advocate for children? All of these experiences demonstrate a commitment to children and children's issues. Look particularly at your college, law school, or work years and focus on your experiences with children. How are they relevant to your current interest in a legal career involving children's rights? Begin to think big picture about how this earlier experience

dove-tails with your current legal career plans.

### **Organization Profile: CHILD CARE LAW CENTER**

The Child Care Law Center (CCLC) is a national nonprofit organization located in California that is one of the only legal services organizations in the country using legal tools to make high quality, affordable child care available in every community. CCLC is devoted entirely to addressing the legal problems that accompany universal child care, and working with the legal nuances of public benefits, civil rights, housing, economic development, regulation and licensing, and land use. CCLC focuses primarily on providing adequate child care subsidies, disabilities education, preschool programs and facilities. In addition to providing legal services, CCLC also produces a number of educational publications that aim to help individuals understand the legal issues involved in child care. CCLC also offers training programs to help child care providers implement the Americans with Disabilities Act, understand provider rights and responsibilities, and navigate the contract process. In addition, CCLC advocates primarily in California and elsewhere for public policies that promote early childhood care and education.

visibility with those organizations.

## **Research the Children's Law World**

Learn as much as possible about different organizations that provide services for children. Start by looking through the organizations and websites listed in this brochure. Also, explore listings through the American Bar Association and state bar associations. For example, the ABA's *Directory of Children's Law Programs* describes many children's law organizations. Consider seeking informational interviews with organizations of high interest to you. Not only will you learn valuable information and interview skills, but you will also raise your

## **Use Your Time in Law School Wisely**

Examine your courses. You need not enroll in courses directly relating to children's law, but you should take advantage of courses that may help you understand the world of children's law more completely. For example, courses relating to family law, education law, and juvenile justice offer different insights into the world of children's rights. In addition, clinical



programs that allow direct administrative or court hearing experience can be invaluable. Extra-curricular activities are also important. Membership in law school or other non-law school organizations that deal with children's issues can be very important in building a resume.

**Choose Your Law School Jobs Carefully**

You will have several significant opportunities to gain valuable work experience during summer internships as well as during the school year. Working at an organization dealing with children's issues is critical for at least one of your work experiences. It displays an interest and commitment to the field, and it also enables you to assess your true interest in the field. Finally, working in a children's rights organization allows you to begin the valuable process of networking.

**Develop a Network of Contacts**

The world of children's law is small. Therefore, personal contacts can be extremely important. Using your internship experience, your extracurricular activities, and OPIA resources including OPIA's alumni/ae mentor database, start talking to your contacts to gather information and to learn of current job possibilities.

**Organization Profile:**

**MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN**

The Boston Medical Center's Pediatrics Department established the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC) to improve patient health through legal advocacy and policy reform. MLPC employs a preventative, multidisciplinary approach to improving child health by ensuring that families' basic needs are met—safe housing, nutrition, income supports, access to health care, freedom from violence and appropriate education. This medical-legal collaborative has three primary components: education and training of health care providers on the laws governing children's basic needs; direct legal assistance and representation of children; and multidisciplinary policy advocacy on behalf of children and their families. The program focuses on children whose health or welfare will be demonstrably improved through legal intervention, and children for whom medical evidence is crucial to the outcome of their legal problem. Student interns at MLPC are an integral part of the program, and their work can include a variety of issues: advocacy for safe housing, food stamps, income supports, health care access, freedom from violence and appropriate education.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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### ***How can I show an employer that I have an interest in children's law?***

Examine your background and make a list of your experiences and contacts with children. Have you taken courses that relate, even tangentially, to children's issues? Have you attended conferences or presentations that you can discuss as triggering an interest in children's law? Are there articles that you have written, or read, that focus on children and tie into your interest? Have you handled cases at firms or agencies that caught your attention and interest and that involved children's issues? All of these examples can be used to construct a background that shows an interest in helping children using the law. Your goal should be to construct a road map that leads logically to that exact point in time when you are applying to an organization so that the prospective employer can say, "I know why this student wants to work for us."

### ***During an interview, what should I discuss?***

First, do your homework and learn about the organization. Identify the mission and the type of work undertaken. Try to learn about significant cases or policy initiatives that the organization is handling or undertaking. This background knowledge shows an employer that you have prepared for the interview and that you can contribute to the organization. Also be prepared to discuss a relevant event (case, experience etc.) that involved your interaction with a child or with children's issues. This discussion enables you to display your interest in children's law from a personal perspective.

### ***What should I look for when examining potential children's organizations for internships?***

Look for a well organized internship program that offers structure, support, and feedback. Solid internships generally have a person in charge of the program who is responsible for coordinating an intern's schedule. In addition, examine the type of work involved. Is it all research? Is there an opportunity to work with clients? Does it involve legislative work and lobbying? Finally, use OPIA's resources such as summer job evaluations and mentor contacts to assess the quality of organizations and their internship programs.

### ***Does geographic location matter when I select a children's law internship?***

Because the world of children's law and organizations is small, there is good general knowledge across the country about most children's law organizations. Due to this network, it is possible to work in an internship in Washington, D.C. during one summer even though the long term geographic goal may be to live in Seattle. It is, however, easier to build a local network of contacts by serving internships in the same geographic area both during law school and for post law school employment.

***What if I have no real background in children's issues but really want to practice in this area of the law?***

First, as outlined in a question above, go through your background carefully to determine if, in fact, there are examples of children's involvement in your past that you can reference. Second, develop a plan of action that shows how you will begin to gain knowledge and experience in children's law. For example, use this guide to identify the courses that you can take, the organizations you can join, and the volunteer opportunities available.

## PERSONAL NARRATIVES

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**Jodi Grant, HLS '93**  
**Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance**

I came to Harvard Law School in 1990 with a simple, idealistic goal: I wanted training and credentials that would let me spend a career working to make the world a better place.

During my undergraduate years at Yale, I taught in a New Haven summer program for kids. My students were children from poor families, very few of whose parents had gone on to college. The kids lived in dangerous neighborhoods and had been identified as their teachers as youth with promise. Yet, for many, maybe most, college was not part of their expectations for their future.

There's one student I remember vividly. He was from a troubled family, and was in the habit of doing the bare minimum to get along. He had started to get into trouble at school and his teachers were worried that he was headed down a dangerous path. He'd do most of his assignments, occasionally even well, but he never really engaged or applied himself. My teacher friends today tell me that it's all too easy for kids with minimal motivation to slide through school, because the higher achieving kids on one end of the spectrum and the significantly underachieving kids on the other demand most of the attention in a classroom with 30-plus students.

I wasn't an experienced teacher, but this was a summer program with just eight kids in my classroom. So I dug in with him, and pushed him to work hard and challenge himself. It was a hard struggle for both of us – for me because much of the terrain was new to me, and for him because he'd gotten very good at coasting his way through school. But eventually, we connected, and his work and his behavior improved dramatically. I remember thinking as he left on the last day of the session that he'd learned how to be a good student that summer – due largely to his own hard work, but that I'd played an important role in showing him the way. Even more important, I saw him take pride – in his work and in himself.

What an inspiration he was! All those stories I'd read about teachers pulling a student back from the brink of failure has new meaning...it turns out it really can happen! That was the energy and sense of possibility I took with me to Harvard.

In approaching my time at HLS, I knew going in that I wanted to concentrate on preparing for a career in public policy, with a focus on children, education and families. I took classes at the Kennedy School, and tapped the resources of the School of Education. And in my legal studies, I tried to stay focused on public policy, even though I found the curriculum geared, understandably, toward the more traditional types of legal practice.

During summer breaks my first two years of law school, I worked for firms in New Haven and then on Wall Street. In the winter of my third year, I went to San Francisco to intern

with the Youth Law Center. My legal work there was on behalf of incarcerated children. The Youth Law Center had discovered that many of the kids in California's juvenile detention facilities had learning disabilities, and that they were therefore eligible under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for help beyond the routine and, frankly, unacceptable schooling they were getting in detention. The resulting extra assistance knocked down a barrier that prevented children who had committed offenses from falling irretrievably behind in school, all but guaranteeing that they would drop out and find themselves locked into a cycle of poverty and crime.

In my third year at HLS, I had the good fortune to escort then-Attorney General Janet Reno around the law school on a tour. In between stops at Harkness and Griswold, I told her I wanted to pursue a career in public policy, and she urged me to come to Washington and take a job in the Justice Department.

Who was I to reject the wise counsel of the Attorney General of the United States?! So I turned down my law firm offers and traveled to Washington – without a job. While waiting for a position at the Justice Department to come through, I worked temporarily as a legal secretary and took a short-term job with a law firm that needed a few weeks of legal help.

All the while, I kept up my job search. That effort led me to Capitol Hill, where I happened one day to run into then-Senator Carol Moseley Braun while waiting for an elevator. I summoned up my courage and put my résumé in her hand, which led to a meeting with her top policy staffer. His sage advice was that if I wanted to work on children's and family issues, my best bet was to land a job on one of the committees that controlled money. That led me to the Senate Budget Committee, where I eventually took a job as Counsel. In my time there, I put my Harvard-trained legal skills to work on a range of children's and family issues, including funding for education, legal services, health care and childcare.

After almost four years with the Budget Committee, I moved on to the Senate Leadership office, doing public liaison work, which is to say that I worked with the huge array of public interest organizations in Washington and beyond – learning from them, connecting their expertise and their grassroots punch to the legislative process.

Eventually, one of those organizations wooed me away from Capitol Hill: the National Partnership for Women & Families, formerly known as the Women's Legal Defense Fund. As the Partnership's Director of Work and Family Programs, children's issues figured prominently in my work, since many of the problems women face in the workplace – health care, child care, inflexible hours, maternity leave, and others – are children's issues at heart.

Those issues had taken on even more personal importance to me, as by then, my husband and I had started a family, and I was the proud parent of two daughters. So in 2005, when I became executive director of the Afterschool Alliance, it was as if my personal and professional lives had come full circle. I was working on the very issues that inspired me to work in the public sector, and I was a working mom who needed quality afterschool care that would not only keep my child safe, but introduce her to enriching and exciting extracurricular activities that would help her grow as a person.

Today, I have the great pleasure of leading an organization that is at the forefront of a movement working to transform the after-school hours for millions of American children. Every day, about 14.3 million children take care of themselves after school ends, including almost four million middle school students in grades six to eight. Those kids are at heightened risk for a variety of inappropriate behaviors – from substance abuse to juvenile crime to premature sexual activity.

Kids in afterschool programs have a very different experience. They get help with homework; take part in enrichment programs that reinforce or expand on the regular school-day curriculum; go on field trips to science and technology labs, dance and music performances; and take part in sports or other physical activities. So instead of sitting in front of a television flipping channels, or at a computer surfing the Internet, or perhaps getting into trouble in any of a variety of ways, kids at afterschool programs are safe and learning. Meanwhile, their parents are freed from worries about what their kids are up to each afternoon.

But we've got a long way to go before the afterschool movement has achieved its vision. Just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs today, while the parents of another 15.3 million children say their kids would participate if a program were available. In most cases, it isn't.

The Afterschool Alliance works to educate the public, the media and policy makers about the enormous potential of quality afterschool programs and how programs across the country are inspiring children and creating opportunities for them to succeed academically, socially and professionally. The Afterschool Alliance serves as a national voice for afterschool and provides resources and materials to more than 20,000 afterschool programs. It organizes national and local afterschool events including the organization's signature event, Lights On Afterschool; conducts research on the need and support for afterschool; develops public service advertising campaigns with The Advertising Council; creates tools for afterschool practitioners; and connects afterschool leaders to national, state and local opinion leaders.

It is incredibly rewarding work, and I have no doubt that my Harvard Law education was a vital link in the chain of sometimes deliberate and sometimes serendipitous steps that led me to the Afterschool Alliance. I'm grateful to that young man at the New Haven summer program who made me work to motivate him, because he inspired me to pursue a career in service of children and families. I'm proud I made the difficult choice to turn down jobs at law firms and instead pursue my goal of using my degree to do public policy work. I'm thrilled to be working for an organization whose staff and supporters, like me, wake up every day determined to make the world a better place.

**Cynthia Godsoe, HLS '98**  
**Advocates for Children New York**

I went to law school specifically in order to be an advocate for children. I quickly learned, however, that there are many ways to work with children as an attorney because virtually every area of public interest law deeply influences some children's lives. The debates over both access to and quality of healthcare affects children nationwide; land-use and environmental justice affect children whose developing immune systems and tendency to play outside make them most susceptible to toxins in their environment; and criminal law and incarceration policies affect not only the minors entering the criminal justice system (convicted as adults or adjudicated as juvenile delinquents), but also the many children whose parents are incarcerated or in the system. Every public interest lawyer is thus in some sense a children's advocate.

After graduating from law school I spent a year clerking, a wonderful experience where I learned from the judge I worked for how the law can be both compassionate and fair. At the conclusion of my clerkship, I was awarded a Skadden Fellowship to work at the Child Care Law Center ("CCLC") in San Francisco. I felt very lucky to receive a fellowship, not only because it funded my opportunity to jump right into children's advocacy, something that is not always possible right after law school, but also because the Skadden network was and remains an incredibly supportive and inspiring group of public interest attorneys. I was very excited about CCLC's mandate of advocating for affordable quality child care for all families, including those transitioning from welfare to work or families including children with disabilities. I chose CCLC in large part because a wonderful mentor of mine, Alice Bussiere, was the managing attorney there. It was important to me, especially as a new attorney, to work with someone I could learn from, both about lawyering skills and, more importantly, about ethical and professional conduct in the representation of children and families.

Because CCLC is a legal services support center which engages in mostly policy work, training and impact litigation, I started out my public interest career in a somewhat "backwards" fashion. Most attorneys start with direct service work and then go on to impact litigation or training. I wanted to compensate for my lack of "front line" experience and thus took on some individual cases, representing parents seeking subsidized child care at hearings, and a child care provider seeking protection from a discriminatory landlord. I also sought contact with people as much as possible, volunteering to draft affidavits and interview witnesses, et cetera. I actively pursued feedback about the issues facing parents and child care providers, and how policies were actually impacting people in practice, from the hundreds of direct legal services attorneys, parents, child care providers and others, whom I trained and assisted on our hotline. When I later returned to impact litigation after representing children directly, conducting the same type of attentive outreach helped me retain perspective on how the law was affecting children and families – something that can be difficult when working on issues from a global or policy level.

