A vital component of the Civitas ChildLaw Center, the Loyola University Chicago ChildLaw and Education Institute is designed for students, faculty, judges, practitioners, business leaders and policy makers who strive to serve the educational needs of children through the law.

THE CHILDLAW AND EDUCATION INSTITUTE OFFERS:

- **A comprehensive and integrated curriculum in education law** for students of law and education, as well as for attorneys, educators and school administrators.

- **Collaborative and interdisciplinary research and outreach** through publications, conferences, web-based initiatives and community programs in the field of education law and policy.

- **Advocacy resources for children** confronting barriers to educational opportunities and educational connections.

A Comprehensive and Integrated Education Law Curriculum

The Institute has developed an array of more than 30 courses designed to train law students, education graduate students, attorneys and educators to address the full range of educational needs of children.

The Institute’s courses are taught by full-time faculty at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, each of whom has expertise in a variety of legal issues faced by schools in the United States and beyond. In addition, the Institute offers courses taught by the law school’s outstanding adjunct faculty, including the nation’s leading jurists, practitioners, educators and school administrators. The Institute also partners with other University departments and educational institutions to offer interdisciplinary classes and training programs for students, policy makers and advocates.

The Institute’s curricular and co-curricular program has been developed by Michael Kaufman, who serves as director of the Institute as well as associate dean and professor of law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Dean Kaufman is the author of countless books and articles on education law and policy, including the leading textbook used in law school and education school classes devoted to education: Education Law, Policy and Practice (2005). He has been a member of the law school faculty for more than 20 years, and teaches courses in education law, education policy and comparative education law.

Dean Kaufman also has been elected to three terms as a member of the board of education for a large, diverse elementary school district in the Chicago area, and has served as its president and vice-president. Before joining the law school faculty, Dean Kaufman litigated education and disability rights issues at a leading law firm, clerked for Judge Nathaniel Jones of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and counseled the parties in the Kansas City school desegregation matter.
Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research and Outreach

The Institute conducts programs in conjunction with the Loyola University Chicago School of Education and the Erikson Graduate School of Child Development, including the first national interdisciplinary conference on The Law and Policy of Universal Preschool.

The Institute disseminates research and scholarship in the field of education law and policy in the Children's Legal Rights Journal.

The Institute's faculty publishes highly regarded and influential scholarship in the field of education law.

The Institute operates a Street Law program that brings law students to urban high schools to teach legal concepts.

The Institute works with Loyola University Chicago's Center for Comparative Education to conduct international research regarding global education issues.

The Institute sponsors field projects, experiential learning and community support throughout the nation and the world, including support for educational institutions in Africa, Thailand, Chile and India.

Advocacy Research for Children

The Institute, in conjunction with the Childlaw Clinic and the Childlaw Policy Institute, serves the educational needs of children through direct representation, impact litigation and policy initiatives, including:

• Support for children in the special education process

• Support for children whose educational opportunities are limited by exposure to hazardous materials and living conditions

• Support for children who are disconnected from the educational system because of exposure to the juvenile justice system, mobility or displacement

• Support for homeless children seeking learning opportunities

• Support for disciplined or expelled children

• Support for efforts to make preschool available to all children

• Support for equitable funding of educational opportunities

“Education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments…It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities…It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today it is the principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment…It is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education.”