

CIVITAS CHILDLAW CENTER

Loyola's internationally recognized Civitas ChildLaw Center balances classroom learning with a wide range of hands-on experiential opportunities. These offerings, the most comprehensive available at any law school in the country, equip students with interdisciplinary knowledge and practical skills to advocate on behalf of vulnerable children and families in both the litigation and policy realms.

Wide-ranging campus-based and online curriculum

The Civitas ChildLaw Center offers **JD, LLM, and MJ degrees**; a **JD certificate** of concentration awarded for completion of four courses plus experiential learning and extracurricular participation requirements; and a **Certificate in School Discipline Reform**. The LLM and MJ courses are online. A sampling of courses includes:

- *ChildLaw Trial Practice*
- *International Children's Rights*
- *Education Law*
- *Family Law*
- *Juvenile Justice Seminar*
- *Adoption Law Seminar*
- *Special Education Seminar*
- *Children's Health Seminar*
- *Child, Parent, and State*
- *Domestic Violence*
- *Child and Family Law Mediation*
- *ChildLaw Policy/Legislation Clinic*
- *ChildLaw Clinic*
- *Human Trafficking and Immigration*

Renowned faculty

The center's prestigious **faculty has been recognized** by the National Association of Counsel for Children, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, American Bar Association, and more. Local, state, national, and international organizations and governmental bodies regularly seek out Civitas ChildLaw faculty members for consultation and guidance.



NO. 1

Loyola was ranked **#1 in the country in family law** by *Law Street Media* in 2015.

NO. 1

Loyola was named the **top law school in the country for child law** by *PreLaw* magazine in 2018.

25

2019 marks the **25th anniversary** of Loyola's award-winning **Civitas ChildLaw Center**.

200+

Loyola has awarded **more than 200 ChildLaw Fellowships**.



25

Loyola's ChildLaw clinics provide **hands-on training** to 25 students per semester.

Diane Geraghty, the A. Kathleen Beazley Chair in Children's Law and director of the Civitas ChildLaw Center, has served as a consultant to UNICEF in Africa and Asia and is the recipient of many awards for her contributions to children's law.



Clinics, institutes, and initiatives

Several components of the Civitas ChildLaw Center are actively addressing issues in child and family law through **clinical experiences, policymaking, legislation, education, and service.**

- **Civitas ChildLaw Clinic:** Provides students with opportunities for supervised, hands-on representation of children in a range of proceedings, including child welfare, domestic relations, and education.
- **Civitas ChildLaw Policy Institute:** Offers interdisciplinary collaboration and learning opportunities for policy development, analysis, and organizational change in areas of child welfare, juvenile justice reform, and children's health.
- **Education Law and Policy Institute:** Facilitates collaborative interdisciplinary research, publications, training, and outreach programs promoting excellence and equity in the nation's schools.
- **Center for the Human Rights of Children:** Advances the rights of children around the world through teaching, research, and service, including international field research, consultancies, and study-abroad opportunities.
- **Children's Environmental and Health Law and Policy:** Involves students in legislative and policymaking activities focused on promoting child health and reducing health challenges such as childhood lead poisoning, obesity, and fetal alcohol syndrome.

Intensive fellowships

Each year, Loyola selects up to 10 **ChildLaw Fellows** from among students admitted to the entering full-time JD class. Two post-JD fellowships, the **Salisbury Fellow in Clinical Teaching** and the **ChildLaw Policy Fellowship**, also are offered.

More opportunities for involvement

- Three **publications**—the *Children's Legal Rights Journal*, *Education Law and Policy Institute Forum*, and *Journal of Early Education Law and Policy*—are edited by students.
- **Student organizations** include the ChildLaw Society and the Education Law and Policy Society.
- **Externship opportunities** are available in settings ranging from the juvenile justice system to child advocacy organizations.
- The ChildLaw Center offers a rich selection of **presentations, workshops, and national conferences** attended by students free of charge.

External funding

The center has received **funding from the MacArthur Foundation, Oak Foundation, Chicago Community Trust**, and other organizations to support law reform efforts, including reforming juvenile and criminal justice, ensuring healthy homes for children and families, promoting ethical adoption practices, supporting victims of child trafficking, and improving educational outcomes.

Accomplished alumni

Civitas ChildLaw graduates hold **positions of leadership in child advocacy organizations** across the nation, including the former executive director of the National Association of Council for Children and the deputy director of the National Juvenile Defender Center. Since 2011, three former ChildLaw Fellows have been awarded **Fulbright Fellowships** and others have received highly competitive **Equal Justice Works postgraduate fellowships.**



SCHOOL of LAW

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