Coffee Talk Series Begins

Join us on Wednesday February 4th at 4PM for the inaugural spring semester Coffee Talk with Ralph Martire, JD, Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA).

CTBA is a bipartisan, nonprofit research and advocacy think tank working to promote social and economic justice. Mr. Martire, highly regarded for his ability to make economic and budget-related issues understandable and comprehensible, will discuss Illinois’ budget crisis, critical issues affecting the state, and CTBA’s proposed solutions.

Coffee Talk is held most Wednesdays from 4 to 4:50 p.m. in the ChildLaw Center-11th floor of the Corboy Law Center. Coffee, tea and cookies are served.

ChildLaw Center to Host Council for Juvenile Justice

Loyola’s Civitas ChildLaw Center has entered into an arrangement with the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO), based in Brussels, to become the host site for the IJJO’s North American Council for Juvenile Justice (NACJJ). The Council is made up of juvenile justice stakeholders from Mexico, Canada and the U.S. Similar regional councils already exist in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. The Councils are envisioned as cross-border think tanks, gathering professionals and representatives of public, academic, judicial and civil society authorities. The primary objective is to generate knowledge in order to advance operational implementation of international standards on children in conflict with the law.

The organizing meeting of the NACJJ took place in Washington, D.C., with the participation of the US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and public and private representatives from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. The next meeting of the Council will be held in Canada in Fall, 2015.

Follow the ChildLaw Center!

To learn more about the Center and its educational, service and law reform activities, please read our monthly newsletter (posted on Law School Announcements), visit www.luc.edu/childlaw or stop by the Center and introduce yourself.

You can also follow us Twitter @CivitasChildLaw or Like us on Facebook.

If you are a student or alumnus interested in receiving the most up-to-date news about the Center, as well as internship/career opportunities, follow our listserv at http://lists.luc.edu/listinfo/childlaw

Brownbag Lunch Career Talk with Maryam Brotine

Join us for a brownbag lunch career talk with Maryam Brotine, who is an Associate at the law firm Robbins Schwartz. She will be speaking about her work as an education law attorney and generally about career paths in the field of education law. The event is co-sponsored by the Education Law and Policy Institute and the Education Law and Policy Society and will take place on Monday, February 9th at 12PM in ChildLaw Center.

Healthy Homes Summit Report

Proceedings from last summer’s invitational City and Countywide Summit to Advance Healthy Homes & Healthy Communities is now available. The Summit was convened by several Loyola University Centers, including the ChildLaw Center’s Policy Institute. The report, which summarizes the recommendations developed at the Summit by over 150 professionals convened to tackle the problem of environmental toxins and health hazards in homes and communities, will be used as a blueprint for an interdisciplinary collaboration among university, community, public and private organizations. The Initiative grew out of the ChildLaw Center’s Lead Safe Housing Initiative. For more information on the University’s Healthy Homes Initiative and the Summit Proceedings, see http://www.luc.edu/healthyhomes/
Loyola Hosts Emerging Adults Conference

On January 16, the Civitas ChildLaw Center, in cooperation with Loyola’s Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology and the John Howard Association, sponsored the first known conference on emerging adults in the criminal justice system, with over 110 audience participants. “Emerging adults” are 18-24 year olds offenders who are no longer eligible, by virtue of age, to be tried in the juvenile justice system. Although brain research suggests that young persons in this age category have not yet reached maturational adulthood, the criminal justice system treats them as fully formed adults. The conference explored special issues and needs associated with young adults and set the stage for a year-long exploration of how best to respond to offending by emerging adults, with a goal of enhancing public safety and improving short and long-term outcomes for the criminal justice system’s youngest offenders. The next step in this series is a conference to be held at Roosevelt University on Friday, February 27 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Registration is available at http://pathwaysofhope.eventbrite.com.

Alumni Focus: Patrick Keenan-Devlin

Patrick Keenan-Devlin serves as the Deputy Director and Staff Attorney at the James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy. The Moran Center provides integrated legal and social work services to low-income youth in Evanston, Illinois. Patrick represents low-income youth within the Evanston community in juvenile delinquency proceedings, special education matters, and school discipline proceedings.

During his tenure at the Moran Center, Patrick has worked to safeguard the procedural and substantive rights of youth who come into conflict with the law. Patrick goes above and beyond for his young clients – shepherding them to and from court, calling to see if they went to school, and shuttling them to counseling appointments. Patrick’s goal is to both protect his young clients’ liberties as well as to ensure their overall well-being.