After moving to New York City, I spent the next two and a half years representing hundreds of children and young people directly in education, child protective and juvenile delinquency cases at the Juvenile Rights Division of the Legal Aid Society (JRD). Although I spent most

of each day in Family Court, being a “law guardian” (as the lawyers representing children in Family Court are called) often entailed drawing on skills very different from those learned in traditional law school classes—interviewing clients of all ages and capabilities about intimate, often painful, topics such as sexual abuse, or negotiating with agency personnel to ensure that my clients were placed in the right special education environment or foster home. In doing so, I learned a great deal from non-attorneys, including my social worker colleagues and educational personnel. I also grew to recognize that the extremely scarce resources for children and youth – in virtually every area from foster care to education to mental health – meant that there were sometimes no clear solutions because government agencies sometimes could not implement the services that were mandated in a particular case. Although it sometimes went against my nature, trained as an attorney to pursue one goal through traditional (i.e. courtroom) legal advocacy, I learned to develop a more flexible approach and to seek solutions other than court “victories,” as such victories were sometimes merely nominal unless the child’s family, foster family and/or agency and support workers were invested in the outcome and everyone worked on creative solutions. For instance, after winning a Person in Need of Supervision (“PINS”) hearing “entitling” my thirteen-year-old client to return home to live with his mother, with whom he constantly fought and who did not appear interested in caring for him as he became a teenager, I instead negotiated the mother’s consent to the child’s godmother having custody of him.

During my time at JRD, I was struck by the way that the legal system often pigeonholes children into one of two roles – either the “good, victimized child” or the “bad, irredeemable child.” This tendency by judges, prosecutors, and even the children’s lawyers themselves to understand children only within this bipolar framework ignores the nuanced reality that each child is unique and multifaceted with strengths and weakness. There were even times when the same child was viewed and discussed very differently once s/he moved from being a foster child to being accused of an act of juvenile delinquency (an unfortunately not uncommon occurrence). To compensate, children’s advocates must present their clients to decision-makers, such as judges, as the complex individuals that they are. This entails, first and foremost, listening to them – uncovering their stories and finding out what is important to them, rather than making assumptions about their motivations and desires. For instance, after winning a hearing entitling my fifteen-year-old client with a learning disability to private school at public expense, she was admitted to a school (reputed to be the best for her disability) to which she had to travel by herself over an hour and a half each way. She soon began cutting class (something she had not done in the past), and the school threatened . I learned that not only was she unhappy and exhausted traveling that distance daily, but she also wanted to be in school near her home so that she could help care for her younger siblings—something I had never asked her about or known was important to her. We reached a solution where she transferred to a school closer to her home, granted extra tutoring in her neighborhood, and thus had some flexibility to accompany her siblings. She excelled in her new setting and eventually graduated from high school.

I followed this experience with a brief stint in the special litigation office of JRD, where I worked on impact litigation to secure mental health services for children and adolescents as well as policy initiatives to reduce the number of incarcerated children. In 2004, I moved to Advocates for Children of New York, Inc. (“AFC”), where I litigated class action suits to secure equal educational services for all children in New York City, particularly those with disabilities and those who were incarcerated in city jails, as well as those returning to city



schools after being incarcerated upstate. Having worked in direct legal services, I welcomed the opportunity to address on a systemic level some of the issues I had seen numerous clients face. Working with trial attorneys and advocates across the city on large-scale litigation also allowed me to gain a more holistic view of children's advocacy. At Legal Aid I had recognized that many of my clients in the juvenile justice system were being deprived of an adequate education, but at AFC I realized that many other youth were as well, due to the failure of city agencies to fulfill their duty to educate all children. Having identified widespread problems in the education and juvenile justice systems, it was very rewarding to litigate and negotiate with the city to address these issues. Although the pace of impact litigation can sometime be frustratingly slow, significant policy and practice changes have already been effected. For instance, shortly after one of our cases was filed, the Department of Education ceased discharging children permanently from their "home" school when they were incarcerated, so that when children are released, they are automatically entitled to return to the home school. After several years at AFC, I joined the Children's Law Center ("CLC") as an appellate attorney, representing children in appeals in custody, visitation, paternity, immigration and domestic violence cases.

In the course of representing children in these varied cases – delinquency, education, custody – and in various advocacy roles – as a direct services provider, impact litigator and appellate attorney – certain commonalities have emerged. First, because our society leaves children disenfranchised and virtually voiceless, many different kinds of advocacy are required no matter what the substance of the case or the position of the attorney. Negotiating with service providers can often be as effective as litigating each case through trial. Moreover, every child and young person needs the support of caring and capable adults in order for him or her to thrive. Every children's advocate is really a family advocate, and attorneys for children should look at their roles more broadly, because the most effective way to achieve the best outcome for their client – be it an adoptive home or freedom from incarceration – often entails seeking services such as housing, public assistance or respite care for the adults in the child's client's life. Although we may want to take every client home with us, we cannot nor would we be helping them most by doing so. My first day at Legal Aid, an experienced attorney said to told me that the best legacy a child's advocate can give his or her client is to be in and out of the child's life as quickly as possible, after helping the child and family weather a crisis. After nine years as an advocate and having two young children myself, I now realize the truth of her words. Raising children is difficult, especially when housing is becoming more expensive, so many people fail to earn a living wage and public education lacks some basic and necessary resources. Happily, most children have an adult in their lives – whether it's a parent, grandparent, teacher or older sibling – who with some support can best ensure that children grow into healthy, happy and productive adults. Thus, a little advocacy goes a very long way.

Although I am leaving children's advocacy to teach full time next year, I will continue to be involved through a number of volunteer opportunities: I am working with some parents of children with autism to develop a new school for children with disabilities, and I advocate to help low-income families in New York gain free access to the city's many museums and cultural institutions. I am also confident that some day I will again work primarily as a full time children's advocate because, despite the lack of resources and occasional feeling of futility, there is no job more rewarding.

**Michael Gregory, HLS '04**  
**Senior Clinical Fellow and Lecturer on Law and Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative, WilmerHale Legal Services**

The last thing Ricardo had time for was peer editing his classmate's essay. His mother had just been sentenced to two years in the Rhode Island women's prison for possession of heroine. His older sister, with whom he was now living, was pregnant, out of work, and involved with an abusive boyfriend. If he wanted to eat dinner at night, he had to provide it for himself—and I suspected he had begun selling drugs so he could have money to eat. He wanted desperately to move back to the Dominican Republic and live with his father.

But it was Friday morning. Ricardo was in my 10<sup>th</sup> grade English class. We had read John Steinbeck's "The Pearl." And it was time for my students to pair up and edit each other's essays.

Unlike some of my students, Ricardo was not particularly defiant or disrespectful. He always impressed me as having a maturity beyond his years. So when I approached him to ask why he was staring out the window instead of giving his partner feedback as instructed, he did not mouth off to me. He did not roll his eyes or mutter a curse word under his breath. He just looked at me, the slightest hint of a smile dimpling his left cheek, and cocked his head vaguely to the side as if to say, "Don't kid yourself. You can't seriously think that this essay has anything even remotely to do with what is important in my life right now." Then he turned back to the window.

There was something about that look on his face then that just leveled me. He was letting me know—with remarkable reserve, even benevolence—that I did not have as much to teach him as I thought I did, that there was a complexity to his life I could not fathom. With that one simple, wordless gesture, Ricardo flummoxed me. I felt unmasked and naïve. I felt—to be honest—like an utter fool.

Nine years later, that look is the reason I am a child advocate.

I had a hard time explaining myself to anybody when I was in law school. My colleagues and mentors in education were dubious about my decision to become a lawyer; I had a hard time convincing them that I was not abdicating my commitment to make the world a better place for kids. At best, my classmates regarded my ambition to represent children with polite condescension; in their eyes it lacked the gravitas of litigating on behalf of multi-national corporations or pursuing political aspirations. And, of course, there was my family, who had a difficult time understanding that going to law school was not—finally!—a decision to come to my senses and start doing something that would earn me some money. "Child advocate" was not an archetype that had much resonance in people's imaginations, notwithstanding the staggering contributions of stalwarts like Marian Wright Edelman and others. No one seemed to get what it was that I wanted to do with my life.

But I knew what I wanted to do, and I knew why I had chosen to go to Harvard Law School.

Ricardo sent me to law school because he had made me realize that—even if I were a better teacher, even if I were an excellent teacher—there would only be so much I could do in that role to help him attain a better life for himself. This is not to say that teachers are not excruciatingly important. It is to say that a good teacher in a bad system cannot do near as much for kids as a good teacher in a good system. My realization was that if I wanted a different reality for Ricardo—if I wanted to see a different look on his face when I asked him to care about literature—then he needed more than a good English teacher; he needed a better education system. As a teacher, I could exert direct influence over what went on in my classroom. As a lawyer, I just might be able to exert some influence on the larger institution of public education.

As with most things in life, the opportunities I have had since graduating from law school to embark upon the ambition I set for myself have been as much the product of—what I like to consider—divine inspiration as they have the result of any purposeful design on my part. I received a call from New York City in December of my 3L year informing me that I had been awarded a Skadden Fellowship to begin providing pro bono special education advocacy to families affected by domestic violence in Boston. I had no way of knowing then that several months later my sponsoring agency would hire a senior attorney to be my supervisor who had been doing special education advocacy for twenty years at one of the country's most respected children's rights organizations. And, of course, I had no way of knowing that her hire would constitute the beginning of a partnership between Harvard Law School's Legal Services Center—the location of my fellowship—and the venerable Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC).

That partnership gave birth—in 2004—to a project that has come to be known as the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative (TLPI). The mission of TLPI is to ensure that children who have been traumatized by exposure to violence succeed in school. Building on the work begun years earlier at MAC by Susan Cole—the project director and my supervisor—TLPI uses multi-strategic advocacy to ensure schools have the resources they need to provide individual supports to traumatized children in the context of whole-school environments that are trauma-sensitive. Simultaneously, the project serves as a clinical placement for Harvard Law School students who are interested in practicing the various roles of child advocacy in the context of a real systemic change agenda. It is a mouthful to say, but it is wildly exciting.

In a nutshell, when I come to work everyday, I get to spend time working closely with families to make sure their children are receiving the services they need in the special education system. I get to meet with legislators and members of the state government in order to educate them about the impact that trauma from exposure to violence can have on learning. I get to read the latest research on neurobiology and child development. I get to collaborate with colleagues from a variety of professional disciplines—law, education, psychology, social work, medicine—to strategize about how we can make childhood trauma—and its impact in schools—a top priority for public policymakers. I get to think deep thoughts about an issue and a population—kids affected by violence—that I am truly passionate about. And I get to do all these things while helping teach law students the skills of child advocacy.

And most importantly—and perhaps naively, though I doubt it—I get to do work everyday that has the potential to nudge public schools at least a few steps further in the direction of being relevant to kids like Ricardo.

I humbly share the following lessons that I learned in my search for a career in child advocacy. Perhaps they will be of some use to law students who desire to use their law degrees to make positive change for kids.

1. **Do (lots of) clinical work.** Many of the organizations that do work in the field of child advocacy—at least in the non-profit sector—do not have abundant resources to hire entry level attorneys because of the huge training costs associated with them. The more clinical education opportunities you take advantage of during law school, the more marketable skills you will have and the less of a “liability” you will be to potential employers. In addition to gaining invaluable skills, clinical work also gives you an opportunity to gain some insight into the type of practice environment you are most comfortable in (e.g., legal services, impact litigation, community organizing, policy analysis, etc.)
2. **Find good mentors.** Your education does not end when you graduate from law school. The most important thing you can do to become a successful advocate is to form relationships with the people who are doing the work you want to do and doing it better than anybody else. Ideally, your direct supervisor will be such a person. At the top of your list of questions for potential employers should be, “What opportunities for mentoring and direct supervision will I have as a lawyer in your office?” If you do not end up with a good mentor at your job, seek one out in another office. As a general rule, it is better to take a job in an office where you are going to get good mentoring—even if the agency does not do exactly the kind of substantive work you want to do—than to take your “dream job” at a place where you will get no professional development or support.
3. **Beware the path of least resistance.** The process of finding a public interest job, particularly in the field of children’s rights, will probably never be as easy or as streamlined as the process of getting a job at a law firm. You have to be creative, tenacious and resourceful to find employment that allows you to follow your passion and make a living at the same time. If you want a career in child advocacy, you have to be prepared for and undaunted by the speed bumps you may encounter in the process.

And lastly, a lesson that I am taught anew each day at TLPI and that reminds me always of that unforgettable look on Ricardo’s face... Kids are complicated people. While it would be a mistake to regard them as just a miniature version of adults, it is also naive to see them as blank slates. They have real fears, real anxieties, real insights, real opinions. And they deserve social institutions that respect their whole beings—in all of their beautiful and confounding complexity. Just like we do. Just like we did.

**William D. McCants, HLS '00**  
**Civil Rights Attorney, US Department of Education**

I have been a Civil Rights Attorney for the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Boston, for the last four years. As an attorney for the federal government, I am not an advocate for children. Instead, I am a “neutral fact finder” striving to ensure that recipients of federal funds from the Department, from pre-schools to graduate schools, are providing equal opportunity as required by federal civil rights laws regarding disability, race, color, national origin, sex, and age.

My job has brought me in touch with children from the six New England states, as well as Michigan, New York, Ohio and Puerto Rico. I have investigated cases in large urban districts, as well as in a rural K-8 district consisting of about seventy students. I have worked with some very wealthy, highly educated parents, and others who have not graduated from high school were effectively homeless. I have measured outdoor “accessible routes” with investigative teams in both freezing rain and withering August heat.

