

## Children's Law Centers

ARIZONA CENTER FOR DISABILITY LAW, Arizona

ARIZONA LEGAL WOMEN AND YOUTH SERVICES (ALWAYS), Arizona

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER, Arizona

ATTORNEY AD LITEM PROGRAM

JUVENILE DIVISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS, Arkansas

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, California

BAY AREA LEGAL AID, California

CHILD CARE LAW CENTER, California

CHILDREN AND FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

DISABILITY RIGHTS EDUCATION AND DEFENSE FUND, INC, California

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF CALIFORNIA, California

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PROJECT

PUBLIC COUNSEL LAW CENTER, California

EAST BAY CHILDREN'S LAW OFFICES, California

ESPERANZA IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PROJECT, California

INNER CITY LAW CENTER, California

LEARNING RIGHTS LAW CENTER, California

LEGAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH, California

LEGAL AID OF MARIN, California

LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, INC, California

LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, California

PENINSULA FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM, California

VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM, California

OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE, Colorado

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER, Colorado

[CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY, INC.](#)  
[UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF LAW](#), Connecticut

[CHILD LAW UNIT](#)  
[NEW HAVEN LEGAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION, INC.](#), Connecticut

[CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER](#), Connecticut

[LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN AMERICA, INC.](#), Connecticut

[OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE](#), Delaware

[CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER, INC.](#), Washington, DC

[JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN](#), Washington, DC

[KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE](#), Washington, DC

[CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY PROJECTS](#)  
[LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY](#), Florida

[FLORIDA LEGAL SERVICES](#), Florida

[FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM](#), Florida

[GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM](#)  
[LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BAR ASSOC.](#), Florida

[LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN AMERICA](#), Florida

[L. DAVID SHEAR CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.](#),  
Florida

[PUT SOMETHING BACK](#), Florida

[ATLANTA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOUNDATION](#), Georgia

[HEALTH LAW PARTNERSHIP](#), Georgia

[IMMIGRANT JUVENILE PROGRAM](#)  
[CATHOLIC CHARITIES](#), Georgia

[TEAMCHILD ATLANTA](#)  
[ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY](#), Georgia

[MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN IN HAWAII](#), Hawaii

[HAWAI'I APPLESEED CENTER](#), Hawaii

[AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF ILLINOIS](#), Illinois

[CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES FOUNDATION](#), Illinois

[THE FAMILY DEFENSE CENTER](#), Illinois

[LAF \(FORMERLY LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO\)](#), Illinois

[NATIONAL IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER](#)

[HEARTLAND ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN NEEDS & HUMAN RIGHTS](#), Illinois

[OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN OF COOK COUNTY](#), Illinois

[KIDS' VOICE OF INDIANA](#), Indiana

[PRO BONO PROGRAM](#)

INDIANA LEGAL SERVICES, Indiana

[KIDS FIRST LAW CENTER](#), Iowa

[YOUTH LAW CENTER](#), Iowa

[CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER](#)

KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES, Kansas

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER, Kentucky

[TEAMCHILD](#)

LEGAL AID SOCIETY, Kentucky

[CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE UNIT](#)

ACADIANA LEGAL SERVICES, Louisiana

[JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECT OF LOUISIANA](#), Louisiana

[KIDS LEGAL AID OF MAINE](#)

PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE, Maine

[HOMELESS PERSONS REPRESENTATION PROJECT, INC.](#), Maryland

[LEGAL AID BUREAU, INC.](#), Maryland

[MARYLAND DISABILITY LAW CENTER](#), Maryland

[PUBLIC JUSTICE CENTER](#), Maryland

[CENTER FOR LAW AND EDUCATION](#), Massachusetts

[CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW PROGRAM](#)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES, Massachusetts

[CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.](#), Massachusetts

[CHILDREN'S LAW SUPPORT PROJECT](#)

MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN, Massachusetts

[DISABILITY LAW CENTER, INC.](#), Massachusetts

[LEGAL ASSISTANCE CORPORATION OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS](#)

[MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP](#)

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER, Massachusetts

[MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN](#)

