Coffee Talk Series Presenter: John Maki

Join us for the first of this semester's ChildLaw Center Coffee Talk Series with John Maki. John is the Executive Director of the John Howard Association of Illinois (JHA), the state’s oldest and most respected prison reform organization, which serves as a watchdog over both the youth and adult corrections systems. Before he began working for JHA, John was a news media consultant and organizer for several Midwest-based innocence projects, including the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law. He has also worked in homeless prevention both as a community organizer and media consultant and as a teacher at the high school and college level. He is a graduate of Loyola Law School. As head of JHA, John's commentary on prison reform has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, National Public Radio, and many other Illinois' state and local media outlets.

In his presentation, John will discuss the work of JHA, opportunities for student involvement, and his views on pending legislative initiatives, including Mayor Emanuel’s support for mandatory minimum sentences as a response to gun violence in Chicago.

Coffee Talk is held most Wednesdays from 4 to 4:50 p.m. in the ChildLaw Center 11th floor of the Corboy Law Center. Coffee, tea and cookies are served.

Alumni Spotlight: Elissa Johnson

Elissa Johnson, a former ChildLaw Fellow who graduated in 2010, is now a staff attorney at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Jackson, Mississippi (an NJJN member). Elissa is also a fellow in NJJN’s Youth Justice Leadership Institute, a year-long program that aims to create a more effective foundation for the juvenile justice reform movement by developing a strong base of well-trained and well-prepared advocates and organizers who reflect the communities most affected by juvenile justice system practices and policies. As part of her year-long advocacy project, Elissa hopes to encourage legislation that would create licensing standards for all juvenile detention centers in Mississippi. The purpose of licensing standards would be to set a uniform standard of care, to reduce recidivism, and to make sure that resources are spent as effectively as possible to strengthen youth, families, and communities.

The ChildLaw Center Newsletter will now include an Alumni Spotlight feature to highlight the professional successes of the many accomplished members of our ChildLaw community.

Follow the ChildLaw Center!
To learn more about the Center and its educational, service and law reform activities, please read our monthly newsletter (posted on Law School Announcements), visit www.luc.edu/childlaw or stop by the Center and introduce yourself. You can also follow us Twitter @CivitasChildLaw or Like us on Facebook. If you are a student or alumna/alumnus who is interested in receiving the most up-to-date news about the Center, as well as internship/career opportunities, join our listserv at http://lists.luc.edu/listinfo/child
Civitas ChildLaw Center receives Champion for Change Award

The Civitas ChildLaw Center at Loyola University Chicago has received a 2013 Champion for Change Award in recognition of its outstanding work coordinating the efforts of the Illinois Models for Change juvenile justice reform initiative. *Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice* is a MacArthur Foundation initiative that works collaboratively to enact local and statewide policies and practices to better address the needs of young people involved with the juvenile justice system.

“The Champions for Change award was created to honor individuals and organizations for outstanding work on improving juvenile justice systems to produce better outcome for kids, their families and their communities,” said Laurie Garduque, MacArthur Foundation Director of Justice Reform. “The Civitas ChildLaw Center at Loyola University has improved the lives of court-involved youth, their families, and communities by focusing on improving juvenile justice policies, programs and practice. Its leadership of the Models for Change effort in Illinois has produced solid results.”

Professor Diane Geraghty, founder and director of the Loyola Civitas ChildLaw Center, accepted the award during the Models for Change National Conference held in December in Washington, DC.

Education Law and Policy Institute Charter School Panel

On December 3, 2013, Loyola’s Education Law and Policy Institute organized a panel entitled “Navigating a Charter School’s Legal Obligations When Disciplining Special Education Students” at the Illinois Network of Charter Schools Statewide Conference in Chicago. The presenters were Olga Pribyl, Vice President, Equip for Equality; Jennifer Deutch, Partner, Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn LLP; and Mary Kay Klimesh, Partner, Seyfarth Shaw LLP. Miranda Johnson, Associate Director of the Education Law and Policy Institute, served as the panel’s moderator.