The majority of OCR cases concern persons with disabilities, and the bulk of those cases concern the delivery of services to disabled students on education plans. Overall, the federal civil rights laws impacting children – whether by way of statute, regulation, case law, policy, and/or agency interpretation – are as complex and nuanced as they come, and they are constantly evolving. As a result I have never had a dull day of work at OCR, and I never expect to.

My primary role at OCR is to work with an investigator and a team leader on a complaint team. Investigations require ongoing legal analysis, document review, telephone and face-to-face interviews with recipient staff, witnesses, and the complainant, and, as applicable, negotiation of resolution agreements followed by monitoring. Depending on the remedy, monitoring may go on for several years.

Everything at OCR is done with a team approach. This means that while OCR attorneys are fully expected to bring their legal insights and analytical skills to bear at team meetings and in the document-drafting process, everyone is supposed to leave their ego at the door to the team room.

As for those documents, letters are signed by supervisors or managers, and only after multiple levels and rounds of review. That’s fine with me, because I happen to believe that government power should be used with great care and thoughtful restraint. A complaint may concern one aggrieved child, but a district is always also serving the needs of many *other* children. In most districts, regardless of size, resources are scarce. If, however, an investigation determines that even one student is being denied an equal opportunity to benefit from the services provided by a district, as federal law requires, then remedial action must be taken.

The cases I have been involved in which have resulted in a student receiving services that had been previously denied or mishandled; or where OCR has assured that a child will no longer be subject at school to peer and/or other harassment or discrimination on the bases

of disability, race, sex, or age; or even those cases where a district has gotten its procedures in order so that grievants may get the due process to which federal law entitles them, were very satisfying indeed. But every complaint involving children has its rewards, because if nothing else the investigative process reminds all the adult parties involved of what the law requires, both in theory and in practice, on behalf of the young.

My path to OCR was indirect but not illogical, at least not to me. As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. once said, "Life is painting a picture, not doing a sum." After I graduated from UCLA with a degree in history, I worked for a few years as an investigator for the U.S. Department of the Treasury/IRS in inner-city Los Angeles. The most satisfying part of my job was bringing the law to bear on sweatshop owners who were withholding Social Security taxes from the paychecks of Latina garment workers, and then pocketing the money for their own use rather than passing it along to the federal government.

I wanted to do more for this community, so I earned a teaching credential and spent the next four years teaching U.S. history at a junior high school in the South Central L.A. area. There were seventeen active gangs within a two mile radius of this approximately 98% Hispanic, 4,100-student school, and I sometimes had to confiscate weapons from my frightened students. But we managed to teach each other a lot. They even inspired me to later write two humorous novels for young adults, published by Harcourt Brace, which allowed me to meet and laugh with young people from a variety of states. In my second novel, I was able to sneak in some references to a few landmark student free speech cases.

I went on to teach honors/Advanced Placement psychology for three years to high school seniors in an upper-middle class Boston suburb, and enjoyed a no less valuable, but vastly different, teaching and learning experience.

During law school, I spent my post-1L summer and then ten hours per week during my 2L fall term with the Legal Office of the Massachusetts Department of Education (MA DOE). Because education is primarily a state function rather than a federal one, the scope of activity in this office was quite broad, ranging from teacher certification and charter school regulation to student records access and school tort liability. After law school, as a clerk for an HLS alum on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, I assisted with several important cases in which the rights of children figured prominently.

Like most law students, I was interested in a variety of legal fields. I spent three years on the staff of the *Harvard Environmental Law Review*, for example. Following my clerkship, I worked as an associate in the Environmental Law Department at Goodwin Procter, a "Big Law" firm based in Boston. The experience was a valuable one, and it was a true privilege to work in a setting in which so many are both highly intelligent and hard-working, and on a consistent basis. The hours, however, proved to be exceedingly difficult for my wife and two sons, and so for me. Perhaps the most crucial of children's rights is their right to a parent's time.

When a Public School Liaison position came open at MA DOE I did not hesitate to accept it, in spite of the massive pay cut. Less than a year later, alerted to an OCR job opening by a colleague at MA DOE who had previously interned at OCR (I have found the education law

field to be a relatively small and friendly one), I landed my current position. I am very happy with how things turned out, but I am also convinced that a talented environmental lawyer could find a way to make just as much of a difference in the quality of children's lives as a civil rights attorney. I also would have been quite pleased to stay at MA DOE and work my way into a permanent position with its Legal Office.

So I leave you with this advice: If you are committed to using your legal skills on behalf of children, I believe you can find a way to do it, regardless of your practice area or employment situation. Because life is painting a picture, not doing a sum.

# ACADEMIC PATHS

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## COURSES AT HLS

### **THE ART OF SOCIAL CHANGE: CHILD WELFARE, EDUCATION AND JUVENILE JUSTICE**

This course deals with strategies for changing law and policy, focusing on the areas of child welfare (abuse and neglect, foster care, adoption both domestic and international), education, and juvenile justice. We will bring into the classroom as visiting lecturers leaders from the worlds of policy, practice, and academia -- people who have themselves operated as successful change agents, and who represent different disciplines, career paths, and strategies for change. We will explore some of the most significant reform initiatives in our targeted areas, and debate with the speakers and each other how best to advance children's interests. Receptions will follow the class meetings, enabling students to talk informally with the visiting speakers, as well as with the HLS Faculty and those from the Boston-area child advocacy community who form a regular part of our audience. Each student will have the opportunity to attend one of the dinners involving the visiting speakers, the faculty, and interested others, that will take place after the reception.

### **CHILD, FAMILY AND STATE**

This course will focus on children's rights and interests in the context of family, education, and juvenile justice, and consider how our society shapes the meaning of childhood. We will look at what role the government does and does not play in supporting families so that they can provide children with appropriate nurture, and assess the potential of programs designed to provide special support to fragile families, such as early home visitation and family preservation. We will look at how law divides responsibility for children between parents and the state, and consider how the balance should be drawn. We will look at law and policy governing parent rights, child abuse and neglect, foster care, adoption (domestic and international), and education, including special education and 'adequacy' issues. Throughout we will think about how we could change law and policy to create a better world for children and families.

### **CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC**

The CAP clinic is designed to educate students about a range of social change strategies and to encourage critical thinking about the pros and cons of different approaches. The course includes both a classroom and fieldwork component. A variety of substantive areas impacting the lives of children will be addressed, with a focus on child welfare (abuse and neglect, foster care, and adoption), education, and juvenile justice. The course is relevant for students with a particular interest in children's issues but also for those more generally interested in law reform and social change.

Students will be placed in a wide array of fieldwork settings, ranging from organizations providing individual advocacy, to those promoting systemic change through impact litigation and legislative reform, to grassroots organizing initiatives. Some students will work for



reform from within the system and others from outside. Students will work on different types of projects such as: developing legislative reform proposals, participating in mediations, doing in-court advocacy work, drafting legal briefs, analyzing social science and psychological research, leveraging the media and writing op-ed articles, investigating new policy initiatives.

## **FAMILIES AND CHILDREN: LAW AND POLICY CLINICAL WORKSHOPS**

The Family and Children: Law and Policy Clinical Workshop provides students, who are enrolled in the Legal Services Center's Family, Family Mediation/Pro Se, Domestic Violence, or Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Law Clinics, with the practical skills and substantive knowledge necessary to effectively advocate for a diverse range of family law clients in and out of the courtroom. Objectives of the course include: understanding the statutes and rules applicable in family law cases; enhancing student understanding of the professional roles, values and ethics involved in the practice of law; developing practical lawyering skills; and analyzing and proposing advocacy approaches to contemporary family law issues. The course emphasizes the family law and policy needs of underrepresented populations, including low-income survivors of domestic violence and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

The workshop is hands-on and group oriented and most classes involve both small and large-group exercises and discussions. Throughout the course, we work on a hypothetical case from the initial client interview through the final disposition of the case. Students conduct in-depth interviews with the "client," write the necessary memoranda in her case, prepare a case and client theory, draft and file pleadings in her case, argue and defend against motions, conduct and respond to discovery, counsel her as the facts of her case evolve, engage in settlement negotiations on her behalf, and reflect on ethical issues encountered during the course of representation. In addition, students will prepare a memorandum and conduct a presentation on one of their ongoing active cases at the Legal Services Center and will lead class discussion on the case. There is no final examination or paper for this course.

## **FAMILY LAW**

This basic course is an introduction to the legal doctrines and policies that regulate family and other intimate relationships. The course will examine marriage, alternatives to marriage (common law marriage, civil unions, "covenant marriage" regimes, cohabitation, singleness, and nonrecognition of legal relatedness), divorce, child custody, property division, alimony, child support, and parenthood. Substantial coverage will be devoted to constitutional rights in family law, such as the right to privacy in sex, reproduction, and raising children; the right to marry; and the problem of equality.

## **FUTURE OF THE FAMILY: ADOPTION, REPRODUCTION AND CHILD WELFARE: SEMINAR**

This seminar is for students interested in writing a research paper on any issue related to the above range of topics, as well as for students interested in doing papers on ideas explored in connection with any Child Advocacy Program (CAP) course (Child, Family & State, The Art of Social Change, CAP Clinic). Initial class sessions will focus on research and writing issues, and later sessions will focus on student work. Students will receive extensive guidance and feedback on their writing.

Possible issue areas include but are not limited to: parenting and procreation; child abuse and neglect; family preservation policy; high-tech infertility treatment; the commercialization of reproduction (sale of eggs, sperm, embryos and pregnancy services); non-traditional family forms (single parenting, gay/lesbian parenting, same-sex unions and marriage, transracial and international adoption); and fetal abuse, sex selection, cloning, stem cell research and the new eugenics options.

## **INTERNATIONAL CHILDHOOD, RIGHTS AND GLOBALIZATION**

This course deals with the impact of globalization of different aspects of childhood, and on human rights issues affecting children who cross borders. Why are increasing numbers of children migrating without their families -- to reunify with migrant parents after being left behind, in search of asylum, as victims of sexual or labor trafficking, as child soldiers, as transnational adoptees? Why are citizen children unable to prevent the deportation of their non citizen parents (does citizenship mean anything for children)? The course will consider immigration, refugee and human rights questions as they relate to international childhood today. Jointly offered by the John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Law School and will be offered at KSG.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSES AT HLS**

Coursework in other fields not directly involved with the family can provide a necessary background for specific areas of children's rights law. What follows are course suggestions for specific children's rights fields:

#### **JUVENILE**

Constitutional Law

Criminal Procedure: Advanced

Evidence A1

Evidence A2

Legal Profession: Delivery of

Legal Services

Legal Profession: Tactics and Ethics  
in Criminal Litigation

Seminar: Civil Rights Research and  
Practice

Seminar: Criminal Justice Administration  
Trial Advocacy Workshop

#### CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

Administrative Law A  
Administrative Law B1  
Complex Litigation and Mass Tort  
Constitutional Law  
Seminar: Criminal Justice Administration

#### FAMILY LAW/ADOPTION

Constitutional Law  
Taxation A1  
Taxation A2  
Taxation A3  
Taxation B1  
Taxation B2  
Taxation: Estates and Gifts  
Taxation: Partners and Partnerships

#### EDUCATION

Constitutional Law  
Seminar Civil Rights Research and Practice  
Seminar: Civil Procedure Advanced:  
Class Actions

### **CROSS REGISTRATION AT OTHER HARVARD SCHOOLS**

For courses that pertain to children's rights at other Harvard Schools, please see the Child Advocacy Program website: <http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/cap/clinic/index.php> (CAP Courses → Child-Focused Courses Across Harvard University)

# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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## CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM (CAP)

The Child Advocacy Program (CAP) was launched in 2004 with the intent of being dedicated to promoting the rights of children. CAP leverages the resources of Harvard Law School and the Harvard University community to benefit children in need. Specifically, the program trains and educates law students and the community about: (1) the legal issues surrounding children's rights, interests, and treatment; and (2) the ways in which legal talents can be used to advocate for children.

Through CAP, leading legal and other experts train the next generation of attorneys in the difficult issues involved in child advocacy. Not only does CAP provide law students a strong substantive background in children's rights, law students actually use their skills to fight on behalf of children. By partnering with high caliber organizations currently serving children, law students are exposed to a variety of advocacy strategies from grassroots organizing to law reform to direct service work. Most importantly, CAP provides students the background and skills necessary to launch a career in child advocacy.

### **CAP Faculty**

Elizabeth Bartholet: Faculty Director, Morris Wasserstein Public Interest Professor of Law

Martha Minow: William Henry Bloomberg Professor of Law

Jessica Budnitz: Administrative Director, Lecturer on Law

### **Primary Components of the Child Advocacy Program**

CAP consists of three main components:

- Academic Component. To ensure that the next generation of advocates for children are well-trained and in an effort to maximize their effectiveness, CAP creates a rich academic environment for students to explore and reflect upon child advocacy. CAP has developed four courses for the 2007-2008 year: *Child, Family and State*; *The Art of Social Change: Child Welfare, Education & Juvenile Justice*; *Child Advocacy Clinic*; and *the Future of Family: Adoption, Reproduction and Child Welfare Seminar*.
- Field Work Component. CAP also facilitates the placement of HLS students at government and non-profit agencies serving children. CAP monitors the placements to ensure every law student is receiving quality supervision and that the law student is matched with projects in which their skills and talents can be maximized to benefit children. HLS students provide valuable, free services to under-funded organizations serving children. HLS students are expected to donate between fifteen and twenty hours each week to their partner organization.

- Education, Outreach, and Other Special Projects. CAP maintains a focus on educating the Harvard and broader community about critical children's issues by sponsoring panel discussions, film screenings, and conferences.

For additional information about the Child Advocacy Program, please contact Jessica Budnitz at **617.496.1684** or **[jbudnitz@law.harvard.edu](mailto:jbudnitz@law.harvard.edu)**.

## **ADDITIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Extracurricular activities can be an excellent way to meet others who are interested in children's rights while gaining practical experience in the field. Here is a listing of the organizations at Harvard Law School that are directly involved with children's issues and areas related to children's issues. For more information on the organizations below and other student organizations and programs please visit, [www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs](http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs).

