Introduction

The Family Law Resource Guide is part of a series published by Loyola University Chicago School of Law’s Civitas ChildLaw Center in cooperation with the Office of Career Services. Each Guide addresses a separate area of child and family law and provides practical information to Loyola students and graduates to aid them in their academic and career decision-making. Other Resource Guides in the series include: Education Law, Child Welfare Law, Juvenile Justice Law, Child and Adolescent Health Law, and International Children’s Rights. For more information on the Civitas ChildLaw Center and its programs, please see www.luc.edu/childlaw. For additional curriculum planning guidance, please consult the Office of the Academic Dean. Additional career-planning support is available from the Office of Career Services and/or from individual faculty members listed in each Guide.

Overview: What is Family Law?

Family law encompasses the formation, regulation and dissolution of the family unit and other issues that occur in family relationships. In the last 30 years the field of family law has grown more complex in light of changes in law, technology and globalization, as well as evolving values and practices concerning the family.

Family law covers a broad range of practice areas including divorce, domestic partnerships, pre- and post-nuptial agreements, child custody, visitation, child support, maintenance, paternity, adoption, domestic violence, elder law, guardianship, collaborative law, and reproductive law. While some practitioners develop an expertise in multiple areas, others focus their practice on a particular subspecialty.

Depending on their area of focus, family law practitioners may be required to develop specialized knowledge in other areas such as accounting, contract, tax, estate and gift law, and financial planning. A family law attorney’s practice often involves both courtroom advocacy as well as client counseling and alternative dispute resolution. With the increase in transnational family relationships, family law practitioners increasingly specialize in the representation of individuals involved in such matters as intercountry adoptions, international child abduction cases, and international surrogacy issues.

Degrees/Programs Offered

In addition to the traditional J.D. program (both full- and part-time), Loyola University Chicago School of Law offers other degrees and programs for students interested in family law.
Child and Family Law Certificate Program
The School of Law offers a Certificate in Child and Family Law for J.D. students. To complete the certificate, students must take one required course (Child, Parent and State) and three additional child and family law electives, achieving a grade of B or better to receive the certificate.

J.D. /M.S.W.
The School of Law and Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work offer a 4-year full-time J.D. /M.S.W. degree. The dual degrees may also be pursued part-time.

LL.M. in Child and Family Law
Established by the Civitas ChildLaw Center in 1995, the LL.M. program in Child and Family Law allows law school graduates to develop specialized knowledge and skills in the area of child and family law. The program is intentionally small and tailored to meet individual student interests (e.g., domestic relations law, international children’s rights, child welfare law, juvenile justice law).

M.J. in Children’s Law and Policy (online)
Loyola now offers the nation’s only online law school-sponsored master’s level degree for nonlegal professionals working on behalf of children and families. The Master of Jurisprudence is a two-year part-time program designed to provide individuals with a firm understanding of law and policy as they affect children and families. Students have the option to enroll in the program’s standard M.J. degree or receive M.J./M.S.W. degrees in cooperation with the School of Social Work. For additional information, please see www.childlawmj.org.

Faculty/Staff
Loyola Law School’s family law curriculum is overseen by the school’s Civitas ChildLaw Center. The following faculty members teach family law courses and/or oversee the ChildLaw Clinic. They are a valuable resources to students interested in family law. Other family law opportunities may be available through Loyola’s Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy and the Community Law Center.

- Bruce A. Boyer, Clinical Professor and Director of the Loyola Civitas ChildLaw Clinic
- Theresa Ceko, Clinical Professor and Director of the Community Law Clinic
- Sacha M. Coupet, Associate Professor and Director of Research, Civitas ChildLaw Center
- Diane Geraghty, A. Kathleen Beazley Chair in Children’s Law, Professor of Law and Director, Civitas ChildLaw Center
• Stacey E. Platt, Clinical Professor and Associate Director, Loyola Civitas ChildLaw Clinic
• Anita Weinberg, Clinical Professor and Director, ChildLaw Policy Institute
• Mary Burns, Academic Coordinator, MJ in Children’s Law and Policy
• Josie Gough, Director of Experiential Learning
• Maureen Kieffer, Associate Director of Career Services and Public Service Law
• Robert Anderson, Adjunct Faculty
• Victoria L. Bush-Joseph, Adjunct Faculty
• Corinne Levitz, Adjunct Faculty
• Anna Krolikowska, Adjunct Faculty
• Michael Nathanson, Adjunct Faculty
• Andrew Vaughn, Adjunct Faculty

