Introduction

The Resource Guide to International Children’s Rights Law 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: Child Welfare Law, Education Law, Family Law, Juvenile Justice Law, and Child and Adolescent Health Law. For more information on the Civitas ChildLaw Center, 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 and staff members listed in each Guide.

What Is International Children’s Rights Law?

For purposes of this Resource Guide, international children’s rights law refers to a subset of human rights law that is among the fastest growing areas of international law. The sources of this category of children’s rights law include international treaties such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, regional instruments such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and national laws such as anti-trafficking and child labor statutes. The concept of children’s rights includes traditional civil and political rights consistent with children’s evolving capacities, but also economic, social and cultural rights. This Resource Guide also provides information on immigration law and policy as it affects children and families.

With limited exceptions, the practice of international children’s rights law does not involve individual client representation. Instead, it focuses on the development and implementation of laws, policies and practices that protect children from harm and to promote children’s health, safety and well-being. International children’s rights lawyers may be government employees charged with carrying out this agenda, or they may serve as full-time employees or consultants with international (e.g. UNICEF/International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse), regional (e.g. Inter-American Children’s Institute), or national NGOs or other civil society organizations (e.g. Child Protection and Development Centre, Thailand).

One of the rewards of working in the area of international children’s rights is being part of a global community with a shared commitment to improving the lives of children and families.

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1 Private international children’s law (e.g. international child abduction, intercountry adoption) is addressed in the Family Law Resource Guide.
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 international children’s rights law.

Center for the Human Rights of Children

The Center for the Human Rights of Children is one of Loyola University’s interdisciplinary Centers of Excellence. The Center represents, coordinates, and stimulates efforts to understand, protect and apply the human rights of children. It accomplishes this through conferences, publications, courses, and related activities. For more information on the Center and opportunities for law student/alumni involvement, please visit www.luc.edu/chrc.

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/family law electives (including international children’s rights), achieving a grade of B or better.

International Law Certificate Program

In order to earn the Certificate in International Law and Practice, students must fulfill several requirements in order to demonstrate their commitment to and mastery of this area of law, including successful completion of two required courses and a total of 14 credits in the areas of international and comparative law.

J.D./M.A. in Comparative Law and Education

In addition to the traditional J.D. program, the Law School’s ChildLaw and Education Institute has joined with the School of Education to offer a dual J.D./M.A. degree in Comparative Law and Education. The goal of the program is to produce legal experts who have a grasp of global issues of education with expertise in the legal rights of children.

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 degree may also be pursued part-time.

LL.M. in Child and Family Law
Established in 1995, the LL.M. degree in Child and Family Law allows law school graduates to develop specialized knowledge and skills in the area of child and family law, including international children’s rights. Students enrolled in the program include foreign students from countries such as Panama, Uganda, Philippines, South Africa, and Argentina.

**LL.M. in Rule of Law for Development (PROLAW)**

PROLAW is a one academic year LL.M. degree offered by the School of Law at Loyola's campus in Rome, Italy. The PROLAW program provides students with the specific knowledge and skills they need to become qualified and effective rule of law advisors in national and internationally sponsored initiatives to improve the rule of law in developing countries, countries in economic transition, and countries recovering from violent conflict. Although the course gives students a sound understanding of theory, it is primarily practice-oriented.

**M.J. in Children’s Law and Policy (online)**

Loyola now offers the nation’s only law-school sponsored online master’s level degree for professionals working on behalf of children and families. The Master of Jurisprudence is a two-year part-time program designed to provide professionals who work with children with a firm understanding of law and policy as they affect children and families. Because it is online, it is ideally suited for international students. Students also have the option to receive M.J./M.S.W. degrees in cooperation with the School of Social Work. For additional information, please see [www.childlawmj.org](http://www.childlawmj.org).

### Faculty/Staff

**Law School** (not including PROLAW faculty)

John D. Blum, Professor of Law

Sacha Coupet, Associate Professor and Director of Research

Diane Geraghty, A. Kathleen Beazley Chair in Children’s Law and Director, Civitas ChildLaw Center.

Thomas Haney, Professor of Law

Michael Kaufman, Associate Dean and Director of the ChildLaw and Education Institute

Stacey Platt, Clinical Professor and Associate Director, Civitas ChildLaw Clinic

Anita Weinberg, Clinical Professor and Director, ChildLaw Policy Institute
Curriculum

The School of Law offers an array of courses suitable for students interested in international children’s rights. In addition, law school students are permitted to take a limited number of credits in other graduate divisions of the University. School of Law course offerings and/or cross-listed courses include:

- Comparative Criminal Procedure
- Comparative Education Law
- Comparative Law
- Comparative Law Seminar
- Comparative Law Seminar: Legal Systems in the Americas
- Conflict of Laws
- European Law I and II
- Health Law Field Study
- Human Trafficking in the US: Special Issues Concerning Children
- Immigration Law
• International and Comparative Children’s Rights
• International and Comparative Family Law
• International Law Criminal Law Seminar
• International Health Law
• International Human Rights
• International Law and Policy for Refugees and Displaced Persons
• Policies and Politics of US Immigration Law

**Experiential Learning Opportunities**

*Center on the Human Rights of Children*

Law students are eligible to apply on a competitive basis for fellowships and other opportunities available through Loyola’s Center on the Human Rights of Children.

