Health Justice Project

The Health Justice Project is a medical-legal partnership between Loyola University Chicago School of Law and Erie Family Health Center. Students and practitioners of law, social work, public health and medicine engage in interprofessional collaboration to combat poverty and achieve health justice through social, legal and policy solutions.

For more information about our work, visit www.luc.edu/healthjustice

Student Enrollment & Interprofessional Involvement
Between Spring 2011 and Fall 2013, a total of 108 law students have participated in the Health Justice Project.
Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work faculty supervise 3-4 social work students each semester in the Health Justice Project.
The Health Justice Project is cross listed at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and multiple medical and public health students enroll or complete their practicum in the Health Justice Project each semester.

Over 200 health care providers and residents are involved in the Health Justice Project and trained by interprofessional student teams.

Select Outcomes
- **Direct Representation:** Addressed over 1,300 legal issues for patients of Erie Family Health Center; advocated for over $600,000 in medical debt forgiveness; secured over $550,000 in Medicaid reimbursement to Erie Family Health Center; awarded over $200,000 in Social Security Disability benefits; achieved 100% success on Social Security appeals; obtained judgments reducing housing expenses by more than $40,500.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Represented ChangeLab Solutions to develop healthy homes policy strategies; represented the National Coalition for the Homeless to address the criminalization of homelessness; generated New York Times coverage; submitted interdisciplinary comments to federal rulemaking focused on the health needs of minorities and low-income individuals; developed a policy proposal addressing Chicago Public School treatment of pregnant and parenting teens.

Experiential Learning
The Health Justice Project prepares law students to be practice ready and provides students with “real world” experience in:
- Individual Client Representation & Lawyering Skills
- Professional Responsibility
- Interprofessional Collaboration
- Policy Advocacy & Legislative Drafting
- Organizational Client Representation

Courses include: Health Justice Project, Interprofessional Health Advocacy, Introduction to Health Justice, Health Justice Policy, Advanced Health Justice and Access to Health

Community Partners
The Health Justice Project connects law students with members of the local and national health community, including:
- AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
- American Legislative and Issue Campaign Exchange
- ChangeLab Solutions
- Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Equip for Equality
- Erie Family Health Center
- Health & Disability Advocates
- Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing
- Loyola University Chicago School of Graduate Studies-Public Health
- Loyola University Chicago School of Medicine
- Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work
- National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership
- National Coalition for the Homeless
- National Immigrant Justice Center
- Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

National Resource
The Health Justice Project serves as a model and provides advice to multiple schools and organizations, including:
- Arnold & Porter LLP
- Georgetown University Law Center
- Indiana University Maurer School of Law
- Jane Doe Advocacy Center
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- James B. Moran Center
- Network for Victim Recovery DC
- Northern Illinois University College of Law
- Quinnipiac University School of Law
- Southern Illinois University School of Law
- University of Colorado School of Law
- University of Kansas School of Law
- University of Missouri School of Law
Health Justice Project Presentations and Publications

Select Publications from the Health Justice Project and Loyola University Chicago School of Law


- Emily A. Benfer, *Interdisciplinary Collaboration Between Graduate Schools and Host Communities in TOWN AND GOWN: EFFECTIVE LEGAL STRATEGIES PROMOTING COOPERATION BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THEIR HOST MUNICIPALITIES* (Cynthia A. Baker et al. eds. 2013).


- Emily A. Benfer, et al., *Advancing Health Law & Social Justice in the Clinic, the Classroom and the Community*, 21 ANNALS HEALTH L. 241 (2012).

- Allyson E. Gold, *Combating Substandard Housing through Medical-Legal Partnerships*, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION THE YOUNG LAWYER (Vol. 16, No. 9).

Select Presentations Highlighting the Health Justice Project and Loyola University Chicago School of Law


- “Interdisciplinary Partnership to Overcome Health Disparities,” Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Physician Assistant Program (August 2012).

- “Interdisciplinary Partnership to Overcome Health Disparities,” Erie Family Health Center, Referral Coordinator Training (August 2012).

- “Housing Health,” Erie Family Health Center, Grand Rounds (August 2012)

- “Interdisciplinary Partnership to Overcome Health Disparities,” Northwestern University McGaw Center for Graduate Medical Education, Family Medicine Residency Program (July 2012).


- “Social Determinants of Health and Interdisciplinary Solutions” Southern Illinois University School of Law & School of Medicine (November 2011).

- “Careers in Academia,” American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics Health, DePaul University College of Law Conference (October 21, 2011).