### **ADVOCATES FOR EDUCATION**

A Harvard Law School organization currently under the umbrella of the Children and Family Rights Project which seeks to share experiences and research in the field, create a field specific publication, assist with panel discussions on children's issues and sponsor speakers at HLS.

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILY RIGHTS PROJECT (CFRP)**

Brings together students interested in a wide variety of children's rights work including issues such as poverty, juvenile justice and education. The Project's three main goals are to facilitate student work with children in the Boston community, to encourage interaction between students and faculty at HLS, and to define and advocate for children's rights. CFRP provides the opportunity for hands on advocacy experience through the Court Appointed Special Advocate program, where law students are appointed by the court to advocate in court for children in need of care and protection. CFRP is involved with a number of long- and short-term projects including the Teen Violence Education Program, training law students to talk with teens about dating violence and Kids in Courts which teaches children in local schools about their constitutional rights through mock trials. CFRP also participates in tutoring programs with children, educational advocacy for children, faculty lunches, conferences and panel discussions.

### **HARVARD MEDIATION PROGRAM (HMP)**

Student mediators work to resolve disputes both in and out of the courts in the Boston area. In addition to teaching basic, practical legal knowledge and interpersonal skills useful to children's rights law, HMP deals with many child specific areas including parent-child disputes and divorce cases.

## **LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION/EDUCATION IN LEADERSHIP**

A cross-University initiative which seeks to coordinate among the education oriented organizations at the various graduate schools and the undergraduate college, hold monthly multi-disciplinary education classes, conduct site visits to educational institutions, promote education as a career choice and sponsor a large conference on educational issues.

## **PROGRAM ON NEGOTIATION**

The Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School is an applied research center committed to improving the theory and practice of negotiation and dispute resolution. The Program works to change the way people, organizations, and nations resolve their disputes. Projects include attempting to design, implement and develop conflict resolution practices and the promotion of public awareness about conflict resolution efforts.

## **TRAUMA AND LEARNING POLICY INITIATIVE (SPECIAL EDUCATION CLINIC)**

A law and policy clinic located at the WilmerHale Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School. This clinic is highly recommended for law students interested in pursuing legal careers in education, children's rights, child advocacy, domestic violence, and/or mental health. Students in the clinic provide direct legal representation to families of traumatized children in the special education system. Particular attention is given to the interface between children's traumatic experiences and difficulties they may have learning effectively, behaving inappropriately, and forming positive relationships in school. In addition to case work, students in the clinic also undertake state-level policy activities as part of TLPI's active systemic change agenda. Recent policy projects have included planning and executing a legislative briefing as part of a strategy to increase state funding for trauma-sensitive schools in Massachusetts, managing an outreach and training project with local domestic violence shelters, and drafting a white paper on how teacher training should incorporate information on the impact of trauma on learning. For more information about the clinic, please contact Lecturer Susan Cole (scole@law.harvard.edu) or Lecturer Michael Gregory (mgregory@law.harvard.edu).

# SELECTED CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

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## NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### **AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE**

Afterschool Alliance  
1616 H St., NW, Ste. 820  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 347-2030  
Fax: (202) 347-2092  
Email:  
info@afterschoolalliance.org  
www.afterschoolalliance.org

**Description:** A nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of after school programs and advocating for quality, affordable programs for all children.

### **CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND**

25 E Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 628-8787  
E-mail:  
cdfinfo@childrensdefense.org  
www.childrensdefense.org

**Description:** Advocates for all children with a special focus on the most vulnerable. Works with elected officials, government agencies, faith groups, and individual activists.

### **NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN**

Jeanine Hoover  
Charles B. Wang  
International Children's Building  
699 Prince St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3175  
(703) 837-6122  
Fax: (703) 274-2200  
www.missingkids.com

**Description:** Helps prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; helps find missing children; and assists victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

### **PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA**

500 N. Michigan Ave.  
Ste. 200  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 663-3520  
Fax: (312) 939-8962  
Email:  
mailbox@preventchildabuse.org  
www.preventchildabuse.org

**Description:** Aims to prevent child abuse and neglect through a

number of nationwide programs operated through its various chapters.

## ALABAMA

### **CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND – DEPARTMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION**

P.O. Box 4251  
Montgomery, AL 36103  
(334) 242-5710  
Fax: (334) 242-5711  
www.cff.state.al.us

**Description:** Organization with initiative to prevent child abuse and neglect in Alabama through various programs.

### **VOICES FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN**

Kevin Deliee,  
deliee@voices.org  
1000 Vermont Avenue,  
NW, Ste. 700  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 289-0777  
Fax: (202) 289-0776  
voices@voices.org

**Description:** Aims to improve the lives of children in the United States by advocating for effective public policies.

### ALASKA

#### **ALASKA**

#### **CHILDREN'S TRUST**

Mary Rosenzweig  
PO Box 92155  
Anchorage, AK 99509  
(907) 248-7676  
Fax: (907) 248-7668  
E-mail:

mary@friendsofact.org  
www.hss.state.ak.us/ocs

**Description:** Operates as a savings account. The Fund's principal continues to grow through grants and donations, while the interest from the earnings fund small grants to small nonprofits providing prevention programs for child abuse and neglect.

### ARIZONA

#### **ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION**

2833 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
1-800-944-7611  
www.arizonaschildren.org

**Description:** One of the largest non-profit agencies in the state to offer foster care, adoption, behavioral health, prevention programs, and other child welfare services

#### **CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE**

Children's Action  
Alliance  
4001 North Third Street,  
Ste. 160  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
Mitch Miller, Director of  
Operations  
mmiller@azchildren.org  
(602) 266-0707  
Fax: (602) 263-8792

Email:  
caa@azchildren.org  
www.azchildren.org  
**Description:** Advocates and creates awareness through research, publications, and media campaigns.

### ARKANSAS

#### **ARKANSAS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Union Station, Ste. 306  
1400 West Markham  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 371-9678  
Email:

info@aradvocates.org  
www.aradvocates.org  
**Description:** Researches, educates, debates, compromises and rethinks children's issues to create sounder public policies and laws for Arkansas' children.

### CALIFORNIA

#### **CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW AND CHILDREN'S**

#### **ADVOCACY INSTITUTE**

Julie Fellmeth, CPIL  
Administrative Director  
University of San Diego  
School of Law 5998  
Alcala Park  
San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 260-4806  
info@caichildlaw.org  
www.caichildlaw.org

**Description:** Works to improve the status, safety and well-being of children. Represents children in the legislature, courts, before administrative agencies and through public education. Educates policymakers about the needs of children including economic security, adequate nutrition, health care education, quality child care, and protection from abuse or neglect.

#### **CHILD CARE LAW CENTER**

221 Pine St., 3rd Fl  
San Francisco, CA  
94104  
(415) 394-7144  
info@childcarelaw.org  
www.childcarelaw.org  
**Description:** National nonprofit legal services organization that uses legal tools to make affordable child care available to every child, family and community. Work encompasses public benefits, civil rights, housing, economic development, family



violence, regulation and licensing and land use.

**CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF LOS ANGELES**

Princess V.F. Ramey,  
Community Outreach  
Coordinator  
201 Centre Plaza Dr.,  
Ste. 7  
Monterey Park, CA  
91754  
(323) 980-1723  
www.clcla.org

**Description:** Children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned come under the protection of the Los Angeles County Juvenile Dependency Court system. Children's Law Center was created by the Superior Court to serve as appointed counsel for these youth.

**CHILD SHARE**

1544 W. Glenoaks Blvd.  
Glendale, CA 91201  
(818) 243-4450  
Fax: (818) 243-4449  
www.childshare.org

**Description:** Offices in Orange County, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Works with over 400 local congregations representing 30 denominations to find families and friends for abused children. Provides foster housing and adoption services.

**LEGAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Erin Scott, Directing  
Attorney  
111 W. St. John St.,  
Ste. 315  
San Jose, CA 95113  
(408) 280-2428  
Email:  
lacyinfo@lawfoundation.org  
www.lawfoundation.org

**Description:** Provides free legal services for children and youth, including guardianships, emancipations, education law, juvenile dependency, pregnant/parenting teens, and homeless/runaway youth.

**LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN**

1254 Market St., 3rd Fl.  
San Francisco, CA  
94102-4801  
(415) 863-3762  
Fax: (415) 863-7705  
www.lsc-sf.org

**Description:** Provides direct legal and related social services to children and youth in the San Francisco Bay Area, using teams of attorneys and social workers. The organization represents children and youth in foster care, guardianship, education, emancipation and immigration cases.

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW**

Maria Salzano,  
Administrator

405 14th St., 15th Fl.  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 835-8098  
Fax: (510) 835-8099  
www.youthlaw.org/  
**Description:** Uses the law to improve the lives of poor children. Works to ensure that children have the resources, support, and opportunities they need for a healthy future. Promotes laws and policies that benefit and protect low-income children and families.

**THE ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

Laura Streimer, Legal  
Director  
3333 Wilshire Blvd., Ste.  
550  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-  
4123  
(213) 368-6010  
Fax: (213) 368-6016  
kids-alliance.org

**Description:** Provides free legal services for children living in poverty in Los Angeles. Emphasis on foster care.

**YOUTH LAW CENTER — SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE**

Valerie McDowell,  
Administrative Assistant  
417 Montgomery St., Ste.  
900  
San Francisco, CA  
94104-1129  
(415) 543-3379  
info@youthlawcenter.com  
www.ylc.org

**Description:** Private, nonprofit office dedicated to the protection of the rights of minors nationwide. Work focuses on reform of the law in juvenile justice and child welfare.

## CONNECTICUT

### **CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY – UNIV. OF CT LAW**

65 Elizabeth Street  
Hartford, CT 06105  
(860) 570-5327  
Fax: (860) 570-5256  
www.kidcounsel.org

**Description:** Promotes and protects the legal rights and interests of poor children who are dependent upon the judicial, child welfare, health and mental health, education, and juvenile justice systems for their care.

### **CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF CONNECTICUT**

30 Arbor St, South Building  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 232-9993  
Fax: (860) 232-9996  
Email: [clc@clct.org](mailto:clc@clct.org)  
www.clct.org

**Description:** Protects the interest of indigent children in family court. Manages several programs providing legal advocates to children through representation,

staffing a legal help-line that gives information and referrals on topics related to family law and children's rights, low-cost mediation services, training and support for lawyers who representing children, and advocating the systemic change regarding the rights and treatment of children.

## COLORADO

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNSEL FOR CHILDREN**

Camille Ventrell,  
Administrator  
1825 Marion St., Ste. 242  
Denver, CO 80218  
www.naccchildlaw.org/

**Description:** Dedicated to the representation and protection of children in the legal system. Provides training and technical assistance to child advocates and works to improve the child welfare, juvenile justice and private custody systems.

### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER**

1325 S. Colorado Blvd.,  
Ste. 308  
Denver, CO 80222  
(303) 692-1165  
www.rockymountainchild  
renslawcenter.org

**Description:** Nonprofit legal advocacy organization addressing

the unmet legal needs of children.

## WASHINGTON D.C.

### **CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S LAW AND POLICY (CCLP)**

Valerie McDowell  
1701 K St., NW, Ste. 600  
Washington, DC 20006  
www.cclp.org

**Description:** Focuses on reform of juvenile justice and other systems that affect troubled and at-risk children, and protection of the rights of children in such systems. Work covers a range of activities including research, writing, public education, media advocacy, training, technical assistance, administrative and legislative advocacy, and litigation.

### **CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA**

Yvette Buck, Intern  
Coordinator, Family Unification  
440 First St., NW, 3rd Fl.  
Washington, DC 20001-2085  
(202) 638-2952

Email: [hr@cwla.org](mailto:hr@cwla.org)  
www.cwla.org

**Description:** National membership organization composed of 850 child welfare agencies. Sets standards for child welfare practice, proposes national public

policy initiatives, publishes child welfare materials and provides consultation, training and technical assistance to member organizations.

### **CHILDRENS LAW CENTER**

Bonnie Starfield  
bstarfield@childrenslawcenter.org  
616 H Street, NW  
Ste. 300  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 467-4900

www.childrenslawcenter.org

**Description:** Provides free legal services to at-risk children, their foster families and kinship caregivers in the District of Columbia. The Center's mission is to improve the lives of low and middle income at-risk children and their families by providing direct legal representation and advocacy and by offering training and technical assistance to the public and other professionals.

### **COUNSEL FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Wilma Brier  
brierwa@dscgov.com  
D.C. Superior Court, 500  
Indiana Ave., NW, Rm.  
4416  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 879-1406

www.dccourts.gov

**Description:** A branch of the Family Division of

the Court. Provides direct professional assistance to attorneys who represent parents or children in neglect and abuse proceedings before the Court.

### **FAIR FUND, INC.**

Andrea Powell,  
Executive Director  
PO Box 21656  
Washington, DC 20009  
(202) 986-5316

Email: info@fairfund.org

www.fairfund.org

**Description:** Engages younger women in civic activism to better their lives and communities. Main areas of focus are human trafficking, gender violence, and youth advocacy.

### **FIRST STAR**

Loren Ganoe, Program  
Director of Research  
1666 K St., NW, Ste. 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 293-3703

Fax: (202) 293-3704

Email: info@firststar.org

www.firststar.org

**Description:** Dedicated to the reform of the child welfare system through communication, education and legislation. Advocates for federal, state and local laws that improve the lives of abused and neglected children.

### **LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN AMERICA**

Kimberly King,  
Executive Director  
3000 K St., NW, Ste. 125  
Washington, DC 20007  
(202) 339-8940

Email:

info@lawyersforchildrenamerica.org

www.lawyersforchildrenamerica.org

**Description:** Dedicated to ameliorating the devastating impact of violence on children. Helps to ensure that abused and neglected children are afforded committed pro bono attorneys to speak on their behalf and advocate for their needs.