TUFTS MEDICAL CENTER, Massachusetts

[VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT](#), Massachusetts

[YOUTH ADVOCACY DIVISION](#)

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES, Massachusetts

[DETROIT CENTER FOR FAMILY ADVOCACY](#), Michigan

[MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER](#), Michigan

[CHILDREN AND THE LAW SECTION](#)

MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION, Minnesota

[CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA](#), Minnesota

[YOUTH LAW PROJECT](#)

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota

[CHILDREN'S HEALTH ADVOCACY PROJECT](#), Missouri

[CHILDREN'S LEGAL ALLIANCE](#)

LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MISSOURI, Missouri

[NEBRASKA APPLESEED](#), Nebraska

[VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT](#)

NEBRASKA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION, Nebraska

[CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS PROJECT](#)

LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA, Nevada

[EDUCATION LAW CENTER, INC.](#), New Jersey

[OFFICE OF LAW GUARDIAN](#)

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, New Jersey

[YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTER](#)

COVENANT HOUSE NEW JERSEY, New Jersey

[ADVOCACY INC.](#), New Mexico

[PEGASUS LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN](#), New Mexico

[ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK, INC.](#), New York

[CENTER FOR FAMILY REPRESENTATION, INC.](#), New York

[CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER](#), New York

[CHILDREN'S PROJECTS](#)

VOLUNTEERS OF LEGAL SERVICE, INC., New York

[CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, INC.](#), New York

[COVENANT HOUSE LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT](#), New York

[THE DOOR – A CENTER OF ALTERNATIVES, INC.](#), New York

[LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN, INC.](#), New York

[JUVENILE RIGHTS DIVISION](#)

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY, New York

[PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS](#), New York

[PETER CICCHINO YOUTH PROJECT](#)

URBAN JUSTICE CENTER, New York

[ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES](#), North Carolina

[CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA](#), North Carolina

[COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS](#), North Carolina

[MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN IN DURHAM](#), North Carolina

[NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM](#), North Carolina

[GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROJECT](#)

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN BAR ASSOCIATION, Ohio

[PROKIDS](#), Ohio

[TEAMCHILD AND CHILDREN'S PRACTICE GROUP](#)

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI, Ohio

[CARE ADVOCACY PROJECT](#)

OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES, INC, Oklahoma

[OKLAHOMA LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN](#), Oklahoma

[TULSA LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN, INC.](#), Oklahoma

[YOUTH, RIGHTS & JUSTICE](#), Oregon

[EDUCATION LAW CENTER](#), Pennsylvania

[JUVENILE LAW CENTER](#), Pennsylvania

[KIDSVOICE](#), Pennsylvania

[PENNSYLVANIA IMMIGRATION RESOURCE CENTER](#), Pennsylvania

[PHILADELPHIA VOLUNTEERS FOR THE INDIGENT PROGRAM](#), Pennsylvania

[PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA](#), Pennsylvania

[SUPPORT CENTER FOR CHILD ADVOCATES](#), Pennsylvania

[RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN](#), Rhode Island

[CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS](#)

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS,  
Tennessee

[WEST TENNESSEE LEGAL SERVICES](#), Tennessee

[CABRINI CENTER FOR IMMIGRANT LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES](#),

Texas

[IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE PROJECT](#)

SOUTH TEXAS PRO BONO ASYLUM REPRESENTATION PROJECT, Texas

[JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN](#), Texas

[HOMELESS YOUTH LEGAL CLINIC](#)

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA, UTAH, Utah

[UTAH OFFICE OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM](#)

UTAH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS, Utah

[JUSTCHILDREN PROGRAM](#)

LEGAL AID JUSTICE CENTER, Virginia

[LAW CENTER FOR CHILDREN](#)

LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTH VIRGINIA, Virginia

[NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN](#), Virginia

[IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S LEGAL PROGRAM](#)

U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS, Virginia

[VIRGINIA POVERTY LAW CENTER](#), Virginia

[CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH JUSTICE](#)

LAWYERS FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE (LFI), Washington

[THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROJECT](#)

COLUMBIA LEGAL SERVICES, Washington

[NATIONAL COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION](#), Washington

