Final Coffee Talk with Rene Heybach

Our final Coffee Talk of the semester featured guest speaker Rene Heybach, co-founder and Director of the Law Project at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. Ms. Heybach discussed issues surrounding the education of homeless children in Illinois and the work done by the Law Project, which is the only program in Illinois dedicated to providing legal aid to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

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.

End of the Year Celebration

The ChildLaw Center will be hosting an end of the year party on Wednesday, April 9th at 4 p.m. Please join us for snacks, drinks and the opportunity to relax before finals!

Alumni Focus: Mary Ann Scali

Mary Ann Scali, JD ’97, is Deputy Director of the National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC). She has been at NJDC since 2000 and has worked on juvenile indigent defense issues for over 15 years. As deputy director she oversees the delivery of juvenile defense training, facilitates and writes state assessments of juvenile indigent defense services, coordinates and participates in numerous cross-disciplinary reform efforts, and manages a variety of projects with NJDC staff. Mary Ann has a particular interest in the intersection of adolescent development and delinquency and has contributed to numerous NJDC publications. Prior to working at NJDC, Mary Ann was a social worker and an attorney in the juvenile division of the Office of the Public Defender in Baltimore, Maryland. Mary Ann earned her JD and MSW from Loyola University Chicago, where she was a ChildLaw Fellow and co-founder of the Public Interest Law Reporter.

The ChildLaw Center Newsletter includes an Alumni Focus feature to highlight the professional successes of the many accomplished members of our ChildLaw community.
ChildLaw Legislation and Policy Clinic in Springfield

One of the ongoing ChildLaw Legislation and Policy Clinic projects involves working with youth on the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Youth Advisory Board (YAB) to understand the legislative process and develop a legislative agenda focused on concerns of youth in foster care. In March, ChildLaw Legislation and Policy Clinic student Magda Derisma visited Springfield with Clinic Director Anita Weinberg, to prepare current and former members of the YAB to testify on two bills sponsored by Rep. Sara Feigenholtz. Both bills, one that strengthens the DCFS scholarship program, the other which statutorily establishes the YAB, passed out of the House Human Services Committee following the youths' testimony.

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin features article on ChildLaw Center

An article highlighting Loyola’s nationally recognized Civitas ChildLaw Center ran in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin on Friday, March 21. If you’d like to read the article entitled “Helping the Smallest Clients”, please email Emily Forestieri at eforestieri@luc.edu

ChildLaw Seminar Series

The Civitas ChildLaw Center is pleased to invite you to attend our ChildLaw Seminar Series: Hot Topics in Children’s Law and Policy! As a Loyola University Chicago student, child law alumnus or prospective student, you have an opportunity to listen and learn from nationally recognized experts on emerging issues in children’s law without any cost to you. The series will run biweekly on Tuesdays throughout the summer 2014 term, beginning May 13th through August 5th, 2014. For more information visit http://clss-signup.estream.com/

Career/Fellowships

-Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University/AFCC Family Law Writing Competition: Hofstra Law and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) is sponsoring the sixth annual Family Law Writing Competition. The competition is run in cooperation with the editorial staff of the Family Court Review, a quarterly interdisciplinary journal of the AFCC. For more information, please email Emily Forestieri at eforestieri@luc.edu

-The Foundation for Child Development’s Young Scholars program is calling for proposals from J.D. attorneys who specialize in children’s issues. To view additional eligibility criteria, research focus and for more information about applying to the YSP please visit the YSP Program page of the FCD Website.

-Brooklyn Family Defense Practice is hiring new attorneys. For more information on how to apply, please email Emily Forestieri at eforestieri@luc.edu
Faculty and Staff Updates

On March 25, 2014, Kathleen Hirsman, Senior Lecturer in Residence in the Education Law and Policy Institute, was a guest lecturer in Loyola’s School of Education graduate course in “Exceptional Lives: Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities.” Drawing from her 25 years of representing school districts in special education matters, Ms. Hirsman provided a comprehensive overview of legal issues in the provision of special education services to elementary and secondary school children with special needs.

Professor Anita Weinberg was on a webinar March 20th convened by the Goodman Theater and Family Defense Center, discussing Illinois’ child welfare system convened by the Goodman Theater and Family Defense Center as a follow up to the Goodman Theater’s play, Luna Gale. Professor Weinberg was the co-author on a piece in Illinois Kids Count 2014 report, Child Health Matters, published by Voices for Illinois Children. She also contributed to Loyola University’s Social Justice Blog. Her piece on Cherishing the Family can be found at http://blogs.luc.edu/socialjustice/

Alexandra Fung spoke about child trafficking at a cross training at Northwestern University for homeless youth service providers and child welfare workers. The training focused on different types of trafficking (sexual slavery, forced labor, commercial sexual exploitation), services available to youth who are survivors (legal, housing and tattoo removal), specific services for DCFS youth and ways that your organization can start to address this issue through service delivery and advocacy.

Welcome back to Amy Meek who has returned from leave after the birth of her twins boys, Theodore and Franklin.

Student & Alumni News

After receiving her LL.M. in Child and Family Law, Janet Wagner founded the Children’s Center for Law and Advocacy in Glen Ellyn, IL. The CCLA is a not-for-profit legal services organization focusing exclusively on children’s legal needs including education law, school discipline and juvenile justice matters.

For more information, please visit childrenscenterforlaw.com.

Legislation Clinic & IJJC Release Report on Juvenile Sex Offenders

Loyola’s ChildLaw Legislation and Policy Clinic partnered with the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission in the State’s first comprehensive study on youth sexual offending, released March 25.

Over a two-and-a-half year period, Clinic students worked under the supervision of Post-graduate Policy Teaching Fellow Amy Meek, former post-graduate fellow Soledad McGrath, Professor Anita Weinberg and Loyola’s Models for Change Program Manager Lisa Jacobs (who serves as Commission Vice Chair) to design and carry out the study. Professor Weinberg initially envisioned the study following troubling legislation that was being put forward.

Loyola Law students (joined by Northwestern Law students) working on the report included Kendall Coker, Jenny Denney, Amy Gilbert, Emily Lowe Goldman, Cynthia Herrera, Rupa Ramadurai, Natasha Townes, and Agnes Zielinski.

Clinic and Commission efforts are now focused on presenting the findings to the Governor, General Assembly and the public. The 150-page report, can be found at http://www.luc.edu/lawcenters/childlaw/events.html
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.

Join the ChildLaw List Serv:
http://lists.luc.edu/listinfo/childlaw

**Upcoming Events**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**April 9th at 4pm**
End of Year Celebration

**May 13th**
Beginning of Online ChildLaw Seminar Series

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