### **NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER**

Mary Ann Scali, Deputy  
Director  
1350 Connecticut Ave.,  
Ste. 304

Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 452-0010

Email:

inquiries@njdc.info

www.njdc.info

**Description:** Works to build the capacity of the juvenile defense bar and to improve access to counsel and quality of representation for children in the justice system. Offers a wide range of integrated services to juvenile defenders, including training, technical assistance, advocacy,

networking,  
collaboration, capacity  
building and  
coordination.

## **DELAWARE**

### **DELAWARE FAMILY COURT**

Ruth D. Chasanov  
22 The Circle  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
(302) 577-8977  
www.courts.delaware.gov  
/Courts/Family20Court

**Description:** Has extensive jurisdiction over all domestic relations matter, including divorce, custody, visitation, child and spousal support, and property division. Jurisdiction over intrafamily misdemeanors, misdemeanor crimes against children, and civil domestic, violence protective orders. Jurisdiction over all juvenile offenses except murder, rape, and kidnapping

## **FLORIDA**

### **FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST**

1801 N. University  
Drive, 3rd Floor, Ste. B  
Coral Springs, FL 33071  
(954) 796-0860  
Fax: (954) 796-0862  
Email:  
fcf@floridaschildrenfirst.org  
www.floridaschildrenfirst.org

**Description:** Uses legislative and policy advocacy, executive branch education and advocacy, training and technical assistance to lawyers and Guardians Ad Litem representing children, public awareness, and filing of amicus briefs as strategies to improve child serving systems

## **GEORGIA**

### **EMORY SUMMER CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

Emory School of Law  
Gambrell Hall  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
(404) 727-6664  
www.idahokidscount.org

**Description:** A partnership between Emory University and the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to provide students with a hands-on learning opportunity in the field of child advocacy, and to provide professionals in the field with the benefits of student interns during the summer months.

## **IDAHO**

### **IDAHO KIDS COUNT**

Linda Jensen, Director  
ljensen@mtnstatesgroup.org  
1607 W. Jefferson St.  
Boise, Idaho 83702

(208) 388-1014

**Description:** Non-profit organization that advocates for children through research, community education and community organizing.

## **ILLINOIS**

### **ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Elizabeth F. Yore,  
General Counsel  
elizabeth.yore@idcfs.state.il.us

160 N. LaSalle St., 6th Fl.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
(312) 814-4114  
Fax: (312) 814-2442  
www.state.il.us/dcfs

**Description:** Child welfare agency serving abused and neglected children and their families.

### **PUBLIC GUARDIAN — COOK COUNTY — JUVENILE DIVISION**

Elaine Butler, Asst.  
Deputy Public Guardian  
2245 W. Ogden, 4th Fl.  
Chicago, IL 60612  
(312) 433-4300

Email:  
pguard@wwa.com  
www.publicguardian.org

**Description:** Represents neglected and abused children in Juvenile Court and class action suits.

**DRAKE  
UNIVERSITY LAW  
SCHOOL -  
MIDDLETON  
CENTER FOR  
CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS**

Jerry L. Anderson,  
Faculty Recruitment  
Chair  
2400 University Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50311  
[www.law.drake.edu/centers/default.aspx?pageID=aboutMiddletonCtr](http://www.law.drake.edu/centers/default.aspx?pageID=aboutMiddletonCtr)

**Description:** Part of Drake Law School's clinical programs. Features four distinct program components an interdisciplinary clinical program, a Training Center, a Resource Center, and public policy/legislative initiatives.

**INDIANA**

**KIDS VOICE OF  
INDIANA**

9150 Harrison Park Ct.,  
Ste. C  
Indianapolis, IN 46216  
(317) 558-2870 ext. 55  
Fax: (317) 558-2945  
Email:

[info@kidsvoicein.org](mailto:info@kidsvoicein.org)  
[www.kidsvoicein.org](http://www.kidsvoicein.org)

**Description:** Offers legal education, training and technical assistance to organizations serving at-risk children.

**IOWA**

**IOWA ALLIANCE  
FOR DRUG  
ENDANGERED  
CHILDREN**

Richard Early, DEC  
Coordinator  
[richard.early@iowa.gov](mailto:richard.early@iowa.gov)  
Office of the Prosecuting  
Attorneys Training  
Coordinator  
Hoover State Office  
Building, 1st Floor  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
(515) 281-5428  
[www.iowadec.net](http://www.iowadec.net)

**Department:** Aims to protect children living in poor conditions related to drug abuse.

**KANSAS**

**KANSAS  
CHILDREN'S  
SERVICE LEAGUE**

15717 College Blvd.  
Lenexa, KS 66219  
(913) 621-2016  
[www.kcsl.org](http://www.kcsl.org)

**Description:** Focuses on finding homes for abandoned, abused, neglected or orphaned children.

**KENTUCKY**

**KENTUCKY CHILD  
NOW!**

1491 Twilight Trail  
Frankfort, KY 40601-  
1700  
(502) 227-7722  
Fax: (502) 227-1721  
[www.kychildnow.org](http://www.kychildnow.org)

**Description:** Acts as a unifying voice for non-profit and government

advocates for children and works to develop better policy on behalf of children.

**LOUISIANA**

**FAMILIES &  
FRIEND OF  
LOUISIANA'S  
INCARCERATED  
CHILDREN**

Gina Womack  
1600 Oretha C. Haley  
Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70113  
(504) 522-5437  
Fax: (504) 522-5430  
[www.fflic.org](http://www.fflic.org)

**Description:** Dedicated to creating a better life for all of Louisiana's youth, especially those who are involved in the juvenile justice system, by using education, direct action organizing, and peer advocacy to build stronger communities and work for justice.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE  
PROJECT OF  
LOUISIANA**

Derwyn D. Bunton, Staff  
Attorney  
[dbunton@jjpl.org](mailto:dbunton@jjpl.org)  
1600 Oretha Castle Haley  
Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70113  
(504) 522-5437  
Fax: (504) 522-5430  
[www.jjpl.org](http://www.jjpl.org)

**Description:** Nonprofit law office dedicated to the reformation of the juvenile justice system in Louisiana. Provides each

youth in the delinquency system with the opportunity to succeed in his or her community by promoting alternatives to incarceration, providing legal representation and organizing community interventions.

## **MAINE**

### **MAINE CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

303 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
(207) 623-1868  
Fax: (207) 626-3302  
[www.mekids.org](http://www.mekids.org)

**Description:** Advocates for sound public policies to improve the lives of all Maine's Children, Youth and Families.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

### **CENTER FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

22 Green St.  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413) 586-6024  
Fax: (413) 586-5711  
[www.centerforpublicrep.org](http://www.centerforpublicrep.org)

**Description:** Organized as a self-sufficient public interest law firm to promote change in the quality of lives of individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts and to pursue the systemic enforcement of legal rights on a statewide and national basis.

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF SUFFOLK COUNTY, CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

989 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, MA  
(617) 779-2146  
Fax: (617) 779-2196  
<http://www.mass.gov/da/suffolk>

**Description:** An interagency, public/private partnership dedicated to minimizing trauma to children and families when concerns of abuse arise. Coordinates investigations and assessments with clinical and legal competence in an atmosphere that is safe and respectful of each family's culture. Collaborates in training and research efforts to prevent child abuse in the community.

### **EDLAW PROJECT**

Jenny Chou, Project Coordinator x149  
10 Malcolm X Boulevard  
Roxbury, MA 02119-1776  
(617) 445-5640  
Fax: (617) 541 - 0904  
[www.youthadvocacyproject.org/edlaw/edlaw.htm](http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org/edlaw/edlaw.htm)

**Description:** An advocacy organization created to ensure equal opportunity in life achievement for Boston

youth by enforcing every child's right to a quality education. Through legal representation, technical assistance, and training to families, youth-serving professionals and attorneys, EdLaw advocates for indigent and low-income children in danger of not receiving appropriate education services. Advocates for children facing suspension and expulsion, ineffective reintegration into the school system following detention or incarceration, inadequate education while in state custody and children with undetected special needs.

### **WILMERHALE LEGAL SERVICES CENTER**

122 Boylston Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
(617) 522-3003  
Fax: (617) 522-0715  
[www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/lsc](http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/lsc)

**Description:** A general practice law firm that provides legal counsel to over 1,200 clients annually, some of whom are very poor, but many of whom can and do make co-payments or pay on a lower-than-market basis for the service they receive. The Center is Harvard Law School's oldest and largest clinical teaching facility.

**MASSACHUSETTS  
LAW REFORM  
INSTITUTE**

99 Chauncy Street, 5th  
Fl.  
Boston, MA 02111-1703  
(617) 357-0700  
Fax: (617) 357-0777  
www.mlri.org

**Description:** Advocates for low-income people, minorities, immigrants, elders, and people with disabilities. Provides statewide client impact representation so that major legal problems of those clients can be addressed on a more systematic basis. Focuses on public benefits, housing, family, immigration, health, employment and the rights of minorities and seniors.

**MEDICAL LEGAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
CHILDREN**

Boston Medical Center  
91 East Concord Street,  
6th Floor  
Boston, MA 02118  
(617) 414-7439  
Fax: (617) 414-3629  
www.mlpchildren.org

**Description:** Allies pediatric clinicians with lawyers to ensure that families can meet their children's basic needs. Combines the law and medicine to address non-biologic factors (food, housing, education, and safety) known to influence child health.

**MIDDLESEX  
COUNTY JUVENILE  
COURT**

Cambridge Session  
121 Third Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141  
(617) 788-6550  
www.mass.gov/courts/courtsandjudges/courts/middjuvenilemain.html

**Description:** Has general jurisdiction over delinquency, children in need of services (CHINS), care and protection petitions, adult contributing to a delinquency of a minor cases, adoption, guardianship, termination of parental rights proceedings, and youthful offender cases.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY  
JUVENILE COURT**

24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-6550  
www.mass.gov/courts/courtsandjudges/courts/suffolkjuvenilemain.html

**Description:** Has general jurisdiction over delinquency, children in need of services (CHINS), care and protection petitions, adult contributing to a delinquency of a minor cases, adoption, guardianship, termination of parental rights proceedings, and youthful offender cases.

**SUFFOLK  
UNIVERSITY LAW  
SCHOOL —  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
CENTER**

Lisa Thurau-Gray  
45 Bromfield St.  
Boston, MA 02108  
(617) 305-5200

www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/clinical/jjc/jjc.cfm  
**Description:** Provides representation to indigent youth in Boston juvenile court, conducts policy work on related issues.

**MARYLAND**

**MARYLAND  
COMMITTEE FOR  
CHILDREN**

608 Water Street  
Baltimore, Maryland  
21202  
(410) 752-7588  
Fax: (410) 752-6286  
www.mechildcare.org

**Description:** Works with parents, child care providers, advocates, employers, and policymakers to expand and enhance the early childhood education and child care available to Maryland's children.

**MICHIGAN**

**CHILDREN'S  
CHARTER OF THE  
COURTS OF  
MICHIGAN**

324 N. Pine St. #1  
Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 482-7533  
Fax: (517) 482-2626

www.childcrt.org

**Description:** Addresses a variety of child and family concerns through General Education Efforts; professional and technical training, assisting communities in developing services & programs, public policy advocacy.

### MINNESOTA

#### **CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA**

1463 W. Minnehaha Ave.  
#3

St. Paul, MN 55104

(651) 644-4438

Email: [info@clcmn.org](mailto:info@clcmn.org)

[www.clmn.org](http://www.clmn.org)

**Description:** A small staff of attorneys and social workers with over 170 practicing attorneys who provide pro bono service representing youth. Offers a training program for the volunteer attorneys, as well as ongoing support for their work.

### MISSISSIPPI

#### **MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S HOME SERVICES**

PO Box 1078

Jackson, MS 39212

(601) 352-7784

Fax: (601) 968-0028

Email:

[info@mchscares.org](mailto:info@mchscares.org)

[www.mchcares.org](http://www.mchcares.org)

**Description:** Non-public special education program providing educational and psycho-social services to children struggling in their home and school environments throughout Mississippi.

### MISSOURI

#### **CITIZEN'S FOR MISSOURI'S CHILDREN**

One Campbell Plaza, Ste. 2A

St. Louis, Missouri 63139

(314) 647.2003

Fax: (314) 644.5437

Email:

[cmchild@mokids.org](mailto:cmchild@mokids.org)

[www.mokids.org](http://www.mokids.org)

**Description:** Priority issue areas are child protection, early care and education, health and mental health care, and youth development. Also monitors the state budget and revenue, tobacco tax proposals, and pushes for adequate resources to finance needed children's services.

### NEBRASKA

#### **NEBRASKA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION**

215 Centennial Mall

South, Ste. 200

Lincoln, NE 68508

(402) 476-9401

Fax: (402) 476-9486

Email:

[info@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:info@nebraskachildren.org)

[www.nebraskachildren.org](http://www.nebraskachildren.org)

**Description:** Through awarding grants and developing initiatives advocates for children to become fully engaged citizens.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Statewide Headquarters  
99 Hanover St.

Manchester, NH 03105

(603) 518-4000

Fax: (603) 668-6260

[www.cfsnh.org](http://www.cfsnh.org)

**Description:** Enhances the lives of children through a wide array of programs ranging from adoption services to summer camp recommendations.

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE JUVENILE COURT DIVERSION NETWORK**

Diane Casale

The Upper Room

36 Tsienneto Rd

Derry, NH 03038

(603) 432-8882

Email:

[info@nhcourtdiverson.org](mailto:info@nhcourtdiverson.org)

[www.nhcourtdiverson.org](http://www.nhcourtdiverson.org)

**Description:** A coalition of over 30 programs dedicated to helping young offenders--the primary focus is to provide juvenile first offenders with an alternative to court, but also works with families



to help prevent delinquency and provide services to youth who have already been through court.

### **NEW JERSEY**

#### **COVENANT HOUSE NEW JERSEY — YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTER**

330 Washington St.  
Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 286-3407  
Email:  
chousenj@covenanthouse.org  
www.covenanthouse.org

**Description:** Serves homeless, runaway and marginally housed young people at the state's largest nonprofit youth/care agency. Coordinates the state child welfare and juvenile justice policy agenda of the agency. Provides direct legal services to homeless, undocumented, immigrant, foster care and at-risk youth.

