

Denver Law's Child Advocacy Externship Program – Fall 2023

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.

Info session: Feb. 23 at 12pm, Room 190/Zoom

Application deadline: March 10.

Interviews: March 11-April 7. Offers Made: April 10-14. Placements Confirmed: April 17.

The following placements are part of the program:

- **Arapahoe County Attorney's Office**: Provides advice and representation to the Human Services Dept. and handles dependency and neglect cases, state expungement and administrative review hearings, and adult service matters. Only for students with 60 credits by fall '23 and eligible for Student Practice Rule.
- **Adams County Attorney's Office-Human Services Division**: Engages in child protection law, prosecutes dependency/neglect cases, initiates and enforces child support orders, and initiates adult protection guardianships and conservatorships. Only for students with 60 credits by fall '23 and eligible for Student Practice Rule.
- **Colorado Juvenile Defender Center**: Engage in juvenile defense, civil rights work, and education law. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Colorado Office of the Child's Representative**: State agency charged with improving best interest representation for Colorado's children. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Colorado State Public Defender-Juvenile Unit, Brighton Regional Office**: Represents indigent individuals charged with crimes. Assist on detention hearings, research, motions/trials, and appellate writing. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Colorado State Public Defender-Juvenile Unit, Denver Regional Office**: Represents indigent individuals charged with crimes. Assist on detention hearings, research, motions/trials, and appellate writing. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Denver Juvenile Court (Judge Clark)**: Judicial externship focused solely on juvenile issues. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Jefferson County Juvenile Court (Judge Meinster)**: Judicial externship focused solely on juvenile issues. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **National Association of Counsel for Children**: Nonprofit where students will do legal/policy research. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Office of the Respondent Parents Counsel**: State agency charged with protecting the fundamental right to parent by providing effective legal advocates for indigent parents in child welfare proceedings. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center**: Support policy and practice efforts in child advocacy (welfare, delinquency, education, immigration). Research trends, create training materials, study legislation, and support public awareness. If certified (60 credits), serve as guardians ad litem for children in civil protection order cases. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Stinson Law Office**: Private juvenile defense firm with direct file or transfer cases where youth may be prosecuted as adults. 95% indigent clients. Research, drafting memos/motions; investigation; and observation. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.

Special 2-Credit In-Class Seminar

If you secure an externship, you also take part in a special seminar taught by longtime children's lawyer and advocate Betsy Fordyce. 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. This course recognizes that youth need solid legal representation, regardless of the case type. It is taught from a practical perspective and you get to both develop your legal skills and engage in theoretical debates.

Application/Registration Information

Submit application packet to externships@law.du.edu no later than ***March 10.*** Include, in a single pdf, resume, writing sample, and **one cover letter addressed to the child advocacy program**. Do not mention different organizations in the letter as this will be sent to all placements you are applying to. In the email, list your top 3 placements as well as other placements you are open to externing. Upload a signed [acceptance form](#) to CORE when placement secured, and waitlist for the seminar, Child Advocacy Practicum. We remove you from the waitlist and register you for field credits once we get the acceptance form. Enroll in fall courses and then drop if needed, once the externship is secured. **QUESTIONS? Contact Prof. Alexi Freeman – afreeman@law.du.edu.**