[STREET YOUTH LEGAL ADVOCATES OF WASHINGTON](#), Washington

[TEAMCHILD](#), Washington

[WASHINGTON MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN](#), Washington

[CHILDLAW SERVICES, INC.](#), West Virginia

[GUARDIAN AD LITEM DIVISION](#)

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin

[KIDS MATTER INC.](#), Wisconsin

[WYOMING CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER](#), Wyoming

[WYOMING GUARDIANS AD LITEM PROGRAM](#), Wyoming

[Children's Legal Clinics](#)

[CHILD AND FAMILY LAW CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA JAMES E. ROGERS COLLEGE OF LAW, Arizona

[CIVIL CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW, Arkansas

[CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS](#)

WHITTIER LAW SCHOOL, California

[CENTER FOR JUVENILE LAW AND POLICY](#)

LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL, California

[CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY INSTITUTE](#)

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW, California

[CHILDREN'S LEGAL ISSUES CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW SCHOOL, California

[DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL CENTER](#)

LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL, California

[JUVENILE LAW CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF LAW, Colorado

[ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLINIC](#)

YALE LAW SCHOOL, Connecticut

[CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY, INC.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF LAW, Connecticut

[CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLINIC](#)

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW, Washington, DC

[JUVENILE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Washington, DC

[JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINIC](#)

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, Washington, DC

[CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CLINIC](#)

BARRY UNIVERSITY, DWAYNE O. ANDREAS SCHOOL OF LAW, Florida

[CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CLINIC](#)

SHEPARD BROAD LAW CENTER, NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, Florida



[CHILDREN AND YOUTH LAW CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW, Florida

[CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER](#)

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, Florida

[CENTER ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES](#)

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW, Florida

[JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER](#)

BARRY UNIVERSITY, DWAYNE O. ANDREAS SCHOOL OF LAW, Florida

[CHILDREN & FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER](#)

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF LAW, Illinois

[EDWIN F. MANDEL LEGAL AID CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL, Illinois

[LOYOLA CIVITAS CHIDLAW CLINIC](#)

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Illinois

[VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW CLINIC](#), Indiana

VIOLA J. TALIAFERRO FAMILY AND CHILDREN MEDIATION CLINIC

INDIANA UNIVERSITY MAURER SCHOOL OF LAW, Indiana

[MIDDLETON CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS](#)

DRAKE LAW SCHOOL, Iowa

[CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW CENTER](#)

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Kansas

[JUVENILE LITIGATION CLINIC](#)

TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Louisiana

[LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL CLINIC](#), Louisiana

[JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM, CUMBERLAND LEGAL AID CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW, Maine

[CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW, Maryland

[CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM](#)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Massachusetts

[JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER and CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Massachusetts

[JUVENILE RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROJECT](#)

BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL, Massachusetts

[CHILD ADVOCACY LAW CLINIC, JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINIC, PEDIATRIC  
ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL, Michigan

[CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Minnesota

[CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL, Minnesota

[FAMILY & CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER](#)

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE OF LAW, Mississippi

[CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW, Mississippi

[CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CLINIC](#)

~~JUVENILE LAW AND JUSTICE CLINIC & CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY CLINIC~~

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Missouri

[CIVIL CLINICAL LAW PROGRAM](#)

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF LAW, Nebraska

[THOMAS AND MACK LEGAL CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW, Nevada

[CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS](#)

RUTGERS SCHOOL OF LAW-CAMDEN, New Jersey

[CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS](#)

RUTGERS SCHOOL OF LAW-NEWARK, New Jersey

[JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINIC](#)

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New Jersey

[CENTER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND THE LAW](#)

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York

[CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL, New York

[CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York

[CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS](#)

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York

[CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CLINIC](#)

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, New York

[CHILDREN'S LAW CLINIC](#)

DUKE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, North Carolina

[FAMILY AND YOUTH LAW CENTER](#)

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Ohio

[JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN PROJECT](#)

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MORITZ COLLEGE OF LAW, Ohio

[CHILD & FAMILY ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, Oregon

[CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW, Pennsylvania

[INTERDISCIPLINARY CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Pennsylvania