Curriculum

The School of Law has developed over 30 courses designed to train students to address a wide range of legal issues affecting families. These course offerings include:

• Accounting for Lawyers
• Adoption Law Seminar
• Advanced Family Law Seminar
• Advanced Issues in Domestic Relations Law
• Alternative Dispute Resolution
• Canon Law for Civil Lawyers
• Child and Family Law Mediation
• Child, Parent and State
• ChildLaw Directed Study
• ChildLaw Externship
• ChildLaw Legislation Clinic
• ChildLaw Trial Practice
• Children’s Summer Institute
• Civitas ChildLaw Clinic
• Client Counseling and Negotiation
• Conflict of Laws
• Contracts
• Disability Law
• Elder Law
• Family Business Seminar
• Family Law
• Family Law Practicum
• Financial Planning for Lawyers and Clients
• Interdisciplinary Seminar on Domestic Violence Law
• International and Comparative Family Law
• Law and Poverty
• Law and Psychology
• Mediation
• Mediation Seminar
• Mediation Practicum
• Mental Health Law
• Negotiations Seminar
• Sexual Orientation and the Law
• Special Education Law
• Street Law
• Therapeutic jurisprudence

Experiential Learning Opportunities

The School of Law offers many opportunities for students interested in gaining practical experience in the field of family law while in law school.

*Family Law Practicum*
Students in the Family Law Practicum serve as clients in an ante-nuptial drafting exercise. Students meet face-to-face with the collective group of student attorneys representing each client and engage in ongoing, timely and detailed electronic communication with student attorney teams throughout the course of the skills exercise. Practicum students also assist in evaluating the client counseling facet of the exercise and in reviewing each prenuptial for its substantive terms.

*Mediation Practicum*
The mediation practicum allows students to mediate family cases through several community projects. Students receive training in family mediation, co-mediation and related issues. They mediate in family group conferences and other multiple party mediations. Students participate in multiple simulation and mediations and receive feedback on their skills.

*Civitas ChildLaw Clinic*
The Loyola Civitas ChildLaw Clinic is a functioning law office where Loyola J.D. and LL.M. students take on real cases working under the close supervision of faculty. The Clinic’s clients are children. Students may be involved in custody and visitation proceedings in Domestic Relations Court and/or child protection and juvenile justice matters in Juvenile Court. In family law cases, the attorney/law student serves either in the traditional role of attorney, or as a child representative, or as guardian *ad litem*. In child protection
cases, he or she has a dual role as attorney and guardian *ad litem*. The Clinic also represents parties in international child abduction cases.

*ChildLaw Policy Institute*

Through participation in ChildLaw Policy Institute programs such as the legislation clinic, students have an opportunity to understand and influence the development of family law policy.

*Externships*

The School of Law’s externship program is designed to provide law students with practical experience under the supervision of a lawyer or judge and a supervising attorney from the law school. It is an opportunity to improve skills, incorporate the values of the profession and develop effective work habits, while making contacts with those in the field. For further information, please contact Josie Gough, Director of Experiential Learning.

**Internship/Job Search Resources**

Below is a listing of government agencies, law firms, and legal organizations that specialize in or practice some aspect of family law. This list is not exhaustive, but serves as a starting point for students who are searching for positions in this area. Loyola’s Office of Career Services is also an important resource for Loyola students and graduates.

**Government Agencies**

**Illinois Department of Children and Family Services**  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Tel. 312-814-6800  
www.idcfs.state.il.us

**Office of the Cook County Public Guardian**  
**Domestic Relations Division**  
69 West Washington Street, 7th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 312-603-0800  
www.publicguardian.org/domestic
Office of the Cook County Public Guardian
Juvenile Division
2245 West Ogden Avenue, 4th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: 312-433-4300
Fax: 312-433-5129
www.publicguardian.org/juvenile

Office of the Cook County Public Guardian
Adult Guardianship Division
69 W. Washington, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60602
Tel. 312-603-0800
www.publicguardian.org/guardianship

Law Firms

Anderson & Associates, PC
1 S. Dearborn, Suite 2100
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-345-9999
www.andersonandassociatespc.com

Aronberg Goldgehn
330 North Wabash Street, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312-828-9600
www.agdglaw.com

Audrey L. Gaynor and Associates, P.C.
20 South Clark Street, Suite 1620
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-201-0030
Fax: 312-201-0608
www.gaynorlaw.net