*International Fellowship Program*

Loyola's International Law and Practice Program offers small grants to support students who wish to work for international organizations and similar public service venues during the summer, including children’s rights organizations such as UNICEF. A faculty committee chooses recipients each spring.

*International Children’s Rights Initiative*

The International Children’s Rights Initiative is a program of Loyola's Civitas ChildLaw Center. The primary goal of the initiative is to participate meaningfully in the international effort to protect children and to promote laws, policies and practices that allow all children to reach their full potential. In furtherance of this goal, Loyola offers students opportunities to study international children's rights in the classroom, to engage in field research in countries such as Chile, Tanzania, India and Thailand, to work on international child abduction cases in the ChildLaw Clinic, and to participate in international internships around the globe, including Ghana and South Africa. For additional information, please contact Professor Geraghty at dgeragh@luc.edu.

**Internship/Job Resources**

Below is a listing of government agencies, NGOs, law firms and other legal and human rights organizations that work in the area of international children’s rights. 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. For additional information, contact Maureen Kieffer, Associate Director, at mkieffer@luc.edu.
U.S. Based Organizations

Amnesty International
5 Penn Plaza
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-807-8400
www.amnestyusa.org

Center for Justice and International Law
1630 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 401
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: 202-319-3000
Fax: 202-319-3019
www.cejil.org

Children International
2000 East Red Bridge Rd.
PO Box 219055
Kansas City, MO 64121
Phone: 800-888-3089
www.children.org

Children’s Aid Society
105 East 22nd St.
New York, NY 10010
Phone: 212-949-4800
www.childrensaidsociety.org

Family Law International
1942 Broadway St., Suite 314
Boulder, CO 80302
Phone: 303-323-1938
Fax: 480-772-4219
www.family-law-international.com

Free the Children
PO Box 417298
Boston, MA 02241
Phone: 416-925-5894
Fax: 416-925-8242
www.freethechildren.com

Friends International USA
c/o Joel Turgesen
107 E. Main  Ste 27
Medford, OR  97501
Phone: 541-779-0103
usa@friends-international.org

Fundacion Retono  
Sanchez de Bustamente 191  
P.B. “A” (1173)  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Heartland Alliance National Immigrant Justice Center  
208 S. LaSalle Ste. 1818  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: 312-660-1370  
www.heartlandalliance.org

Human Rights Watch  
350 Fifth Ave., 34th Fl.  
New York, NY 10118  
Phone: 212-290-4700  
Fax: 212-736-1300  
www.hrw.org

Immigrant Child Advocacy Project  
University of Chicago School of Law  
6020 S. University Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637  
Phone: 773-702-9560  
www.immigrantchildadvocacy.org  
Contact: Maria Woltjen (alumna)

International Child Resource Institute  
1581 Le Roy Ave.  
Berkley, CA 94708  
Phone: 510-644-1000  
Fax: 510-644-1115  
www.icrichild.org

International Justice Mission  
PO Box 58147  
Washington, DC 20037  
Phone: 703-465-5495  
Fax: 703-465-5499  
www.ijm.org

International Organization for Adolescents  
4305 N. Lincoln Ave., Suite E  
Chicago, IL 60618  
Phone: 773-404-8831  
www.iofa.org
International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
13123 E. 16th Ave., B390
Aurora, CO 80045
Phone: 303-864-5220
Fax: 303-864-5222
www.ispcan.org

Plan USA
155 Plan Way
Warwick, RI 02886
www.plan-international.org

Save the Children, UK
1 St. John’s Lane, London EC 1M 4HR
England
Phone: +44 (0)20 7012 6400
www.savethechildren.org.uk

Save the Children US
54 Wilton Rd.
Westport, CT 06880
Phone: 203-221-4030
www.savethechildren.org

SOS Children’s Villages International
Hermann-Gmeiner – Str. 51
6020 Innsbruck
Austria
www.sos-childrensvillages.org

UNICEF
3 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-326-7000
Fax: 212-887-7465
www.unicef.org
Note: Each country in which UNICEF has a presence also has a country office in addition to regional offices.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
689 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
Phone: 617- 868- 6600
Fax: 617-868-7102
www.uusc.org

World Vision International
800 West Chestnut Ave
Foreign-Based Organizations

Against Child Abuse Hong Kong
107-108 G/F, Wai Yuen House
Chuk Yuen North Estate
Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon
Tel. 2351 6060
www.aca.org.hk

Anti-Slavery International
Thomas Clarkson House
The Stableyard
Broomgrove Road
London SW9 9TL
Phone: +44-(0)20-7501-8920
Fax: +44-(0)20-7738-4110
www.antislavery.org

Barnados Children’s Charity
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8
Dublin, Ireland
Phone: 353 (01) 453-0355
www.barnados.ie

Centre for ChildLaw
University of Pretoria
Law Building
Pretoria, 0002
Phone: +27 12 420 4502
Contact: Ann Skelton (colleague)

Child Abuse Action Group
2 Rooibos Rd.
Randpark ridge X1
Randburg, 2194
South Africa
Phone: 11 793 5033
www.caag.org.za

Child Rights Information Network
East Studio
2, Pontypool Place
London, SE1 8QF
United Kingdom
Phone: +44- 20-7401- 2257
www.crin.org

Children’s Legal Centre
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester
Essex CC 4 3SQ
United Kingdom
Phone: 01 206 877 910
www.childrenslawcentre.com

Children’s Rights International
PO Box 163, Newtown
Sydney, Australia 2042
Phone: +61-2-951-99-506
Fax: +61-2-951-99-505
www.childjustice.org

Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development
350 Victoria Street
Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3 Canada
Phone: 416-979-5000
Fax: 416- 598-5949
www.ecdgroup.com

Defence for Children International
Rue de Varembe 1
Casa Postale 88
Geneva 20
Switzerland
CH-1211
Phone: +41-22-734-0558
Fax: +41-22- 740-1145
www.defenceforchildren.org

Dunkelziffer e.V.
Oberstrasse 14 b
20144 Hamburg
Germany
Phone: 40 484884
www.dunkelziffer e. V.

ECPAT International
328 Phayathai Rd.
Rachathewi
Bangkok, Thailand 10400
Phone: +662 215 3388
www.ecpat.net

European Children’s Network  
Rue Montoyer 39  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
Phone: 2 512 4500  
www/europeanchildrensnetwork.org  

Hague Conference on Private International Law  
Scheveningseweg 6  
2517 KT THE HAGUE  
Netherlands  
Fax: +31 (0)70 360 4867  
www.hcch.net  

International Bureau for Children’s Rights  
2715, Chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine  
Montréal (Québec)  
Canada H3T1B6  
Phone: +1-514-932-7656  
Fax: +1-514-932-9453  
www.ibcr.org  

International Children’s Centre  
Carrefour de Longchamps  
75016 Paris – France  
Phone: 33 1 44 30 20 00  
www.child-abuse.com  

International Institute for Child Rights and Development  
Centre for Global Studies  
University of Victoria  
PO Box 1700 STN CSC  
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2  
Phone: 250-472-4762  
Fax: 250-472-4830  
www.iicrd.org  

International Panel on Juvenile Justice  
1, rue de Varembe  
P.O. Box 88  
CH 1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland  
Phone: +41 (0) 22 734 05 58  
www.juvenilejusticepanel.org  

La Oficina de Defensovia de los Derechos de la Infancia (ODI)
Vincente Suarez No. 17 Int. 6
Col. Condesa, C.P. 06170
D.F., Mexico
Phone: 011-52-11-5946
www.derechosinfancia.org.mx

Legal Aid of Cambodia
No. 18, St. 604 P.O.B0x 1197
Sang Kat Boeung Kok 11
Khan Touulkok, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Phone: (853-23) 884 262
www.lac.org.kh

Miller du Toit Cloete, Inc.
P.O. Box 2148
Office 1002, 80 Strand Pret
Cape Town 8000 South Africa
Phone: +217 (o) 21418 0770
www.millerdutoit cloeteinc.co.za

Penal Reform International
60-62 Commerical St.
London
E1 6LT
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 20 72476515
www.penal reform.org

Plan International
World Headquarters
Chobham House
Chirstchurch Way
Woking
Surrey GU21 6 JG
United Kingdom
Phone: 44 1483 755 155
www.plan-international.org

Scottish Child Law Centre
54 East Crosscauseway
Edinburgh, EH8 9HD
Phone: + 01310667-6333
www.sclc.org
News and Research:

Children’s Rights Information Network (CRIN)
Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)
www.crin.org

Child Rights in Practice (CRIP)
www.childrightspractice.org

Child Rights News
http://humanrights.einnews.com

ChildSafe International
www.childsafeinternational.org

Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
www.endallcorporalpunishment.org

International Juvenile Justice Observatory
www.oijj.org

UNICEF INNOCENTI Research Centre
Piazza SS. Annuziata 12
50122 Florence, Italy
Tel. 0039 055 20 220
www.unicef.org

Journals (partial)

Child Abuse & Neglect
The International Journal
www.elsevier.com

International Journal of Children’s Rights
www.brill.nl/international-journal-childrens-rights