Welcome Back to the Civitas ChildLaw Center!

The Civitas ChildLaw Center houses Loyola’s programming devoted to enhancing justice for children and promoting children's law as a legal specialty. The Center is located on the 11th floor of the Corboy Law Center.

We have a full range of activities planned for the fall semester, including the following September programs:

- Our ChildLaw Center Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 11th at 4 p.m. Please join us for food, drinks and an opportunity to meet the staff, faculty and students involved in the Center.

- Our weekly Coffee Talk Series begins Wednesday, September 25th (4:00 - 4:50 p.m.) with WBEZ’s South Side reporter, Natalie Moore.

- The Education Law and Policy Institute will be hosting the Alliance of Public Charter School Attorneys’ conference from September 26th-27th. Loyola students and faculty are invited to attend the conference and reception. A career panel designed for Loyola students will be part of the event.

These programs are open to the entire Loyola community and we hope to see you there!

Coffee Talk Series Presenter: Natalie Moore

WBEZ’s South Side reporter Natalie Moore kicks off this semester’s ChildLaw Coffee Talk Series on Wednesday, September 25th from 4:00 – 4:50 p.m. Join us in the ChildLaw Center, 11th floor of the Corboy Law Center. Ms. Moore will describe the communities she covers, the personal and systemic challenges the children and families face, and any lessons learned or words of guidance for those working with children and families from communities and backgrounds they may not share.

She is co-author of the book Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation, and of Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall and Resurgence of an American Gang. Ms. Moore is a 2009 fellow at Columbia College’s Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media, which allowed her take a reporting trip to Libya. She has won several journalism awards, including Studs Terkel Community Media Award. Please join us in welcoming her to the Center!

Upcoming Coffee Talk Series Speakers

- October 2nd - Malcolm London: Young Activist/Poet
- October 9th - Robert Harris: Cook County Public Guardian

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.
Children’s Summer Institute

Over 85 attorneys, psychologists, social workers and child development specialists and students in these disciplines participated in the 15th Annual Children’s Summer Institute, Broadening the Landscape: Child Protection through a Public Health Lens. Speakers included Barbara Shaw, Chair, Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership; Diane Scruggs, Executive Director, Healthy Families Chicago; Dr. David Anderson, Executive Director, Lydia Home and Founder, Safe Families for Children, and Amy Zimmerman, Director, Chicago Medical Legal Partnership for Children, Health & Disability Advocates. The program is offered as part of a weeklong, intensive, interdisciplinary course offered by Professors Anita Weinberg, Loyola, and Colette Davison, Erikson Institute.

Education Law and Policy Institute: Independent School Monitoring Project

Loyola University Chicago’s Education Law and Policy Institute and the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law partnered to conduct an independent monitoring project for two days at Chicago Public Schools when classes resumed on Monday, August 26. Approximately 50 volunteer project monitors, including law students, lawyers, and other professionals, were assigned to schools that were expecting new students displaced by the recent CPS closings. The decision to shut down 50 schools earlier this year made national headlines for being the largest single set of public school closings in American history. The goal of the independent monitoring project was to assist the families of children transitioning to a new school this fall and to ensure that children’s rights to a high quality education were preserved during that process. Monitors worked in brief shifts at CPS on Monday and Tuesday to welcome parents and students, as well as distribute “know your rights” materials and provide legal referrals as needed.

Sarah Block Awarded Flom Memorial Incubator Grant

Former ChildLaw Fellow Sara Block (JD ’07) has been awarded a Flom Memorial Incubator Grant to assist the Family Defense Center (FDC) in implementing the necessary reforms following the Illinois Supreme Court's March 2013 decision in Julie Q. v. Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The court ruled, in a case brought by FDC, that DCFS was not authorized to make findings of “environment injurious” due to legislative changes, and required the Department to remove from the DCFS State Central Register the names of individuals indicated for neglecting their child by causing an “environment injurious.” The Flom Incubator grants, awarded to former Skadden Fellows, are designed to support novel projects that respond to the evolving and unmet needs of the communities being served by the grant recipients. Sara is a former Skadden Fellow at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.
Faculty and Staff Updates

Professor Anita Weinberg will receive the 2013 Family Defender Award at the Family Defense Center’s Fifth Annual Benefit Event, held at the Mid-America Club. Anita will be recognized as a gifted policy advocate and teacher, who has led countless major child welfare policy initiatives to protect family rights in the child welfare system.

Professor Weinberg spoke to the Child Care Association of Illinois in May on Ethics, our Child Welfare System, and Sibling Rights. Professor Weinberg presented with Linda Coon, a Loyola alum, and director of Family and Children’s AIDS Network.

Professor Stacey Platt participated in the 50th Anniversary Conference for the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts as a panelist, sharing the child advocate’s perspective on Shared Parenting: The Next 50 Years.