Patrick expanded the Moran Center’s special education advocacy to serve pre-school and elementary-school aged children with the objective of keeping those children out of the criminal justice system – stemming the school-to-prison pipeline.

Job Openings and Fellowships

Call for Applications

The Open Society Justice Initiative is seeking recommended applicants for its course on Strategic Human Rights Litigation. Applicants should have at least four years of experience litigating human rights related issues at the national or international level. Participants who have not yet litigated human rights cases typically do not benefit as much from the course. Please note that each year they select approximately 25 participants from hundreds of applicants, and may not be able to ensure a place for all recommended candidates. The course is at the Central European University in Budapest from July 13-17, 2015. The deadline for applications is February 14, 2015. More information and application materials can be found here: http://summer.ceu.hu/litigation-2015.

Summer Internships at LAF’s Education Law Project

LAF’s Education Law project represents students who are wards of the state (in DCFS custody) and parents with incomes at 150% of the poverty line and below, in special education, school discipline, and other school-related matters including residency. The project is specifically looking for candidates with strong research and writing skills who are available to work full-time during the summer. Experience with special education and school discipline law is a plus, but not necessarily required. LAF can frequently match students with PILI funding or other sources of summer funding. Any interested student should contact Dan Lindsey who is in charge of summer hiring and send a cover letter and resume. Dan’s contact info is: dlindsey@lafchicago.org or 312-347-8365. Students who are interested in a summer placement in LAF’s Education Law Project for academic credit through the Education Law Practicum (Law 166) should contact Miranda Johnson at mjohnson11@luc.edu prior to contacting LAF.
Student & Alumni News

Joshua Dankoff, ‘11, and his wife Mneesha welcomed their son, Chayton Lucero Dankoff on November 21, 2014. Congratulations Josh and Mneesha!

Amy Kosanovich Dickerson, ‘07, has been named partner at Franczek Radelet. Amy counsels clients in labor and employment, special education, student rights, student discipline, and policy and governance issues in state and federal court litigation and before the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights. Congratulations, Amy!

On February 18 Meg Helder, ’11 Director of Program Operations for the YMCA of Metro Chicago’s Youth Safety and Violence Prevention initiative will discuss “Bridging the Divide,” a program aimed at helping law enforcement officers and Chicago youth communicate more effectively.

SUFEO Training

The ChildLaw Center hosted a training on January 24, 2015 for new students joining the group Stand Up for Each Other! Chicago (SUFEO). SUFEO is a law-student led project designed to provide a resource for parents of public school students seeking to challenge suspensions. This project is jointly sponsored by the Loyola ChildLaw Clinic and the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and launched its hotline in October 2014. The hotline’s number is 773-8000-EDU. The founding law student members of SUFEO took the lead in training new law students joining the group to do intake and outreach. The training team also included Loyola alumna, Candace Moore, a staff attorney at the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee together with Jessica Schneider from the Lawyers’ Committee and Miranda Johnson, Associate Director of Loyola’s Education Law and Policy Institute.

Faculty & Staff Updates


Miranda Johnson, along with 2 students, Ibie Hart and Samantha Kronk, presented at a workshop entitled “Applied Psychology and Educational Disparities.” The workshop was organized by Loyola’s School of Education and held on January 21, 2015 at the Lakeshore campus. The session described an ongoing cross-disciplinary collaborative partnership between the School of Law and School of Education that is focused on preventing and addressing the disparate impact of exclusionary school discipline practices.

ChildLaw Policy Institute works with Youth Advisory Board

Last month, the ChildLaw Policy Institute helped youth on the statewide Youth Advisory Board prepare to testify before four legislative committees holding joint hearings on Documented Abuse at Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Residential Facilities. The hearings followed a Chicago Tribune series documenting abuses at residential facilities. The Youth Advisory Board, with whom the ChildLaw Legislation Clinic has worked to pass several pieces of legislation, meets with DCFS regularly to share youth experiences in foster care and make recommendations for change. The youths’ testimony discussed their positive experiences as well as troubling situations and made recommendations focused on safety, youth input, and data collection.

New Exhibit Calls for End to Juvenile Transfer

David Weinberg Photography and the ACLU of Illinois are co-sponsors of a new exhibit entitled Try Youth as Youth. The purpose of the exhibit is to invite viewers to reflect on youth in the justice system, especially those who are tried and sentenced as adults. The exhibit opens on February 13 and runs through May 9. The gallery is located at 300 W. Superior, Suite 203, Chicago.
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.