Avery Camerlingo Kill, LLC
218 North Jefferson, Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60661
Phone: 312-648-9707
www.averycamerlingokill.com

Berger Schatz
161 North Clark Street, Suite 2800
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-782-3456
Fax: 312-782-8463
www.bergerschatz.com

Beermann Swerdlove, LLP
161 N. Clark St., Suite 2600
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-621-9700
Fax: 312-621-0909
www.beermannlaw.com

Birnbaum, Haddon, Gelfman & Arnoux
180 N. LaSalle St. 37th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60601
Tel. 312-863-2800
www.bhgfamlaw.com
Contact: Erin Masters (alumna)

Brigette Schmidt Bell
53 W. Jackson Blvd. Suite 1230
Chicago, IL 60604
Tel. 312-360-1124
Botti Law Firm, PC
1550 Spring Rd., 3rd Fl.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
Phone: 630-573-8585
www.botti-law.com

Colky and Kirsh, Ltd.
1 North LaSalle Street, Suite 3100
Chicago IL, 60602
Phone: 312-558-9700
Fax: 312-558-9899
www.colkyandkirshlaw.com

Craig B. Hammond, Ltd.
77 W. Washington, Suite 1805
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-236-5006
Fax: 312-236-2103
www.chicagofamilylaw.com

Davis Friedman
135 South LaSalle Street, 36th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-782-2220
Fax: 312-782-0464
www.davisfriedman.com

Downs Law Offices, P.C.
150 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 1870
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: 312-781-1963
Fax: 312-781-1962
www.downslaw.com

Feinberg and Barry, P.C.
20 South Clark, Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-444-1050
www.feinbergbarry.com

Fischel and Kahn, Ltd.
190 South LaSalle Street, Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-726-0440
Fax: 312-726-1448
www.fischelkahn.com

Griffin, McCarthy and Rice, LLP
55 W. Monroe, Suite 990
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-782-4244
Fax: 312-782-4247
www.gmrfamilylaw.com

Grund and Leavitt
812 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60610
Phone: 312-640-0500
Fax: 312-640-8274
www.grundlaw.com

Jill M. Metz & Associates
5443 N. Broadway, #2-North
Chicago, IL 60640
Phone: 773-878-4480
Fax: 773-878-5590
www.jillmetzlaw.com

K & R Family Legal Services
899 Skokie Blvd. # 300
Northbrook, IL 60062
Phone: 847-715-9323
www.kandrfamilylaw.com

Katz Law Office, Ltd.
2408 West Cermak Road
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 773-847-8982
Fax: 773-847-8985
www.katzlawchicago.com

Katz and Stefani
222 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2150
Chicago, IL 60601
Ladden and Allen
150 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3600
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-853-3000
Fax: 312-853-0309
www.laddenallen.com

Lake Toback Attorneys
33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-726-7111
Fax: 312-726-2385
www.ltdivorce.com

Law Offices of Andrew L. Horberg, PC
134 N. LaSalle, Suite 1515
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-377-1584
Fax: 312-377-1771
www.ahorberglaw.com

Law Offices of Leslie L. Veon
303 West Madison Street, Suite 1150
Chicago IL 60606
Phone: 312-578-1721
Fax: 312-578-1743
www.veon-law.com

Law Offices of Michael Roe
22 W. Washington St., Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 630-232-2400
Fax: 866-858-5959
www.illinois-attorney.net

Law Office of Sandra Rosenbloom
One Northfield Plaza, Suite 300
Northfield, IL 60093
Phone: 847-441-1886
Fax: 847-441-2967
www.rosenbloomlaw.com

Levin and Brend
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2920
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: 312-726-4440
www.levinbrend.com

Levine, Wittenberg, Shugan & Schatz
20 N. Clark St., Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-443-1998
www.lwsslaw.com

Marilyn Longwell and Associates, PC
111 W. Washington St., Suite 1625
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-263-4730
Fax: 312-263-2055
www.longwell-law.com

McGann-Ryan and Matesevic, LTD
29 S. LaSalle St., Suite 425
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-782-3668
Fax: 312-782-4502
www.mulllaw.com

The Muller Firm, Ltd.
110 West Grand Avenue
Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: 312-467-6700
Fax: 312-467-0252
www.mulllaw.com

Nadler, Pritikin & Mirabelli
130 Randolph Drive
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-861-4600
http://npmfamla.com

Nottage and Ward
10 North Dearborn Street, 11th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-332-2915
Fax: 312-332-3075
www.nottageandward.com

Pasulka and Associates, P.C.
70 West Madison Street, Suite 650
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-236-9150
Fax: 312-236-9157
www.pasulkalaw.com

Rinella and Rinella
1 North LaSalle Street, Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-236-5454
Fax: 312-236-6975
www.rinellaandrinella.com

Sacks, Goreczny, Maslanka & Costello, P.C.
100 W. Monroe St., Suite 804
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-957-8085
www.sgmclegal.com

Schiller DuCanto and Fleck
200 North LaSalle Street, 30th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-641-5560
Fax: 312-641-6361
www.sdflaw.com

Stein and Stein, Ltd.
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 3100
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-641-0611
Fax: 312-372-8753
www.stein2.com

Wakenight and Associates, PC
203 N. LaSalle
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-419-8520
www.dedicatedtofamlaw.com

Women’s Divorce and Business Law Group
233 South Wacker Drive, 84th Floor
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: 312-445-8830
Fax: 312-445-8830
www.wdblg.com

Yavitz and Levey, LLP
20 South Clark Street, Suite 2200
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-924-4400
Fax: 312-924-4411
www.yldivorce.com

Non-Profits

Cabrini Green Legal Aid
740 North Milwaukee Avenue #B
Chicago, IL 60642
Phone: 312-738-2452
Fax: 312-850-4783
www.cgla.net

Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers
70 East Lake Street, Suite 1120
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-675-0912
www.claim-il.org

Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc.
211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 750
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: 773-731-1762
Fax: 773-731-4264
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation
100 North La Salle Street, Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-332-1624
Fax: 312-332-1460
www.cvls.org

Domestic Violence Legal Clinic
555 West Harrison, Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60607
Phone: 312-325-9155
Fax: 312-325-9169
www.dvlcchicago.org

Lambda Legal
11 East Adams, Suite 1008
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-663-4413
Fax: 312-663-4307
www.lambdalegal.org/mro

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
111 West Jackson Blvd., 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-341-1070
Fax: 312-341-1041
www.lafchicago.org

Life Span Center for Legal Services and Advocacy
20 East Jackson Blvd. Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-408-1210
Fax: 312-408-1223
www.life-span.org

Legal Aid Bureau of Metropolitan Family Services
One North Dearborn, 10th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-986-4200
Fax: 312-986-4289
www.metrofamily.org

Blogs, News, Resources

Blogs:
- www.chicagofamilylawblog.com
- www.illinoisdivorcelawyerblog.com
- www.blogs.wsj.com/law
- www.familylawtopics.com
- www.divorcelawyerschicago.org

Resources
Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
6525 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719
Tel. 608-664-3750
www.affccnet.org

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
150 N. Michigan St., Suite 1420
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-263-6477
Fax: 312-263-7682
www.aaml.org

Association for Conflict Resolution
12100 Sunset Hills Rd. #130
Reston, VA 20190
Tel. 703-234-4141
www.acrnet.com

Center for Conflict Resolution

Journals (partial, not including gender/women & law journals)

American Journal of Family Law
www.aspenpublishers.com

Canadian Family Law Quarterly
www.carswell.com

Canadian Journal of Family Law
http://faculty.law.ubc.ca

Children’s Legal Rights Journal
www.luc.edu/law

Elder Law Journal
www.law.ill.edu/elderlaw

Family Advocate
www.americanbar.org/publications/family_advocate.home.html

11 E. Adams Ste. 500
Chicago, IL 60603
Tel. 312-922-6464
www.ccrchicago.org

Chicago Bar Association
Matrimonial Law Committee
321 S. Plymouth Ct.
Chicago, IL 60604
Tel. 312-554-2000
www.chicagobar.org
Contact: Kelly Tauges (alumna)

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals
11811 N. Tatum Blvd. Ste. 1000
Phoenix, AZ 85028
Tel. 602-953-8460
www.collaborativepractice.com
Family & Children’s Law eJournal
LSN@publish.ssrn.com

Family Court Review
www.wiley.com

Family Law Quarterly
www.americanbar.org/publications/family_law_quarterly_home.html

International Journal of Law, Policy, and the Family
http://lawfam.oxfordjournals.org

Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
www.aaml.org

Journal of the Center for Families, Children & Courts

Journal of Law & Family Studies
http://epubs.utah.edu

Juvenile and Family Court Journal
www.ncjfcj.org

Whittier Journal of Child and Family Advocacy
www.law.whittier.edu