Professor Platt served as a litigation trainer for several National Institute for Trial Advocacy programs, training child advocates, domestic relations attorneys and advocates for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Professor Bruce Boyer spoke at an invitational conference in Seattle on right to counsel for children.

Student & Alumni News

Students in the ChildLaw Legislation and Policy Clinic, under the direction of Professor Anita Weinberg and Post-graduate Policy Teaching Fellow Amy Meek, successfully drafted and advocated for a bill that clarifies attorney-client privilege and confidentiality in cases of child abuse and neglect. Governor Quinn signed the bill in August.

Lauren Pfeil ’10, was awarded the 2013 ABA Young Lawyer’s Division Child Advocacy Award at the ABA Conference in San Francisco.

Elissa Johnson ’10, was accepted as a fellow for the National Juvenile Justice Network’s 2013 Youth Justice Leadership Institute.

Career/Fellowships

Voices for Illinois Children recently announced several new internship and fellowship opportunities. For more information on open positions and how to apply, please visit: http://www.voices4kids.org/about-us/employment/

Children’s Legal Rights Journal

The Children’s Legal Rights Journal recently celebrated the launch of its first online journal. For over twenty-five years, the Children’s Legal Rights Journal has been a leading source of information on children’s law and policy for lawyers and other child-serving professionals who are interested in legal issues affecting children and families. This new format allows for more timely treatment of emerging issues in children’s law and expands access to the Journal’s content to a national and international audience. To access the online journal, please visit: www.childrenslegalrightsjournal.com

2013 CLRJ Symposium

This year, the Children’s Legal Rights Journal Symposium will focus on the issue of gun violence among youth in Chicago, as well as public health and law based solutions to the violence. Gun violence among youth in the United States has been well publicized in the wake of recent shootings. Youth in Chicago are especially vulnerable to gun violence, as President Obama noted when he spoke with students from Hyde Park Academy in Chicago on February 15, 2013. He said, “[l]ast year there were 443 murders with a firearm on the streets of this city, and 65 of those victims were 18 and under.”

Gun violence among youth today substantially affects the right of children to grow up, to be educated, to be healthy, to be employed, and to move around the city safely and freely. This symposium hopes to further a discussion on how our nation, and we as members of the legal community, can address the violent realities that many children face in their homes and communities, the lack of resources to combat the violence, and our responsibility to protect the basic rights of all children.

The symposium will be held on October 18th from 8:30-3pm in the ceremonial courtroom on the 10th floor of the Corboy Law Center, 25 East Pearson St. CLE credits will be offered. To register, please email Amanda Crews Slezak at: Acrews1@luc.edu
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.

**Faculty and Staff Directory**

**Bruce Boyer** - Director, ChildLaw Clinic, 915-7927, bboyer@luc.edu

**Mary Burns** - Academic Director, On-line Masters in Jurisprudence Degree, 915-6811, mburns6@luc.edu

**Catherine Birmingham** - Online MJ Program Director, 915-7950, ccolumb@luc.edu

**Sacha Coupet** - Director of Research, 915-7134, scoupet@luc.edu

**Emily Forestieri** - Administrative Assistant, 915-6481, eforestieri@luc.edu

**Lisa Jacobs**, Program Manager for the Illinois Models of Change Initiative of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, 915-7876, ljacobs@luc.edu

**Miranda Johnson** - Associate Director, ChildLaw & Education, 915-7952, mjohnson11@luc.edu

**Diane Geraghty** - Director, Civitas ChildLaw Center, 915-7155, dgeragh@luc.edu

**Kathleen Hirsman** - Senior Lecturer in Residence, 915-7378, khirsman@luc.edu

**Alexandra Fung** - Salisbury Post-Graduate Clinical Teaching Fellow, 915-7944, afung1@luc.edu

**Michael Kaufman** - Director, Education Law Institute, 915-7143, mkaufma@luc.edu

**Amy Meek** - Post-Graduate ChildLaw Policy and Legislation Teaching Fellow, 915-7949, ameek1@luc.edu

**Stacey Platt** - Associate Director of ChildLaw Clinic, 915-7931, splatt@luc.edu

**Griselda Sánchez** - Program Coordinator, 915-6481, gsanch3@luc.edu

**Anita Weinberg** - Director, ChildLaw Policy Institute, 915-6482, aweinbe@luc.edu

**Join the ChildLaw List Serve:**

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

**Upcoming Events**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**September 11th - 4 P.M.**
Civitas ChildLaw Center Open House

**September 25th - 4 P.M.**
First Coffee Talk with Natalie Moore

**September 26th-27th**
Charter School Attorney’s Conference

**October 2nd**
Coffee Talk with Malcolm London

**October 9th**
Coffee Talk with Robert Harris

**October 18th**
CLRJ Symposium:
*Gun Violence Among Youth in Chicago*