



# Civitas ChildLaw Center

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee Talk: April 6	4:00-4:50 pm Our Community of Illinois, Inc.
April 8-9	Council on Contemporary Families
April 12 6:00-7:30 pm	Voices of We who are Violence -Free
Coffee Talk: April 13	4:00-4:50 pm End of the Year Celebration
April 17	Taking Steps to End Child Abuse
April 23	Wrigley Start Early Run/Walk
April 29	Cabrini Green Legal Aid Training

## COFFEE TALK SPEAKERS

This month our final Coffee Talk speakers were **Alpa Patel**, **Tom Brennan**, and **Jim Burton** from the Office of the Public Guardian. In addition to discussing their work as attorneys for abused and neglected children, they shared the story of the non-profit group they helped form to provide



their clients with some of the things that non-system involved children routinely have, such as bicycles. Theirs is the story of attorneys who view their job as broader than just advocating in court. Join us for our End of the Year Celebration on April 13th. Our Coffee Talk Series will start again in the fall.

## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to increase awareness about child abuse and neglect and create strong communities to support children and families.

According to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, in 2010 109,181 children were reported as maltreated. Of these, over 40% were under the age of 6. Fifty-five percent of reported children were white, 32% were African-American, and 7% were Latino. Of these reported cases, 29,062 were "indicated after investigation," meaning that there was a finding that there was some basis for the report. Eight percent of indicated cases involved sexual abuse; another 8% were physical abuse allegations, and the remainder involved some type of neglect or failure of care. The figures for substance exposed infants were the lowest in the last 12 years.

The Child Welfare League of America identifies five research-based protective factors that are linked to a lower incidence of child abuse and neglect:

- ◆ Nurturing and attachment
- ◆ Knowledge of parenting and child and youth development
- ◆ Parental resilience
- ◆ Social connections
- ◆ Concrete supports for parents



Children's Home + Aid sponsors the annual Blue Bow Campaign to promote awareness and prevention of child abuse and neglect in Illinois and to highlight the effective community resources available to help families.

## 2011 Summer Internships

### Midwest Coalition for Human Rights

The Midwest Coalition for Human Rights announces the availability of 5 human rights internships through their 2011 summer internship program:

- ◆ Immigration Law Center of Minnesota
- ◆ Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
- ◆ Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice
- ◆ Coalition of African, Arab, Asian, European & Latino Immigrants of Illinois
- ◆ ACLU of Michigan

View their website for a full description of each internship and the application process:

<http://www.midwesthumanrights.org/midwest-coalition-human-rights-2011-summer-internships>

To apply send a cover letter and resume to Claire Leslie, [cleslie@MidwestHumanRights.org](mailto:cleslie@MidwestHumanRights.org) by 5p.m. on **April 13, 2011**.

### International Bureau for Children's Rights

The International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) is an international non-governmental organization with a board of directors is composed of Canadian and international experts. The IBCR's mission is to contribute to the protection and promotion of children's rights worldwide. The intern will be part of a team working on implementation of the 2011-2012 plan. Work may include conducting research, analyzing and preparing draft country profiles concerning the implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*; reports on child trafficking in Canada; activities to implement the new *UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime*, the prevention of child sex tourism and/or the protection of the rights of children affected by armed conflict, and/or assisting in fundraising activities.

For more information please visit [www.ibcr.org](http://www.ibcr.org) or e-mail Luc Ouimet at [l.ouimet@ibcr.org](mailto:l.ouimet@ibcr.org). The deadline to apply is **May 2, 2011**.

## Voices of We who are Violence-Free

The youth of Stand Up! Help Out! in Bronzeville, would like to invite you to an upcoming youth-led community forum. The youth of Stand Up! Help Out! have provided social services to their community — tutoring younger students, setting up health fairs, organizing marches against violence, and documenting their own stories. Because there were four drive-by shootings that threatened the youth as they were going to and from their Stand Up! Help Out! program this winter, they are putting on a community forum called: *Voices of We who are Violence-Free*. The public forum will focus on community violence and working together to find ways to protect youth and reduce community violence. Please join us on **April 12, 2011** from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at West Point Baptist Church (3566-72 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, IL). A simple dinner will be served so please RSVP to Rachel Kibblesmith at [rkibble@luc.edu](mailto:rkibble@luc.edu)

## Cabrini Green Legal Aid Volunteer Training

Cabrini Green Legal Aid has scheduled its next Expungement Help Desk Training session for Friday, **April 29th** at 3:30 p.m. at its office (740 N. Milwaukee). The training is for those interested in volunteering to assist individuals at the Expungement and Sealing Help Desk at the Daley Center to have their criminal records expunged.

Please e-mail Theresa Hayes at [theresahayes@cqla.net](mailto:theresahayes@cqla.net) to let her know if you are interested in attending this training and she will reserve a seat for you.



## Wrigley Run

Join more than 3,500 young adults, children and their families as they shake off the chill of winter and run or walk to step out for children and families in our communities. The 14th annual Wrigley Start Early Run and Walk will take place on **Saturday, April 23rd** in Grant Park. This event benefits Voices for Illinois Children and Prevent Child Abuse America. To find out more event details or to register, visit [www.startearlyrun.com](http://www.startearlyrun.com)

## Taking Steps to End Child Abuse



You are invited to attend the 5K Run/1 Mile Walk to support the Family Visitation Center (FVC) of the Children's Foundation of Children's Home + Aid. Due to the reduced funding of this program by the State of Illinois, proceeds from this race will go to increase the level of critical support to clients of the FVC. The race will take place on **Sunday, April 17th** at 1:00 p.m. at Tipton Park. All participants must register by April 14th. To register visit [www.childrenshomeandaid.org](http://www.childrenshomeandaid.org)

## Faculty and Staff Updates

On March 26th, **Mary Burns**, Community Projects Director for the Lead Safe Housing Initiative, was a panelist along with State Senator Mattie Hunter, and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Center for Healthy Housing and the Chicago Department of Public Health, at a community meeting convened by “Imagine Englewood If..” to talk about lead poisoning in Englewood and recent budget cuts that could jeopardize efforts to get rid of lead hazards in the community’s old housing that contribute to the high numbers of lead poisoned children in Englewood.

**Soledad McGrath**, post-graduate ChildLaw Policy Fellow, was recognized in the Illinois Bar Journal in the article titled, “Lawyers Making a Difference for Juvenile Justice Reform,” authored by Mark D. Hassakis, President of the

Illinois Bar Association. Soledad and her students are working on legislation to streamline the process for youth to have arrest records expunged and exploring other states’ approaches to determining juveniles’ competency to stand trial.

Professor **Sacha Coupet** participated on a panel on March 25th at a conference entitled, “The New Illegitimacy: Revisiting Why Parentage Should Not Depend on Marriage” at American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. The conference was a gathering of family law scholars from across the country and focused on the ways in which children continue to face challenges related to the marital status of their parents. Within this discussion, Professor Coupet presented on the ways in which the discourse on “legitimate” and “illegitimate” families continues to be marriage-focused, leaving out the population of relative caregivers for whom marital ties are irrelevant.

**Sacha Coupet** published an article titled “*Ain’t I a Parent?*”: Exclusion of Kinship Caregivers from the Debate over Expansions of Parenthood. The article explores the challenges that relative caregivers face when seeking parental status and compares these challenges with the gains made by other quasi-parents in the context of marriage-related parentage claims.



**Pam Witmer** (JD '12), research assistant for the ChildLaw Center's Lead Safe Housing Initiative, published an article in the Fall 2010 issue of Illinois Pediatrician, “*Early Childhood Lead Poisoning: Low Levels of Lead and Its Effects on School Performance in Chicago Public Schools.*”

## Alumni News

**Eileen Murphy Caver**, J.D.'05, is a career clerk for federal district court judge, Hon. Frederick Kapala, in Rockford, IL. Eileen and her husband, Brendan, also a Loyola alumnus, are parents to a 2 year-old daughter and a 10 month old son.

**Sheri Buske**, LL.M. '06, is an assistant professor at Charlotte School of Law. She recently took a group of law students to Arusha, Tanzania on a field study program.

## *People of the State of Illinois vs. Austin M., a minor*



**Bruce Boyer** filed an amicus brief in *Austin M.* on behalf of the ChildLaw Center, Northwestern's Bluhm Legal Clinic, the Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia, and the National Juvenile Defender Center in Washington D.C. The case represents the Illinois Supreme Court's first look at the proper role of counsel for juvenile delinquents and asks the Court to respect the due process requirements for children first set out in 1967 in *In re Gault*.

## Civitas ChildLaw Center

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Join the ChildLaw List Serve:

<http://lists.luc.edu/listinfo/childlaw>.

The Loyola Civitas ChildLaw Center is dedicated to promoting justice for children through interdisciplinary teaching, scholarship and service, and through the development of a new legal specialty, pediatric law.



## Upcoming Events

## Faculty and Staff Directory

**Bruce Boyer** - Director, ChildLaw Clinic, 915-7927, [bboyer@luc.edu](mailto:bboyer@luc.edu)  
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**Anita Weinberg** - Director, ChildLaw Policy Institute, 915-6482, [aweinbe@luc.edu](mailto:aweinbe@luc.edu)

## Council on Contemporary Families 14th Annual Conference

The Council on Contemporary Families will be hosting its 14th Annual Conference on **April 8-9, 2011**, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Student Center East. This year's theme is the "Tipping Point: When Minority Families Become the Majority." Complete conference details, including the conference schedule and online registration, can be found at: <http://www.contemporaryfamilies.org/conference/14thannualconference.html>



## Carol Harding Lecture Series

The Carol Harding Lecture Series, held as part of the **Children's Summer Institute**, will be **May 23rd** and will be exploring the disparities in child welfare decision making based on race and its impact on children and families. The May 23rd program is open to the public, and continuing education credits should be available. For more information or to register, contact the ChildLaw Center at 312-915-6481.