LEADERSHIP IN CHILD ADVOCACY AWARD

Howard Davidson, Director of the ABA Center on Children and the Law in Washington, D.C. is the first recipient of the Civitas ChildLaw Center’s Leadership in Child Advocacy award. The award was presented in conjunction with this year’s October 12th Children’s Legal Rights Journal Symposium, for which Howard was the keynote speaker. Davidson is also the first person interviewed for the Center’s new Pioneers in Children’s Law video series, a series that captures the personal and professional experiences and insights of the early leaders in children’s law. An excerpt of the full interview will soon be available on the Center’s website and the entire interview will eventually be available for streaming.

COFFEE TALK SERIES

Panel Focuses on Finding a Summer Internship in Child/Family Law

This semester’s final Coffee Talk program on November 7th will include a panel of students who have successfully completed child and family law internships in local, national and international settings. Program attendees will receive materials on internship opportunities and advice on scholarship opportunities for summer internships. Coffee Talk is held on Wednesdays from 4:00 - 4:50 in the ChildLaw Center, 11th Floor.

JUVENILE-IN-JUSTICE Photography Exhibit

A documentary photography exhibit featuring the work of Richard Ross, Juvenile-in-Justice, explores the lives of youth locked up in prisons and other secure settings. According to statistics, on any given day 70,000 youth under the age of 18 are detained awaiting trial or serving sentences. This is five times the number of detained youth as in South Africa, the country with the next highest incarceration rate. The exhibit, showing at Roosevelt University’s Gage Gallery, can be visited through December 15. The Gallery is located at 18 S. Michigan Ave. (312-341-6458).

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the ChildLaw Society’s Annual Give-a-Gift drive. As a result of your generosity, more than 100 of the ChildLaw clinic clients will receive gifts this Holiday season.
IDPH Adds Focus On Childhood Trauma

In October the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced it would add questions about adverse childhood experiences (ACES) to the state’s annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS, the world’s largest, ongoing telephone health survey system, was launched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1984; all 50 states now participate. Data collected monthly focuses on health risk behaviors, preventive health practices, and health care access. The new survey questions address nine childhood experiences including: abuse; neglect; having a depressed, suicidal or mentally ill care giver; having an alcoholic or drug addicted care giver; witnessing domestic violence; incarceration of any family member; loss of a parent.

The IDPH decision was the result of an effort by a coalition of organizations, including the Civitas ChildLaw Center, to raise awareness in IL about ACES and to urge IDPH to add questions about ACES to the BRFSS. Studies on ACES show that those who experienced four or more categories of childhood exposure had increased risk for several behaviors, including alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, and severe obesity.

Coalition members include United Way, Health and Medicine Policy Research Group, Civitas ChildLaw Center, Adler Institute for Public Safety and Social Justice, the IL Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, IL Project LAUNCH, University of IL at Chicago’s School of Public Health, and Wisdom Exchange. The Beazley Institute for Health Law signed on to the letter urging IDPH to adopt the ACES questions.

For more information about ACES and this effort, contact Professor Anita Weinberg at aweinbe@luc.edu or 312-915-6482.

DID YOU KNOW???

That under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), beginning January 1, 2014, former foster youth will be eligible for Medicaid until they reach the age of 26, provided that they turned 18 (or older given Illinois’ child welfare plan which allows the Juvenile Court to extend DCFS guardianship to age 21) and were enrolled in Medicaid while in foster care.

There’s been much publicity on the ACA’s provision allowing young adults to remain enrolled in a parent’s employer-based health insurance coverage until age 26. Since former foster youth typically do not have parents on whose health insurance policy they can be added, the ACA created a parallel provision to provide equity for foster youth in relation to their non-foster care peers.
Faculty and Staff Updates

On October 4, 2012, Kathleen Hirsman, Senior Lecturer in Residence in the ChildLaw and Education Institute, was a guest lecturer in the Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work, School Social Work Practicum class. Drawing from her 25 years of experience practicing school law, Ms. Hirsman bridged the spheres of law and social work with a comprehensive multidisciplinary presentation on Legal Issues Regarding Student Confidentiality for School Social Workers. Topics addressed included mandated child abuse and neglect reporting, confidentiality of student information, noncustodial parent access to student information, and responding to subpoenas and court orders for testimony and records regarding confidential student information.

In October, Professor Diane Geraghty participated in an invitational summit on juvenile justice sponsored by the National Juvenile Defender Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Center’s associate director, Mary Ann Scali, ’97 is a Loyola graduate and ChildLaw Fellow alumna.

On October 19th, the ChildLaw Center hosted its first immersion workshop for students in the Online Master of Jurisprudence in Children’s Law and Policy. As part of the workshop, attendees participated in an interactive program on the legislative process conducted by Professor Anita Weinberg and Policy Fellow Amy Meek.

Student & Alumni News

Shelley Streitmatter Marlowe Childlaw fellow from ’03 welcomed a baby boy, Wyatt Ross Marlowe in 5/14/12. He was welcomed home by his big sister, Ella Jane, age 3.

Deborah Marshall, LLM ’12, gave birth to a daughter on September 1, 2012. The baby’s name is Elizabeth Ibukunoluwa Marshall (Ellie). Her middle name means “God’s blessing” in Yoruba.

Taryn Fisher welcomed Talulah Jane Weinstein, born 9-4-12. Big brother Jude is loving her very much.

Laura Lacci Michelotti, ’08 would like to introduce baby girl Ella Veronica Michelotti, born on 10/16/2012 at 8:11pm. She weighs 8lbs 11oz.

Leezia Welch,'96, welcomed Renly Alexander Almind Bates on October 27th at 7lbs 5 oz. Fifer has already given Renly a ton of kisses, and seems quite proud of his new status as "the big brother."

Erika Stallworth, a former ChildLaw Clinic student, was recently selected as a fellow for the National Juvenile Justice Network’s Youth Justice Leadership Institute. For the next year she will be working on an advocacy project to develop a coalition in Indiana focused on making systemic change so that the unmet legal needs of children are addressed. Here is a link to more info: http://www.njjn.org/our-work/2012-youth-justice-leadership-fellows

Congratulations to our current fellows and alumni on participating in the Chicago Marathon. Amanda Walsh (2L CLF), Angela Inzano (alum), Ashley Jaconetti (3L ChildLaw Clinic), Mike Tien (2L ChildLaw Society) and Brenda McKinney(3L CLF) all ran and finished the marathon. 3L CLFs Agnes Zielinski, Jenny Denny and Sarah Sallen were official volunteers.

November: National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to raise awareness about the urgent need for adoptive families for children and youth in foster care. This year, the Children’s Bureau’s goal for this initiative has a new focus: Help States harness the power of social media to recruit and retain parents for the over 104,000* children and youth in foster care waiting for permanent families.

To learn more on National Adoption Month—Virtually: Adoption in the Digital Age please visit http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/index.cfm
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.

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Join the ChildLaw List Serve:
http://lists.luc.edu/listinfo/childlaw

More Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

Join us on November 16th at the ChildLaw Center at 4:00p.m. for our Holiday Wrapping Party for our Give-a-Gift Drive.