

Denver Law's Child Advocacy Externship Program – Fall 2020

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 info session is on Feb. 19 at 12pm in room 190. Application deadline: March 4.

Interviews: March 5-31. Offers Made: April 1-5. Placements Confirmed: April 12.

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 2019 (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.
- **Colorado State Public Defender-Juvenile Units only, Denver or Brighton Regional Offices:** The Public Defender provides zealous and effective representation for indigent individuals who are charged with the commission of crimes. Externs in the juvenile unit assist on detention hearings/preparation, research, motions practice, trials, and appellate writing. 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.
- **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:** 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. If certified (60 credits), externs serve as guardians ad litem for children in civil protection order cases, investigating the children's best interests, making recommendations on parenting time and decision-making, and appearing in court. Rising 2Ls and 3Ls.
- **Stinson Law Office:** Private juvenile defense firm where most cases are direct file or transfer cases where youth may be prosecuted as adults. 95% indigent clients. Research, drafting memos/motions; investigation; and observation.

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. 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 4.*** Include resume, writing sample, and one cover letter addressed to the child advocacy program. Do not mention different organizations in the cover letter as this will be sent to all placements you are applying to. In the email to Prof. Freeman, list your top 3 placements as well as other placements you are open to externing. Interviews will be between March 5-31. Offers are made between April 1-5 and placements are all confirmed by **April 12**. Then, upload a signed [acceptance form](#) to CORE 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. Since registration for fall courses is in April, enroll in other courses and then drop those courses once the externship is secured. **QUESTIONS? Contact Prof. Alexi Freeman –** afreeman@law.du.edu