### **NEW MEXICO**

#### **PEGASUS LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN**

Tara Ford  
4916 4th St, NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87107  
www.uwcnm.org/organizations/pegasus.htm

**Description:** Private not for profit agency that uses legal advocacy to improve the well-being

of children in the Albuquerque metro-area and beyond.

### **NEW YORK**

#### **ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES — LEGAL SERVICES — CHILD WELFARE DIVISION**

Doris A. McGarty,  
Assistant General  
Counsel  
220 Church St., Rm. 654  
New York, NY 10013  
212-341-0900  
www.nyc.gov/html/acs

**Description:** Prosecutes child abuse and neglect proceedings, foster care placement and review proceedings, extension of placements and termination of parental rights proceedings in New York City Family Courts. Additionally, legal counsel is provided to ACS program administrators.

#### **AGENDA FOR CHILDREN TOMORROW**

Eric Brettschneider,  
Executive Director  
2 Washington St., 20th  
Fl.  
New York, NY 10004  
(212) 487-8284  
Fax: (212) 487-8581  
Email:  
actnet1@earthlink.net  
www.actnyc.org

**Description:** Builds neighborhood collaboratives that

respond to the needs of children and families in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Bushwick, Washington Heights-Inwood, Mott Haven and South Jamaica. These neighborhood collaboratives bring together individuals and organizations in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. The ACT Central office directly supports the neighborhood collaboratives and their local planners by providing information, advice, technical assistance, connections and resources. ACT provides direct assistance to five of the Administration for Children's Services child welfare networks in Brownsville/East New York, Central Harlem, Staten Island, Southeast Queens, and Bushwick.

#### **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

Susan Lambiase,  
Associate Director  
330 7th Ave., Fl. 4  
New York, NY 10016  
(212) 683-2210  
Fax: (212) 683-4015  
Email:  
info@childrensrights.org  
www.childrensrights.org

**Description:** New York City-based national organization that conducts major institutional reform class

actions in the area of child welfare and foster care.

**COVENANT HOUSE  
— LEGAL SERVICES  
OFFICE**

Laura Noble, Deputy  
Director for Advocacy  
and Legal Services  
460 W. 41st St., 7th Fl.  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 613-0300

Email:

[info@covenanthouseny.org](mailto:info@covenanthouseny.org)  
[www.covenanthouseny.org](http://www.covenanthouseny.org)

**Description:** Provides legal education and advocacy for runaway and homeless youths staying in the shelter.

**HUMAN RIGHTS  
WATCH –  
CHILDREN’S  
RIGHTS DIVISION**

350 Fifth Avenue, 34th  
floor  
New York, NY 10118-  
3299  
(212) 290-4700

Fax: (212) 736-1300

<http://hrw.org/doc/?t=children>

**Description:** Monitors human rights abuses against children around the world and works to end them. Investigates all kinds of human rights abuses against children: the use of children as soldiers; the worst forms of child labor; torture of children by police; police violence against street children; conditions in correctional institutions

and orphanages; corporal punishment in schools; mistreatment of refugee and migrant children; trafficking of children for labor and prostitution; discrimination in education because of race, gender, sexual orientation, or HIV/AIDS; and physical and sexual violence against girls and boys.

**LAWYERS FOR  
CHILDREN**

Glenn Metsch-Ampel,  
Deputy Executive  
110 Lafayette St., 8th Fl.  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 966-6420

Fax: (212) 966-0531

Email:

[mail@lawyersforchildren.org](mailto:mail@lawyersforchildren.org)  
[www.lawyersforchildren.org](http://www.lawyersforchildren.org)

**Description:** Nonprofit legal services organization that represents children in foster care, abuse, neglect, termination of parental rights, custody and visitation proceedings in New York City. All cases are assigned to LFC by family court judges.

**LEGAL ACTION  
CENTER**

225 Varick Street  
New York, NY 10014  
(212) 243-1313

Fax: (212) 675-0286

[www.lac.org](http://www.lac.org)

**Description:** A non-profit law and policy organization that fights

discrimination against people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS, or criminal records, and to advocate for sound public policies in these areas.

**LEGAL AID  
SOCIETY —  
JUVENILE RIGHTS  
DIVISION —  
MANHATTAN  
OFFICE**

Bobette M. Masson-  
Churin, Acting Deputy  
Attorney-in-Charge  
[bmmasson@legal-aid.org](mailto:bmmasson@legal-aid.org)  
60 Lafayette St.  
New York, NY 10013-  
4048

(212) 312-2260

[www.legal-aid.org](http://www.legal-aid.org)

**Description:** Represents children in child protective and juvenile delinquency cases.

**LEGAL OUTREACH**

Tamika Edwards,  
Director of Legal  
Education  
402 W. 145th St.  
New York, NY 10031  
(212) 690-9989

Fax: (212) 690-5935

Email:

[info@legaloutreach.org](mailto:info@legaloutreach.org)  
[www.legaloutreach.org/](http://www.legaloutreach.org/)

**Description:** Prepares urban youth from underserved communities in New York City to compete at high academic levels by using intensive legal and educational programs as tools for fostering vision,

developing skills,  
enhancing confidence,  
and facilitating the  
pursuit of higher  
education.

**NATIONAL  
COALITION FOR  
CHILD  
PROTECTION  
REFORM**

Katherine Schulz-Heik,  
Legal Assistant  
325 Broadway St., Ste.  
201  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 587-5793  
Email: [info@NCCPR.org](mailto:info@NCCPR.org)  
[www.nccpr.org](http://www.nccpr.org)

**Description:** Dedicated to improving the child welfare system through public education and litigation. Conducts affirmative litigation and community advocacy that will affect systemwide change. Also provides legal back-up to attorneys across the country and does community education on family rights.

**NEW YORK  
SOCIETY FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF  
CRUELTY TO  
CHILDREN**

161 William St., 9th Fl.  
New York, NY 10038  
(212) 791-7805  
Email: [info@nyspcc.org](mailto:info@nyspcc.org)  
[www.nyspcc.org](http://www.nyspcc.org)

**Description:** Works for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

**NEW YORK STATE  
DIVISION FOR  
YOUTH — OFFICE  
OF CHILDREN AND  
FAMILY SERVICES**

Charles Breyner,  
Personnel  
Capital View Office Park,  
52 Washington St.  
Rensselaer, NY 12144  
(518) 473-8411  
[www.ocfs.state.ny.us](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us)

**Description:** Devoted to preventing delinquent acts from occurring through positive youth development and by connecting family, school and positive peer groups.

**THE DOOR**

Monica De La Torre,  
Director, Legal Services  
Center  
[monica@door.org](mailto:monica@door.org)  
121 6th Ave.  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 941-9090  
[www.door.org](http://www.door.org)

**Description:** Provides integrated and intensive services at a single site, free of charge to over 600 adolescents between the ages of 12 and 21, including education and career services, legal services, health care, mental health counseling, recreation and arts. Provides civil legal counsel and advocacy services to young people in multiple areas, including immigration, public benefits, family and employment law.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**ACTION FOR  
CHILDREN NORTH  
CAROLINA**

1300 St. Mary's Street,  
Ste. 500  
Raleigh  
NC, 27605 -1276  
(919) 834-6623  
Fax: (919) 829-7299  
[www.ncchild.org](http://www.ncchild.org)

**Description:** Advocates for child well-being through community education to ensure that children are healthy, safe and well-educated.

**CENTER FOR  
ADOLESCENT  
HEALTH AND THE  
LAW**

Abigail English  
310 Kildaire Rd., Ste. 100  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
(919) 968-8850  
[www.cahl.org](http://www.cahl.org)

**Description:** Works to promote the health of adolescents and their access to comprehensive health care. The Center addresses legal and policy issues that affect access to health care for the most vulnerable youth in the United States. The Center provides information and analysis, publications, consultation, and training to health professionals, policy makers, researchers and advocates who are working to protect the health of adolescents.

**GUARDIAN AD  
LITEM PROGRAM  
FOR BUNCOMBE  
COUNTY, NC**

Jean Moore, District  
Administrator  
20 S. Spruce St.  
Asheville, NC 28787  
www.galbuncombe.org

**Description:** Provides Guardians Ad Litem for all minors involved in custody issues. Attorneys advocate for each child involved in these disputes and represents the child's interests as separate from those of the parents and of the Department of Social Services.

**LEGAL AID OF  
NORTH CAROLINA  
– ADVOCATES FOR  
CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES**

201 West Main Street,  
Ste. 400 (27701)  
PO Box 2101  
Durham, NC 27702  
(919) 226-0052  
Fax: (919) 226-0566  
Email:

ACSinfo@legallaidnc.org  
**Description:** Advocates that at-risk and/or court-involved children are rights-bearing citizens, who are entitled to safe, permanent homes and should receive the medical and educational services currently promised by law.

**NORTH DAKOTA**

**PREVENT CHILD  
ABUSE NORTH  
DAKOTA**

PO Box 1213  
418 E. Rosser Avenue,  
Ste. 110  
Bismarck, ND 58502-  
1213  
(701) 223-9052  
Fax: (701) 355-4362  
E-mail:  
pcand@btinet.net  
www.stopchildabusend.com

**Description:** Dedicated exclusively to preventing child abuse in North Dakota community education, outreach and organizing

**OHIO**

**NATIONAL  
CENTER FOR  
ADOPTION LAW  
AND POLICY**

Linda Gorsuch, Director  
of Business Operations  
Capital University Law  
School  
303 E. Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

www.law.capital.edu/Ab  
out/Jobs/AdoptionLegal  
ProjectsCoordinator.asp  
**Description:** Works for reform in the areas of adoption and child permanency law, policy and practice. The Center trains and mentors dozens of law students each year to work on behalf of children in need of permanent families.

The Center's primary tools are research, education, and advocacy.

**PROKIDS**

Tracy Cook, Executive  
Director  
2320 Kemper Ln.  
Cincinnati, OH 45206  
(513) 281-2000

Email:  
info@prokidscasa.org  
www.prokids.org

**Description:** Trains volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates for abused and neglected children and works on behalf of older children awaiting adoption.

**OKLAHOMA**

**THE WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN'S LAW  
CENTER**

Lynn Loftis, Managing  
Attorney  
1414 SW 89th Street, Ste.  
A Oklahoma City, OK  
73159  
(405) 378-2000  
www.womenchildrenlaw.  
com

**Description:** Serves the legal needs of women and children. Practices criminal law, family law, divorce and guardianship claims.

**OREGON**

**CHILDREN FIRST  
FOR OREGON**

PO Box 14914 Portland,  
Oregon 97293

(503) 236-9754  
Fax: (503) 236-3048  
Email: office@cffo.org  
www.cffo.org

**Description:** Through advocacy, research, policy analysis, public education and media outreach promotes community education. Aims to hold politicians accountable to children and their families.

### **RHODE ISLAND**

#### **RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE**

272 West Exchange  
Street  
Ste. 301  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 222 6650  
Fax: (401) 222-6652  
www.child-  
advocate.ri.gov

**Description:**  
Independent and  
autonomous Rhode  
Island state agency  
responsible for  
protecting the legal rights  
and interests of children  
in state care.

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

#### **JUVENILE LAW CENTER**

Laval Miller-Wilson, Staff  
Attorney  
1315 Walnut St., 4th Fl.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 625-0551  
Email: info@jlc.org  
www.jlc.org

**Description:** Nonprofit,  
tax-exempt, law center  
specializing in the legal  
rights of children.

Advances the rights of  
children involved with  
public agencies by  
working for the reform  
and coordination of the  
child welfare, juvenile  
justice, mental health and  
public health care  
systems.

#### **KIDS VOICE**

437 Grant St., Ste. 700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 391-3100  
www.kidsvoice.org

**Description:** Provides  
legal representation to  
5,000 abused, neglected  
and at-risk children each  
year. Advocates for the  
safety and well-being of  
children victimized by  
crime, mistreatment and  
severe neglect.

#### **SUPPORT CENTER FOR CHILD ADVOCATES**

Frank Cervone  
1900 Cherry St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 925-1913  
www.advokid.org

**Description:** Legal and  
social service advocacy  
for abused and neglected  
children.

### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

#### **CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE –**

#### **INDIAN CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM**

Margaret Bad Warrior  
P.O. Box 590  
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-  
0590  
(605) 964-6686

www.sioux.org/icwa  
**Description:** Litigates  
off-Reservation cases  
where Tribal children are  
in state custody. The legal  
department provides  
support to Tribal Council  
and Courts.

### **TEXAS**

#### **ADVOCACY INC.**

Beth Mitchell  
7800 Shoal Creek Blvd.,  
171-E  
Austin, TX 78757-1024  
(512) 454-4816  
www.advocacyinc.org

**Description:** Protects  
and advances the legal,  
human and service rights  
of people with  
disabilities.

#### **NATIONAL LATINO CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE (NCLI)**

Mosaica, the Center for  
Nonprofit Development  
and Pluralism  
1325 N. Flores St., Ste.  
114  
San Antonio, TX 78212  
(210) 228-9997  
www.nlci.org

**Description:** Works to  
focus the nation's  
attention on policies,  
programs and community

initiatives that lead to the full and healthy development of Latino children in a culturally relevant environment.

## **VIRGINIA**

### **HOMESCHOOL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND**

Scott Somerville  
P.O. Box 3000  
Purcellville, VA 20134  
(540) 338-5600  
Fax: (540) 338-1952

**Description:** Established to defend and advance the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children and to protect family freedoms. Advocates on the legal front by fully representing member families at every stage of proceedings. Files actions to protect members against government intrusion and to establish legal precedent.

### **JUSTCHILDREN PROGRAM**

Alex Gulotta, Executive Director  
1000 Preston Ave., Ste. A  
Charlottesville, VA  
22903  
[www.justice4all.org/programs/justchildren/](http://www.justice4all.org/programs/justchildren/)

**Description:** A program of the Legal Aid Justice Center, a nonprofit legal services provider, with offices in Charlottesville, Richmond, Petersburg

and Falls Church, Virginia. Employs many strategies to ensure that young people in Virginia have access to services and supports. Lawyers and law students provide legal representation to youth. Provides information to parents. Publishes handbooks and holds workshops for parents and providers. Partners with local departments of Social Services and other foster care agencies to train professionals.

