

## UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF LAW

### CENTER ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: GOALS & METHODS

*The mission of the Center on Children and Families is to promote the highest quality of advocacy, teaching and scholarship in the areas of child & family law and policy.*

Our Center is committed to filling the need for high quality advocacy by creating programs and resources that bring an interdisciplinary, evidence-based and child-centered approach to issues of children's law and policy. Through its Certificate in Family Law, Child Welfare Clinic, Annual Conference, Publications, and Student Fellowships, the Center on Children and Families is training a new generation of advocates for a new era.

The Center goals are 1) to promote quality scholarship on issues of importance to children and their families 2) train a new generation of advocates for children and their families 3) educate children about their rights and responsibilities in a free society 4) promote interdisciplinary and child-centered methods for studying systems serving children and their families.

The programs we offer in support of the fulfillment of these goals are:

#### [Certificate in Family Law](#)

This program provides law students an opportunity to graduate with a Certificate in Family Law in addition to their Juris Doctor degree. Students may enroll at any time after their first semester and must complete an additional eight credit hours beyond those required for the J.D., with a minimum of 20 credits in certain core courses, electives and clinics or externships. It is designed to provide individuals interested in family and children's law with individualized mentoring and a cohesive course of study and practical experience.

#### **A. Concentration Requirements**

Students must successfully complete at least one from each group of core courses:

##### Core I (Fundamentals):

- o "Perspectives on the Family"

##### Core II (Advanced Principles):

- o "Economics of the Family"
- o "Child, Parent and State"

##### Core III (Practice-Based):

- o A clinic (including child welfare clinic, full representation family law clinic, pro se clinic, mediation clinic or juvenile law clinic)
- o An externship (including externships in the public or public interest sector involving family law, child abuse and neglect, juvenile justice, poverty law, domestic violence and other family-related areas)\*

#### **B. Elective Courses**

Students may choose from among the following elective courses and seminars to complete the remainder of the 20 credits:

Adoption	Health Law
Bioethics	Human Rights Law
Disability Law	Interviewing Counseling
Education Law	Juvenile Justice

Elder Law  
Estate Planning  
Federal Courts  
Gender and the  
Law

Mediation  
Mental Health Law  
Negotiation  
Poverty Law  
Psychology for Family Law  
Selected Legal Problems in Family & Children's  
Law

### **Child Welfare Clinic**

The University of Florida provides an ideal setting for interdisciplinary training. The Center on Children and Families' UF Law Child Welfare Clinic (CWC) is supervised by Monique Haughton Worrell. Interns with the Child Welfare Clinic obtain valuable training and experience with cases involving child abuse and neglect, child custody, delinquency, domestic violence and health care. Students are assigned to a field placement with the Child Protection Team, Juvenile Public Defender or Child Welfare Legal Services. All students in the clinic attend an intensive seminar emphasizing teamwork and collaboration with other disciplines and governmental agencies and are trained legal interns, certified by the Florida Supreme Court.

### **Annual Scholarly Conference**

The Center hosts an annual conference to promote research in areas crucial to children and their families. The purpose of these conferences is to promote a demand for top quality scholarship and research about children by identifying key issues and inviting the best minds in the nation to present papers on these issues.

### **Judicial and Legislative Policy**

The primary goal of submitting amicus briefs and testimony is to educate judges and legislators about the impact of their decisions on children and their families. CCF faculty appear before state and federal committees and roundtables and authors amicus briefs on a wide range of issues affecting children and their families. The Center approaches the issues in a scholarly manner, guided by relevant research.

### **Child and Family Law Externships**

The Center helps coordinate a wide range of unpaid family and child-related externships, including government, judicial or public interest settings to give students practical experience and course credit. Recent placements have included family court judges and masters, legal services, public defenders, sole practitioners and firms, and with governmental and public interest offices locally and in other Florida cities.

### **Public and Professional Education**

In addition to publications generated by our conferences, the Center produces materials to educate and influence policy-makers (including judges, legislators, academicians, citizen advocates). The Center presents programs of continuing education to train doctors, lawyers, judges and other professionals to work with children's cases and issues. The Center also works to engage children in learning about their rights in a free society.

For more information on CCF courses and activities, see: <http://www.law.ufl.edu/centers/childlaw/>