



LOYOLA  
UNIVERSITY  
CHICAGO

## CIVITAS CHILDLAW CENTER

The Civitas ChildLaw Center was established within the Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1993. The Center's mission is to promote justice for children through interdisciplinary teaching, scholarship and service, and through the development of a legal specialty in pediatric law. Program goals include:

- Training law students, attorneys, and child welfare professionals to be effective advocates for children;
- Providing high quality legal representation to child clients;
- Promoting children's law as a respected area of legal specialization; and
- Improving the quality of justice for children and families.

The ChildLaw Center' encompasses a range of programs and activities designed to further these goal:

**Degree programs:** The Center offers several degree and joint degree programs, in addition to the J.D. program. These include an LL.M. Degree, intended for graduates of U.S. and foreign law schools; an M.J. Degree, designed to give professionals in social work, education, and other disciplines a better understanding of the legal systems operating on behalf of children and families; and joint J.D./M.S.W. and M.J./M.S.W. programs for students interested in combining legal and social work education.

**Curriculum:** The core ChildLaw curriculum includes classes in Child Family and State, Juvenile Justice, Adoption Law; Domestic Violence, ChildLaw Legislation, Education Law, Family Law, International Children's Human Rights, Intensive ChildLaw Trial Practice, and ChildLaw Clinical Practice.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** The ChildLaw program encompasses numerous additional extra-curricular activities for interested students. These include a weekly speakers series; an active student-run ChildLaw Society; a law-related education program that allows students to teach youth housed in the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center about their legal rights; and support for a broad range of internships and externships.

**Fellows Program:** Each year, approximately 7 to 10 entering J.D. students are selected as ChildLaw Fellows on the basis of their academic ability, leadership potential and commitment to careers as child advocates. To support and encourage this career choice, Fellows are awarded tuition and internship support. It is the hope and expectation of the Civitas ChildLaw Center that Fellows will become leaders in the field of child advocacy.

**Civitas ChildLaw Clinic:** The Clinic is a functioning law office in which students work under the close supervision of clinical faculty. Through the clinic, students represent child clients in a range of legal proceedings including abuse and neglect, delinquency, child custody, adoption, domestic violence and education.

**Policy Institute:** The ChildLaw Policy Institute seeks to promote child-centered laws, policies and practices, and to improve the functioning of the various legal and related systems that impact on the health and welfare of children and families. In addition to training students in the areas of policy and legislation, the Institute also serves as a resource for lawyers, judges, legislators, public officials, child welfare specialists, health professionals, educators, social scientists, and others.

**Post-Graduate Fellowships:** The Center currently sponsors two post-graduate fellowships for law school graduates, in child law policy and clinical teaching. These fellowships offer the opportunity for recent graduates to develop their legal and/or pedagogical skills and to prepare for a career in child-related positions.

**Children's Legal Rights Journal:** The *Children's Legal Rights Journal* is a quarterly legal journal, edited by Loyola students in conjunction with the ABA Center on Children and the Law and with the cooperation of the National Association of Counsel for Children. The journal focuses on the broad range of legal issues confronting children.

**Children's Summer Institute:** Each summer Loyola offers an intensive, week long course focused on a specific issue relating to children and the law. The course is open not only to law students, but also to other Loyola students and interested individuals outside of the Loyola community.

**International Children's Rights Initiative:** Loyola offers students a variety of opportunities to study international children's rights in the classroom, to engage in field research in countries such as Chile, Tanzania, India and Thailand, to work on international child abduction cases in the ChildLaw Clinic, and to participate in international internships around the globe.

**Law and Education Institute:** The goal of the Institute is to facilitate collaborative interdisciplinary research, publications, training, conferences and outreach programs dedicated to the development of excellence and equity in the nation's schools.

**Lead Poisoning Prevention:** The Civitas ChildLaw Center staffs and chairs the Illinois Lead Safe Housing Task Force, an advocacy group focused on reducing childhood lead poisoning and increasing lead-safe housing.

**Bruce A. Boyer** is a Professor at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law and Director of Loyola's Civitas ChildLaw Clinic. Prior to joining Loyola, he taught for 12 years at Northwestern University Law School, where he helped in 1991 to establish Northwestern's Children and Family Justice Center. He has represented clients in child welfare, juvenile delinquency, special education, and disability hearings, with focus primarily on issues of child maltreatment. Professor Boyer has litigated, taught, consulted and written extensively in the area of child abuse and neglect. He has designed and co-directed an intensive trial skills course for child advocates, and his publications include a book of training materials for child advocates, as well as numerous scholarly and practice-oriented articles. He has served as Chair of the ABA Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children and a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism.