

Denver Law's Child Advocacy Externship Program – Fall 2017

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 on this program will be April 6, 2017 at 12pm in room 270.

Deadline to apply is May 24, 2017. Students will be notified of placements by June 30, 2017.

The following placements are part of the program:

- **Adams County Attorney's Office-Human Services Division (but 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 2017 (typically rising 3ls) who can be admitted to practice under the Student Practice Rule.
- **Arapahoe County Juvenile Court (Judge Case)**: Under the supervision of Judge Natalie Case, this is a judicial externship focused solely on juvenile issues. Rising 2Ls and 3Ls.
- **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.
- **Jefferson County Attorney's Office-Human Services Section**: The Human Services Section provides advice, training, and representation to the Department of Human Services in the areas of adult and child protection, child support enforcement, and public assistance appellate issues. Rising 2Ls and 3Ls. **Tentative*
- **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 and General Externship**: For DV, students serve as guardians ad litem for children in civil protection order cases. Each GAL is paired with a social worker to investigate the children's best interests, make recommendations regarding parenting time and decision-making, and appear in court, if admitted under the Student Practice Rule. For the general externship, 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 Substantive Law 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 will primarily explore the fundamentals of dependency and neglect proceedings involving abused or neglected children, but also 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) no later than ***May 24.*** 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 May 26. Interviews are expected between May 23-June 23. You should know whether you have an externship by **June 30**. Once you secure a placement, 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.**