## **WASHINGTON**

### **TEAMCHILD**

Ann Lee, Director  
1120 E. Terrace St., Ste.  
203  
Seattle, WA 98122  
(206) 322-2444  
Email:

[questions@teamchild.org](mailto:questions@teamchild.org)  
[www.teamchild.org](http://www.teamchild.org)

**Description:** Provides civil legal advocacy to youth involved or at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system. Focuses on helping clients gain access to appropriate education programs, mental health services, public benefits and safe/stable placements.

## **WISCONSIN**

### **ABC FOR HEALTH**

Bobby Peterson,  
Executive Director

152 W. Johnson St., Ste.  
206  
Madison, WI 53703-2213  
United States of America  
(608) 261-6939

[www.abcforhealth.org](http://www.abcforhealth.org)  
**Description:** Provides legal services, advocacy, training and research on behalf of health care consumers, with a focus on children with special health care needs.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **CHILDREN'S LEGAL CENTRE**

University of Essex  
Wivenhoe Park  
Colchester, Essex CO4  
3SQ  
44 (0)1206 872 466  
Fax: 44 (0)1206 874 026  
<http://www.childrenslegacentre.com>

**Description:** Provides legal advice and representation to children, their carers and professionals throughout the UK.

### **CHILD WORKERS IN ASIA**

Jonathan Blagbrough  
120/16 Soi Sukhumvit 23  
Sukhumvit Road  
Klongtoey-Nua, Wattana  
Bangkok 10110  
Thailand  
66-2-662-3866-8  
Fax: 66-2-261-2339

[www.cwat.net.co.th](http://www.cwat.net.co.th)  
**Description:** Established as a support group for

child workers in Asia, and the NGOs working with them. From a small group of five organizations, it now brings together over 50 groups/organizations working on child labor in 14 countries. It facilitates sharing of expertise and experiences between NGOs and strengthens their collaboration to jointly respond to the exploitation of working children in the region.

**HAQ: CENTER FOR CHILD RIGHTS**

Pam Rajput  
208 Shahpur Jat  
New Delhi 110049  
India  
91-72-254-5425  
<http://www.haqcrc.org/index.php?id1>

**Description:** A non-profit society founded in 1999, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights is dedicated

to the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights of all children.

**JUVENILE LEGAL AID AND RESEARCH CENTER**

Lili Zhou  
Level 6, No 212 Annex,  
Zhouzhuangzi  
Fengbei Rd., Fengtai  
District, Beijing 100000  
China  
00 86 10 6383 5845  
[www.zichenglaw.com](http://www.zichenglaw.com)

**Description:** Works to achieve respect and protection of children's rights throughout the community to strengthen children's legal consciousness to promote the implementation of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in China.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE CHILD**

Tamar Morag  
20 Metudela St.  
Jerusalem  
Israel  
02-563-9191  
[www.children.org.il](http://www.children.org.il)

**Description:** Nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the rights and welfare of children in Israel.

**VISAYAN FORUM FOUNDATION, INC.**

18 12th Avenue  
Brgy. Socorro, Cubao,  
Quezon City  
Metro Manila  
1109 Philippines  
(632) 709-0573  
Fax: (632) 421-9423  
[www.visayanforum.org](http://www.visayanforum.org)

**Description:** A non-profit organization that works on behalf of migrants.

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## FELLOWSHIPS

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### **ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM (ADAP)**

University of Alabama  
Dr. Ellen B. Gillespie, Director  
P.O. Box 870395  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0395  
(205) 348-4928  
Fax: (205) 348-3909  
adap@adap.ua.edu  
www.adap.net

**Description:** ADAP is the protection and advocacy program for Alabama. The Fellow will conduct or assist in all phases of litigation on behalf of individuals with disabilities and will work closely with Law School faculty in the special education law clinic. Further, the Fellow will maintain a special focus in the area of special education law and will develop an expertise in this field.

**Areas of Specialization:** Children's Rights, Disability Rights, Education

**Types of Advocacy:** Administrative, Impact Litigation, Individual Litigation, Policy, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Applicants must have received a J.D. and be licensed to practice law in Alabama, or must become licensed upon the first opportunity to take the Alabama Bar Exam.

**Number of Fellows:** 1

**Term:** 2 years

**Stipend:** Negotiable, benefits included.

**Application Process:** Submit a resume, including social security number, writing sample and references.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

### **ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION GRANTS**

Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Attn: Office of the President,

701 St. Paul St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
(410) 547-6600  
www.aecf.org

**Description:** Provides funding for initiatives with significant potential to demonstrate innovative policy, service delivery and community supports for children and families.

**Areas of Specialization:** Children's Rights, Family

**Types of Advocacy:** Administrative, Grassroots/Organizing, Public Education, Entrepreneurship

**Special Qualifications:** Most grantees have been invited by the Foundation to participate in these projects. The Foundation does not make grants to individuals, capital projects, medical research, direct services (except through the Baltimore Direct Services Grants Program), or work outside the U.S.

**Number of Fellows:** Varies

**Stipend:** Varies

**Application Process:** Organizations wishing to send a proposal to the Foundation should submit a letter of no more than three pages describing the organization, its programs, the amount of funds requested and a brief explanation of how the proposed work fits within the mission of the Foundation.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

### **THE BERGSTROM CHILD WELFARE LAW FELLOWSHIP**

University of Michigan Child Welfare Law  
Resource Center  
625 South State Street  
313 Legal Research  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215

(734) 763-6750  
Fax: (734) 647-4042  
lixley@umich.edu  
<http://www.law.umich.edu/CentersandPrograms/clinical/calc/summerfellowship.htm>

**Description:** Committed to encouraging law students to pursue careers in child welfare law. Students gain insight into the field and provide services to various child welfare offices specializing in representation of children, parents and social service agencies. Spends a three-day training session at the University of Michigan Law School, will spend at least ten weeks at their placements.

**Areas of specialization:** Children's Rights

**Term:** Full summer

**Stipend:** Covers living and moving expenses

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

### **CHADBOURNE & PARKE AT THE DOOR LEGAL SERVICES CENTER FELLOWSHIP**

Chadbourn & Parke LLP  
Jana Peters, Director of Legal Personnel  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112  
(212) 408-5338  
Fax: (212) 247-0873  
JPeters@chadbourn.com  
[www.chadbourn.com](http://www.chadbourn.com)

**Description:** Fellows, after orientation at Chadbourne, work for at least a year at The Door Legal Services Center, reporting regularly to Chadbourne and attending meetings and social functions at the firm.

**Areas of Specialization:** Children's Rights, Criminal, Family, Housing, Immigration, Labor, Women's Rights

**Types of Advocacy:** Administrative, Individual Litigation, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** 3Ls with outstanding law school credentials.

**Number of Fellows:** 1

**Term:** 18 months

**Stipend:** Varies according to firm scale, plus benefits

**Application Process:** Similar to general firm application process.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** October 15, 2007.

### **CHESTERFIELD SMITH COMMUNITY SERVICE FELLOWSHIP**

Holland & Knight LLP  
Steve Hanlon, Community Service Team Partner  
2099 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste. 100  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 828-1871  
Fax: (202) 955-5564  
stephen.hanlon@hkllaw.com  
[www.hkllaw.com](http://www.hkllaw.com)

**Description:** This two-year, full-time, public interest fellowship will be provided to entering level associates with the firm. Since the program's inception in 2000, the Firm has sponsored eight Fellows.

**Areas of Specialization:** Children's Rights, Civil Rights, Consumer, Criminal, Disability Rights, Education, Elderly, Family, Gay/Lesbian Rights, Homelessness, Housing, Human Rights, Immigration, Women's Rights

**Types of Advocacy:** Administrative, Impact Litigation, Individual Litigation, Legislative/Lobbying, Policy, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Preference for graduates who have completed a federal clerkship.

**Number of Fellows:** 1

**Term:** 2 years, then Fellows will begin work in another practice area with the firm

**Stipend:** Smith Fellows will receive the same compensation and benefits granted to other firm associates of their graduation year, with the same

opportunities to achieve partnership status.

**Application Process:** Submit application form, law school transcript, two letters of recommendation, including one from a former employee and a resume.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Rolling. Contact organization.

### **FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM FELLOWSHIP**

Law School at the University of Missouri at Columbia  
Mary Beck, Director, Family Violence Program  
104 Huston Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211  
(573) 884-7872  
Fax: (573) 884-4368  
beckm@missouri.edu  
www.law.missouri.edu

**Description:** Fellow teaches clinical and public policy courses, lectures, directs student writing, oversees legislative projects, supervises preparation for litigation and directs weekly case conferences. The Fellow advocates for indigent victims of domestic violence in rural counties through litigation and testimony before legislative committees.

**Areas of Specialization:** Family, Women's Rights, Domestic Violence

**Types of Advocacy:** Administrative, Individual Litigation, Legislative/Lobbying, Policy, Teaching Clinic

**Special Qualifications:** Requires two years experience as a practicing lawyer, car and driver's license, license to practice law and eligibility for a Missouri license to practice law. Prefers experience in family and domestic violence law.

**Number of Fellows:** 1

**Term:** 1 year

**Stipend:** \$32,500

**Application Process:** Submit resume.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

### **FRANK M. COFFIN FAMILY LAW FELLOWSHIP**

Maine Bar Foundation  
M. Calien Lewis, Executive Director  
40 Water St.  
Hallowell, ME 4347  
(207) 622-3477  
Fax: (207) 623-4140  
mclewis@mbf.org  
www.mbf.org

**Description:** The Coffin Fellow will provide a full range of family law services for low-income residents of Cumberland County.

**Areas of Specialization:** Children's Rights, Family, Women's Rights

**Types of Advocacy:** Individual Litigation, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Applicants must have or should be prepared to pass the Maine Bar Exam prior to September 1, 2006 start date.

**Number of Fellows:** 1

**Term:** 2 years

**Stipend:** \$32,000, plus loan repayment opportunity

**Application Process:** Submit letter, resume, brief writing sample and three references.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** January 18, 2008.

### **MENTAL HEALTH LAW AND CLINICAL ETHICS FELLOWSHIP**

Institute of Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy at University of Virginia School of Law  
Richard Bonnie, Director  
580 Massie Rd.  
Charlottesville, VA 22903-1789  
(434) 924-3209  
Fax: (434) 924-5788  
rbonnie@virginia.edu  
www.ilppp.virginia.edu/

**Description:** The Institute of Law,

Psychiatry and Public Policy is an interdisciplinary program affiliated with the Schools of Law and Medicine. The Fellowship integrates clinical, academic and research experience designed to meet the student's individual interests. The Fellow may enroll in the LL.M. program, focus primarily on mental health law, or focus on both mental health law and clinical ethics.

**Areas of Specialization:** Children's Rights, Criminal, Disability Rights, Education, Family, Health, Homelessness, Human Rights, Research, Teaching, Mental Health Law

**Types of Advocacy:** Policy

**Special Qualifications:** Applicants must have completed law school.

**Number of Fellows:** 1

**Term:** 1 year

**Stipend:** None

**Application Process:** Submit resume, academic transcripts, copies of relevant publications, 2 letters of recommendation and letter explaining reasons for seeking the Fellowship. If the applicant also seeks admission to the Graduate Program, a separate application should be obtained from and mailed to: Office of the Graduate Program.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

### **GEORGETOWN LAW JUVENILE JUSTICE FELLOWSHIPS**

Teruko R. Scriven, Executive Assistant  
E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship Program  
111 F Street N.W., Room 130  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 662-9575

scriven@law.georgetown.edu

www.law.georgetown.edu/clinics/cjc/prettyman.html#fellowapp

**Description:** Subset of Prettyman/Stiller Fellowship. The Juvenile Justice Clinic offers a graduate two-year fellowship each year. The fellow is selected through the E.

Barrett Prettyman/Stuart Stiller Fellowship Program at Georgetown. The goal of the fellowship is to provide quality representation to adults and adolescents accused of crimes and to provide to recent law school graduates a comprehensive education concerning trial advocacy, litigation and clinical teaching.

**Areas of Specialization:** Criminal, Children's Rights

**Types of Advocacy:** Trial advocacy, litigation and clinical teaching

**Number of Fellows:** 2

**Term:** 2 years

**Stipend:** \$47,000 per year, in addition to full tuition and fees.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** August 2008

### **K&L GATES PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP**

Jessica L. Gangjee

Recruiting Coordinator

K&L Gates

Henry W. Oliver Building

535 Smithfield Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

(412) 355-6547

jessica.gangjee@klgates.com

**Description:** Underscores K&L Gates' and the legal profession's commitment to public service. Public interest fellowships serve as a vehicle by which K&L Gates may attract highly qualified summer associates to Pittsburgh to make legal service contributions and to gain legal experience within a non-profit agency environment. Offers fellowships with four organizations: Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Education Law Center, KidsVoice and Neighborhood Legal Services.

**Number of Fellows:** 3

**Term:** Summer, 4 weeks

**Stipend:** \$1,000/week

**Application Process:** Complete application, available online  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

**THE NELSON MULLINS/LEGAL AID OF NORTH CAROLINA FELLOWSHIP**

Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.  
Celia Pistolis, Assistant Director  
P.O. Box 26087  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
(919) 856-2133  
Fax: (919) 856-2120  
celiap@legalaidnc.org  
www.legalaidnc.org

**Description:** A two-year staff attorney in the Advocates for Children's Services (ACS) project. The Nelson Mullins/LANC Fellow provides civil legal services to low-income children in a selected geographical area and works to expand the project to other strategically selected areas of the state.

**Areas of Specialization:** Consumer, Housing, Labor

**Types of Advocacy:** Individual Litigation

**Special Qualifications:** Fellows are selected based on their legal abilities, a demonstrated commitment to community service and ability to relate well to low income people in a rural setting. Fellows must be licensed to practice law in North Carolina by September 2007. Previous experience as a Martin Luther King, Jr. summer intern or as an IOLTA-funded summer intern is a plus.