Illinois Parent Attorney Network Training:

Termination of Parental Rights

The Family Defense Center and Illinois Legal Aid Online will sponsor an Illinois Parent Attorney Network Training program on termination of parental rights. The program will take place on February 7th from 9am to 3pm at the Corboy Law Center, 25 E. Pearson Street and is open to anyone interested in learning more about parental rights policies. For more information on the program and how to register, click [here](#).
**Student & Alumni News**

**Allison M. Reynolds**, JD, ChildLaw Fellow, Class of 2005 is advocating for children and other vulnerable citizens in the Medicaid Managed Care industry. Allison ran the foster care, adoption and adult guardianship program for WellCare Health Plans of Kentucky overseeing a multi-disciplinary team in the delivery of benefits to more than 4,000 Kentucky Medicaid recipients. She is currently in the Ethics & Compliance Department for Fortune 50 MCO WellPoint’s Medicaid subsidiary, Amerigroup of Kansas. Allison and her 8-year-old son, Logan, reside in suburban Kansas City.

Congratulations to former ChildLaw Fellow **Brenda McKinney ‘13** and **Lauren Salins ‘13**, whose article “A Decade of Progress: Promising Models for Children in the Turkish Juvenile Justice System” was recently accepted by the *UCLA Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law*. The article can be found at [escholarship.org/uc](http://escholarship.org/uc).

**Career/Fellowships**

*Job opening:* The Public Defender’s Office in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania is seeking to hire a Director for its Juvenile Advocacy Unit. For more information on the position and details about how to apply, please visit: [montcpta.org](http://montcpta.org).

Law Student Land is a new national website dedicated to giving law students the opportunity to publish their own writing in the form of legal articles. Please go to the Illinois page: [http://il.lawstudentland.com/](http://il.lawstudentland.com/) if you would like to contribute an article.

---

**Faculty and Staff Updates**

**Alexandra Fung**, Salisbury Clinical Teaching Fellow at the Civitas ChildLaw Clinic, presented at a Chicago Bar Association seminar on January 14, 2014 entitled, “Meeting the Needs of Children under the Immigration Law.” Ms. Fung presented on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, a humanitarian form of immigration relief that provides lawful immigration status to undocumented young people who have suffered abuse, neglect, or abandonment by a parent.

We are so happy to announce the arrival of two new members to the ChildLaw Center family. ChildLaw Policy and Legislation Teaching Fellow **Amy Meek** and her husband Joseph Vavra welcomed twin boys on January 24th! Theodore, Franklin and their wonderful parents are all doing well. Congratulations to Amy and Joseph!
The Loyola Civitas ChildLaw Center is dedicated to promoting justice for children through interdisciplinary teaching, scholarship and service, and through the development of a new legal specialty, pediatric law.

**Faculty and Staff Directory**

**Bruce Boyer** - Director, ChildLaw Clinic, 915-7927, bboyer@luc.edu

**Mary Burns** - Academic Director, On-line Masters in Jurisprudence Degree, 915-6811, mburns6@luc.edu

**Catherine Birmingham** - Online MJ Program Director, 915-7950, ccolumb@luc.edu

**Sacha Coupet** - Director of Research, 915-7134, scoupet@luc.edu

**Emily Forestieri** - Administrative Assistant, 915-6481, eforestieri@luc.edu

**Lisa Jacobs**, Program Manager for the Illinois Models of Change Initiative of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, 915-7876, ljacob@luc.edu

**Miranda Johnson** - Associate Director, ChildLaw & Education, 915-7952, mjohnson11@luc.edu

**Diane Geraghty** - Director, Civitas ChildLaw Center, 915-7185, dgeragh@luc.edu

**Kathleen Hirsman** - Senior Lecturer in Residence, 915-7378, khirsman@luc.edu

**Alexandra Fung** - Salisbury Post-Graduate Clinical Teaching Fellow, 915-7944, afung1@luc.edu

**Michael Kaufman** - Director, Education Law Institute, 915-7143, mkaufma@luc.edu

**Amy Meek** - Post-Graduate ChildLaw Policy and Legislation Teaching Fellow, 915-7949, ameek1@luc.edu

**Stacey Platt** - Associate Director of ChildLaw Clinic, 915-7931, splatt@luc.edu

**Griselda Sánchez** - Program Coordinator, 915-6481, gsanch3@luc.edu

**Anita Weinberg** - Director, ChildLaw Policy Institute, 915-6482, aweinbe@luc.edu

**Join the ChildLaw List Serv:**

http://lists.luc.edu/listinfo/childlaw

**Upcoming Events**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**February 5th**

Coffee Talk with John Maki

**February 12th**

Coffee Talk with Alicia Aiken

**February 19th**

Coffee Talk with Rene Heybach

**February 28th**

IL Juvenile Justice Research Consortium Forum