Civitas ChildLaw Center

Loyola’s internationally recognized Civitas ChildLaw Center balances classroom learning with a wide range of hands-on experiential opportunities. These offerings, the most comprehensive available at any law school in the country, equip students with interdisciplinary knowledge and practical skills to advocate on behalf of vulnerable children and families in both the litigation and policy realms.

WIDE-RANGING CURRICULUM

The Civitas ChildLaw Center offers the JD, LLM, and MJ degrees, plus a JD certificate of concentration awarded for completion of four courses plus experiential learning and extracurricular participation requirements. The JD ChildLaw curriculum is a three-year sequenced course of study. A sampling of courses includes:

- ChildLaw Trial Practice
- International Children’s Rights
- Education Law
- Family Law
- Juvenile Justice Seminar
- Adoption Law Seminar
- Special Education Seminar
- Children’s Health Seminar
- Child, Parent, and State
- Domestic Violence
- Child and Family Law Mediation
- ChildLaw Policy/Legislation Clinic
- ChildLaw Clinic

RENOYED FACULTY

The center’s prestigious faculty has been recognized by the National Association of Counsel for Children, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, American Bar Association, and more. Local, state, national, and international organizations and governmental bodies regularly seek out Civitas ChildLaw faculty members for consultation and guidance.

Loyola was ranked #1 in the country in Family Law by Law Street Media in 2015.

2014 National Jurist Magazine calls family law one of the “12 hottest practice specialties of the future.”

Loyola offers more than 30 courses in child and family law.
CLINICS, INSTITUTES, AND INITIATIVES

Several components of the Civitas ChildLaw Center are actively addressing issues in child and family law through clinical experiences, policymaking, legislation, education, and service.

• Civitas ChildLaw Clinic: Provides students with opportunities for supervised, hands-on representation of children in a range of proceedings, including child welfare, domestic relations, and education.

• Civitas ChildLaw Policy Institute: Offers interdisciplinary collaboration and learning opportunities for policy development, analysis, and organizational change in areas of child welfare, juvenile justice reform, and children’s health.

• Education Law and Policy Institute: Facilitates collaborative interdisciplinary research, publications, training, and outreach programs promoting excellence and equity in the nation’s schools.

• International Children Rights Initiative: Advances the rights of children around the world through teaching, research, and service, including international field research, consultancies, and study-abroad opportunities.

• Children’s Health Law and Policy Initiative: Involves students in legislative and policymaking activities focused on promoting child health and reducing health challenges such as childhood lead poisoning, obesity, and fetal alcohol syndrome.

INTENSIVE FELLOWSHIPS

Each year, Loyola selects up to 10 ChildLaw Fellows from among students admitted to the entering full-time or part-time day JD class. Two post-JD fellowships, the Salisbury Fellow in Clinical Teaching and the ChildLaw Policy Fellowship, also are offered.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT


• Student organizations include the ChildLaw Society and the Education Law and Policy Society.

• Externship opportunities are available in settings ranging from the juvenile justice system to child advocacy organizations.

• The ChildLaw Center offers a rich selection of presentations, workshops, and national conferences attended by students free of charge.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

The center has received funding from the MacArthur Foundation, Oak Foundation, Chicago Community Trust, and other organizations to support law reform efforts, including reforming juvenile and criminal justice, ensuring healthy homes for children and families, promoting ethical adoption practices, supporting victims of child trafficking, and improving educational outcomes.

ACCOMPLISHED ALUMNI

Civitas ChildLaw graduates hold positions of leadership in child advocacy organizations across the nation, including the executive director of the National Association of Council for Children and the deputy director of the National Juvenile Defender Center. Since 2011, three former ChildLaw Fellows have been awarded Fulbright Fellowships and three others have received Equal Justice Works postgraduate fellowships.