

## **About Loyola University Chicago's Children's Summer Institute 2003**

**July 14, 2003 (one-day program)**

**July 14-18, 2003 (week-long program)**

### ***The Adoption and Safe Families Act After Five Years: Good, Bad or Irrelevant***

The Children's Summer Institute is an interdisciplinary program for social workers, psychologists, lawyers, educators, child development specialists, and child advocates interested in the best interest of the child.

The Institute's Summer 2003 program will focus on the Adoption and Safe Families Act, passed in 1997 with a goal of shortening the amount of time children spend in foster care and achieving greater permanency for children. The Act specifically mandates that efforts be made to terminate parental rights if the problems that led to a family's involvement in the child welfare system are not resolved within a short timeframe. Five years after passage of the Act there continues to be serious debate in the child advocacy community as to whether this approach serves the best interests of children. The program will explore the range of perspectives in the debate, and provide opportunity for stimulating discussion of these issues.

A diverse team of faculty will offer interdisciplinary perspectives on the law, and the meaning of "best interest of the child," particularly as it relates to federal and state policies aimed at achieving permanency for children. Experts from the fields of psychology, social work, early childhood development, law and education will present information, participate in discussions with the attendees, and debate the issues from the perspectives of their own professions. Faculty will provide both a theoretical framework for examining the issues, as well as practical experiential learning. Various education methods will be employed, including case studies, lectures, outside speakers, field trips, role play and group projects.

The Children's Summer Institute is presented by Loyola University Chicago's Schools of Law, Social Work, Education, Department of Psychology and Institute for Pastoral Studies, and the Erikson Institute for Early Childhood Development.

*For more information about the Children's Summer Institute, contact Loyola Civitas ChildLaw Center, 16 E. Pearson, Chicago, Illinois 60611, 312-915-6481, [sconsta@luc.edu](mailto:sconsta@luc.edu)*