**Number of Fellows:** 2

**Term:** 2 years

**Stipend:** \$34,200 plus benefits

**Application Process:** Submit cover letter, resume, three references and writing samples.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

**NEW YORK SOCIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP**

Research Center for Leadership in Action, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at NYU  
Sheila Harris, Program Coordinator  
295 Lafayette St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10012

(212) 992-9880

sharris@sorosny.org

www.nyu.edu/wagner/leadership/sjf/

**Description:** The fellowship is awarded to individuals who create a project, frequently at a host organization.

Working with a host organization may enhance local credibility, provide teamwork, reduce isolation and assist with accessing resources. The

Fellowship is open to supporting projects that encompass different fields, such as education, law, the arts, public service, or health. Projects of a strictly academic or theoretical nature are not appropriate.

**Areas of Specialization:** Foundations/ Grants, Education, Children's Rights, Civil Rights, Low Income Community Service

**Types of Advocacy:** Grassroots/ Organizing, Entrepreneurship, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Applicants from diverse backgrounds and at all stages of life who wish to employ their skills in creating innovative public interest projects aimed at transforming and empowering communities. The program takes a special interest in supporting people from disadvantaged communities and communities of color.

**Number of Fellows:** Varies

**Term:** 15 months

**Stipend:** \$42,500, plus \$2,000 for project support and up to \$13,000 for health insurance/tuition costs

**Application Process:** See website.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** May 1, 2007 (tentative). Contact organization.

## **PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS GRANTS**

Pew Charitable Trusts  
2005 Market St., Ste. 1700  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7077  
(215) 575-9050  
Fax: (215) 575-4939  
info@pewtrusts.org  
www.pewtrusts.org

**Description:** The Trusts make investments to provide organizations and citizens with fact-based research and practical solutions for challenging issues. The Trusts offer funding in three sections (Advancing Policy Solutions, Informing the Public and Supporting Civic Life), each of which is further divided into categories. See website for details.

**Areas of Specialization:** Civil Rights/ Civil Liberties, Education, Foundations/ Grants, Research

**Types of Advocacy:** Policy, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Grants offered only to 501(c)(3) organizations, generally within the U.S.

**Number of Fellows:** Varies

**Stipend:** Varies

**Application Process:** Submit a brief letter of inquiry, preferably less than three pages long, to appropriate cluster area. See website for details.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

## **PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

Independence Foundation  
Joanne A. Baker, Consultant for Public Interest Law Initiatives  
Offices at the Bellevue, 200 S. Broad St., Ste. 1101  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3493  
(215) 985-4009 or (610) 975-9457  
Fax: (215) 985-3989  
JAB460W@aol.com  
www.independencefoundation.org

**Description:** Fellowships provide support for those who want to work in public interest for a Philadelphia area organization that qualifies as a 501 (c)(3) organization and provides legal services to individuals who are disadvantaged. The Foundation is specifically interested in addressing the need for legal aid and assistance to the poor.

**Areas of Specialization:** AIDS, Children's Rights, Civil Rights, Consumer, Disability Rights, Education, Elderly, Family, Gay/Lesbian Rights, Health, Homelessness, Housing, Human Rights, Immigration, Women's Rights  
**Types of Advocacy:** Administrative, Impact Litigation, Individual Litigation, Policy, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Grants made to sponsoring organizations only. Before final application, a public interest organization that will sponsor the applicant must be identified. Sponsoring organization must be a legal service organization serving the disadvantaged and its principal office must be in one of five counties in or around Philadelphia.

**Number of Fellows:** 3-4

**Term:** 1 year, subject to one-year renewal

**Stipend:** \$40,000 plus benefits and loan repayment

**Application Process:** Submit an original and ten copies of the following documents in the order presented: application form, resume, official law school transcript, two letters of recommendation (one from a law school advisor and one from a former employer), commitment letter from sponsoring organization, 501(c) (3) from sponsoring organization and benefits worksheet.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** October 10, 2007.

## **PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION**



## **SEED GRANTS**

New York University School of Law  
Gail Gove, Seed Grant Coordinator  
PILF, 240 Mercer St.  
New York, NY 10012  
(212) 998-6572

**Description:** Grants for public interest projects undertaken by individuals and organizations. PILF supports new projects that would not be undertaken without a grant, as well as established projects suffering from funding cuts.

**Areas of Specialization:** Children's Rights, Civil Rights, Environment, Health, Housing, Labor

**Types of Advocacy:** Individual Litigation, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Must be sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization.

**Number of Fellows:** 4-6

**Term:** 1 year

**Stipend:** \$5,000-\$15,000

**Application Process:** Call for an application.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization

## **ROXANA C. ARSHT FELLOWSHIP**

Delaware State Bar Association  
Patricia Bartley Schwartz, Disciplinary Counsel  
301 North Market St.  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
(302) 577-7043  
Fax: (302) 658-5212  
pschwartz@state.de.us

[www.delcf.org/Apply\\_4\\_2.htm](http://www.delcf.org/Apply_4_2.htm)

**Description:** The Scholarship offers financial assistance for three years to recent law school graduates and attorneys newly admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Delaware who pursue careers in the public interest and nonprofit sectors in Delaware.

**Areas of Specialization:** Civil Rights, Children's Rights, Elderly, Housing, Labor

**Types of Advocacy:** Administrative

Law, Grassroots/Organizing, Individual Litigation, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Applicants must be law students, recent law school graduates, or attorneys admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Delaware who plan to work in the public or nonprofit sector in Delaware.

**Number of Fellows:** 1

**Term:** 3 years

**Stipend:** Varies based on funds available

**Application Process:** See website for details and application form.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

Fellowship not offered until 2011.

Contact organization.

## **SKADDEN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom  
Susan Butler Plum, Director  
4 Times Square, Rm. 40-228  
New York, NY 10036-6522  
(212) 735-2956  
Fax: (917) 777-2956

[www.skadden.com/fellows](http://www.skadden.com/fellows)

**Description:** Fellowships are intended to encourage new attorneys to commit two years to providing civil legal services to the poor, the elderly, the disabled, the homeless, or those deprived of their civil or human rights. Applicants find sponsoring organizations to which Skadden will grant funds to cover Fellows' salaries. Organizations must qualify as nonprofit Section 501(c)(3).

**Areas of Specialization:** AIDS, Children's Rights, Civil Rights, Consumer, Disability Rights, Education, Elderly, Family, Gay/Lesbian Rights, Health, Homelessness, Housing, Human Rights, Labor, Women's Rights

**Types of Advocacy:** Grassroots/Organizing, Impact Litigation, Individual Litigation, Policy, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Fellowships are for graduating law students and outgoing judicial clerks.

**Number of Fellows:** 25

**Term:** 2 years

**Stipend:** \$46,000

**Application Process:** Submit application form, resume, official law school transcript, commitment letter from a sponsoring 501(c)(3) organization and two recommendation letters from a law school adviser and a former employer. Fellowship recipients are notified in December.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** October 1, 2006.

### **SOL AND HELEN ZUBROW FELLOWSHIPS IN CHILDREN'S LAW**

Juvenile Law Center  
Zubrow Fellowship Program  
The Philadelphia Building, 1315 Walnut  
St., 4th Fl.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 625-0551  
Fax: (215) 625-2808  
jviola@JLC.org  
www.jlc.org

**Description:** Fellows will work at the Juvenile Law Center for up to two years. JLC combines individual casework, litigation, public policy formation and public education to advance the rights and well-being of children in jeopardy.

**Areas of Specialization:** Children's Rights, Education

**Types of Advocacy:** Impact Litigation, Individual Litigation, Policy, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Fellowship open to new law school graduates or lawyers who are completing their judicial clerkships.

**Number of Fellows:** 1

**Term:** 2 years

**Stipend:** \$40,000, plus benefits

**Application Process:** Requests for applications can be made by mail, fax, phone, or through JLC's web site, www.jlc.org.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** October 1, 2006.

### **TEACHING HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP**

Columbia Law School Human Rights  
Institute  
435 West 116th St., Box B-28  
New York, NY 10027  
(212) 854-2493  
Fax: (212) 854-5736  
www.columbia.edu/cl/rt/center\_program  
human\_rights/fellowships/TeachingHR  
hri@law.columbia.edu

**Description:** Teaching Fellows audit courses from the human rights curricula offered at the law school and other departments within the Columbia University system. They participate in a specialized bi-weekly seminar entitled Workshop on Teaching Human Rights Law. Fellows are also asked to develop scholarly projects for teaching in the field and to present their work before a law school audience.

**Areas of Specialization:** Children's Rights, Civil Rights, Disability Rights, Gay/Lesbian Rights, Human Rights, International, Research/Teaching, Women's Rights

**Types of Advocacy:** Policy, Law School Teaching

**Number of Fellows:** 1-2

**Application Process:** Contact organization.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

### **THE BROAD RESIDENCY IN URBAN EDUCATION**

Broad Foundation  
Chaka Booker, Assistant Director of  
Recruitment  
10900 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
(310) 954-5083  
Fax: (310) 954-5051

cb@broadcenter.org

www.broadresidency.org

**Description:** Previous private sector leaders are trained and prepared for senior positions in urban school districts throughout the country. The program consists of: two-year placement in an urban school district, membership in a network of reform-minded education leaders and executive training sessions.

**Areas of Specialization:**

Education

**Types of Advocacy:** Administrative, Policy

**Special Qualifications:** M.B.A., J.D., M.P.P. Knowledge of one or more functional business areas, e.g. finance, operations, marketing, strategy, or information technology. Ability to manage complex political relationships and work well in diverse communities. Superb analytical and problem-solving skills, written and communication skills, ability to learn quickly and track record of leadership. Fellows must have a longterm commitment to K-12 education sector.

**Number of Fellows:** 20-25

**Term:** 2 years

**Stipend:** \$80-90,000

**Application Process:** Application instructions available on website.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

**VILLERS FELLOWSHIP FOR HEALTH CARE JUSTICE**

Philippe Villers, Founder and President of Families USA  
Melissa Rosenblatt, Director, Internship and Fellowship Program  
Families USA  
1201 New York Ave., NW, Ste. 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 628-3030  
Fax: (202) 347-2417  
villersfellowship@familiesusa.org

www.familiesusa.org

**Description:** Fellows work on health care justice issues at Families USA, producing analytic reports, disseminating media messages, understanding federal legislation, building coalitions and using the Internet for advocacy. Fellows also commit to mentoring at least one person during their careers.

**Areas of Specialization:** AIDS, Civil Rights, Disability Rights, Elderly, Family, Health

**Types of Advocacy:** Administrative, Grassroots/Organizing, Legislative/Lobbying, Policy, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Requires demonstrated commitment to social and health care justice work.

**Number of Fellows:** 1

**Term:** 1 year

**Stipend:** \$35,000, plus health care benefits

**Application Process:** Mail or email application form, personal essay and resume together, attached by paper clip if necessary. Have three letters of recommendation and official transcript sent directly.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** January 15, 2008.

**WELLSTONE FELLOWSHIP**

Families USA  
Melissa Rosenblatt, Director, Internship and Fellowship Program  
1201 New York Ave., NW, Ste. 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 628-3030  
Fax: (202) 347-2417  
wellstonefellowship@familiesusa.org  
www.familiesusa.org

**Description:** The Fellowship hopes to expand the pool of social justice advocates from underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups, particularly the African-American, Latino and American Indian communities. The Fellow will be engaged in health care

advocacy work and will learn about Medicare, Medicaid, efforts to achieve universal coverage and other important health policy issues. Specifically, the Fellow will be engaged in outreach to and mobilization of communities of color.

**Areas of Specialization:** Civil Rights, Health, Immigration

**Types of Advocacy:** Administrative, Grassroots/Organizing, Impact Litigation, Individual Litigation, Policy, Public Education

**Special Qualifications:** Candidate must demonstrate commitment to contribute to social justice work following their year as a Fellow and also must be interested in health care. Preference will be given to applicants who have experience or demonstrate a keen interest in working with communities of color. A college degree is preferred.

**Number of Fellows:** 1

**Term:** 1 year

**Stipend:** Approximately \$35,000

**Application Process:** See website for application form and further instructions.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

## **W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
1 Michigan Ave. East  
Battle Creek, MI 49017  
[www.wwkf.org/default.aspx](http://www.wwkf.org/default.aspx)

**Description:** Funds a number of different fellowships and grants programs in a variety of areas. See website for details.

**Areas of Specialization:** Children's Rights, Family, Health, Research

**Types of Advocacy:** Grassroots/Organizing, Individual Litigation, Legislative/Lobbying, Policy, Public Education

**Number of Fellows:** Approximately 750 new grants per year

**Term:** Varies

**Application Process:** Grants often require a general letter of interest. Certain fellowships programs have specific processes. See website.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Contact organization.

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS WEBSITES

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One recommended method to learn more about children's rights and about organizations that work on children's rights issues is to examine websites. Websites devoted to children's rights vary in quality, but this Guide attempts to identify some of the more useful sites. The sites provide both information and links to other organizations of interest.

American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law

<http://www.abanet.org/child/>

Site provides general information, breaking news on children's legal issues, excellent links to other sites, and internship opportunities.

American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Committee

<http://www.abanet.org/dch/committee.cfm?com>

Site focuses on resources for juvenile justice practitioners and provides resources and links.

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

<http://www.bazelon.org>

Provides information on mental health law including children's mental health information and resources.

Children's Defense Fund

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/PageServer>

Multi-purpose resource site providing information on policy matters, data, and resources.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<http://childwelfare.gov>

Formerly the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information and the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. This government site provides data and resources.

Child Welfare League of America

<http://www.cwla.org/>

Site focusing on policy initiatives and resources; not necessarily law related in content.

Juvenile Law Center

<http://www.jlc.org/>

Site providing resources on all issues pertaining to juveniles with publications and data on specific topics of interest.

Kids Counsel Support

<http://www.kidscounsel.org/>

University of Connecticut Law School site that provides research tools and links.