

# Denver Law's Child Advocacy Externship Program – Fall 2018

This program trains law students on the underlying legal issues involving children, youth, and their families so students are prepared to advocate on behalf of children in Colorado's courts. It also develops a robust and supportive community of students and supervisors engaged in children's legal work. It includes an externship and a 2-credit specialty seminar.

**An information session is on Feb. 1 at 12pm in room 125.**

**Application deadline is March 2, 2018. Placements are confirmed by March 30, 2018.**

## The following placements are part of the program:

- **Adams County Attorney's Office-Human Services Division (located in Denver)**: The office engages in child protection law, prosecutes Dependency and Neglect cases, initiates and enforces child support orders, and initiates adult protection guardianships and conservatorships. This placement is only for students who have at least 60 credits by fall 2018 (typically rising 3ls) who can be admitted to practice under the Student Practice Rule.
- **Colorado Office of the Child's Representative**: OCR is a state agency charged with improving best interest representation for Colorado's children. Rising 2Ls and 3Ls.
- **Denver City Attorney's Office-Human Services Legal Section**: The office handles prosecution of child neglect/abuse; termination of parental rights and adoption; establishment/collection of child support; and juvenile delinquency.
- **Denver Juvenile Court (Judge Clark)**: Under the supervision of Judge Laurie Clark and working with other juvenile court judges, this is a judicial externship focused solely on juvenile issues. Rising 2Ls and 3Ls.
- **Jefferson County Juvenile Court (Judge Meinster)**: Under the supervision of Judge Ann Meinster, this is a judicial externship in Golden focused solely on juvenile issues. Rising 2Ls and 3Ls.
- **Koy Dingboom**: This firm advocates on behalf of children in the child welfare system. Attorneys primarily serve as Guardian ad litem in dependency and neglect and juvenile delinquency cases, and represent relative caregivers and foster parents who intervene in these matters. Externs conduct legal research, draft motions, interview clients, attend meetings, and shadow court hearings. Rising 2Ls and 3Ls.
- **Office of the Respondent Parents Counsel**: OPRC is a state agency charged with protecting the fundamental right to parent by providing effective legal advocates for indigent parents in child welfare proceedings. Rising 2Ls and 3Ls.
- **Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center-Domestic Violence Unit**: Externs serve as guardians ad litem for children in civil protection order cases. With a social worker, students investigate the children's best interests, make recommendations on parenting time and decision-making, and appear in court, if Student Practice Rule certified.
- **Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center- Youth Empowerment, Caregiver, and Education Programs**: Externs support policy and practice efforts in child advocacy (welfare, delinquency, education, and immigration), including researching national trends, creating training materials on best practices, studying legislation, and supporting public awareness. Rising 2Ls and 3Ls.

## Special 2-Credit In-Class Seminar

If you secure an externship, you also take part in a special seminar taught by Betsy Fordyce of the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center. The seminar focuses on the substantive law behind legal advocacy for children and youth. It explores the fundamentals of dependency and neglect proceedings involving abused or neglected children, and exposes students to juvenile delinquency law, education law, immigration law, and other intersections of youth and the legal system. Youth encounter the legal system through a variety of means and this course recognizes that they need solid legal representation, regardless of the case type. It is taught from a practical perspective with students having opportunities to develop their legal skills, and engage in theoretical debates.

## Application/Registration Information

- **Waitlist for the in-class seminar, Child Advocacy Practicum.** You are waitlisted until you secure an externship. Since registration for fall courses is in April, enroll in other courses. You can drop courses once the externship is secured.
- **Send an application packet to Alexi Freeman ([afreeman@law.du.edu](mailto:afreeman@law.du.edu)) no later than \*March 2.\*** Include a resume, writing sample, list of 2 references, and one cover letter. Do not mention different organizations/judges in the cover letter as this letter will be sent to all placements you are applying to. In the email to Freeman, list your top 3 placements as well as other placements you are open to externing. The externship office sends applications to supervisors by March 5. Interviews are expected during the month of March. You should know whether you have secured a placement by **March 30**. Then, upload a signed [acceptance form](#) to your CORE account no later than August 3. Once received, we remove you from the seminar waitlist and register you for field credits.