[EDUCATION LAW PRACTICUM & YOUTH JUSTICE](#)

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF LAW, Tennessee

[CHILD AND FAMILY LITIGATION CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS CECIL C. HUMPHREYS SCHOOL OF LAW, Tennessee

[CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS](#)

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN SCHOOL OF LAW, Texas

[W.W. CARUTH, JR. CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW, Texas

[CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW, Virginia

[CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS](#)

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND, Virginia

[CHILDREN & YOUTH ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW, Washington

[THE CHILD & FAMILY ADVOCACY CLINIC](#)

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, West Virginia

[UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM](#), Wyoming

[Children's Law Resource Centers](#)

[NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW](#), California

[YOUTH LAW CENTER](#), California

[NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNSEL FOR CHILDREN](#), Colorado

[CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY, INC.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF LAW, Connecticut

[ABA CENTER ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW](#), Washington, DC

[BAZELON CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH LAW](#), Washington, DC

[CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S LAW AND POLICY](#), Washington, DC

[CENTER FOR LAW AND EDUCATION](#), Boston, MA and Washington, DC

[KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE, INC. \(KIND\)](#), Washington, DC

[NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER](#), Washington, DC

[NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY](#), Washington, DC

[THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR THE EDUCATION OF  
NEGLECTED OR DELINQUENT CHILDREN AND YOUTH](#)

AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH, Washington, DC

[FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST](#), Florida

[KIDS' VOICE OF INDIANA](#), Indiana

[ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH](#), Maryland

[CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & THE COURTS](#)

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW, Maryland

[CHILDREN'S LAW SUPPORT PROJECT](#)

MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN, Massachusetts

[NATIONAL CENTER FOR MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP](#), Massachusetts

[CENTER ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND THE LAW](#)

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, Nebraska

[CHILDREN'S LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER](#)

ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY, New Jersey

[CORRINE WOLFE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER](#)

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF LAW, New Mexico

[CENTER FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND THE LAW](#), North Carolina

[CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER](#)

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW, South Carolina

[TEXAS LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN](#), Texas

[NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN](#), Virginia

[IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S LEGAL PROGRAM](#)

U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS, Virginia

[VIRGINIA POVERTY LAW CENTER](#), Virginia

[NATIONAL COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION](#), Washington

## **ALABAMA – NO PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED**

## **ALASKA – NO PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED**

## **ARIZONA**

### ***ARIZONA CENTER FOR DISABILITY LAW***

5025 E. Washington Street, Ste. 202

Phoenix, AZ 85034

Telephone: (602) 274-6287 or (800) 927-2260

Fax: (602) 274-6779

Email: [center@azdisabilitylaw.org](mailto:center@azdisabilitylaw.org)

Website: [www.acdl.com](http://www.acdl.com)

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Arizona Center for Disability Law (the Center) is a federally-designated Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Arizona. Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As) throughout the United States assure that the human and civil rights of persons with disabilities are protected. The Arizona Center for Disability Law is a not for profit public interest law firm, dedicated to protecting the rights of individuals with a wide range of physical, mental, psychiatric, sensory and cognitive disabilities. The Center represents adults as well as children, and represents children in several settings, including enforcing the right to a free public education for children with developmental disabilities.

### ***ARIZONA LEGAL WOMEN AND YOUTH SERVICES (ALWAYS)***

24 W. Camelback Road, Box A335

Phoenix, AZ 85013

Telephone: (602) 248-7055

Fax: (602) 926-8222

Website: <http://alwaysaz.org/>

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

ALWAYS is a nonprofit community legal center committed to balancing the scales of justice for Arizona's vulnerable young people. ALWAYS opens doors to opportunity by providing no-cost legal services for vulnerable children and youth, and survivors of human trafficking. Working through referrals from social service partners, they help clients lift the legal barriers that stand in the way of opportunity, stability, and self-sufficiency.

ALWAYS is proud to represent young people who do not have the resources to fully engage in the justice system. On any given day, they are serving eligible youth who:

- are seeking employment, education, or housing but are denied opportunities due to legal issues,
- are survivors of sex and labor trafficking,

- are in flight from abusive relationships, and
- are eligible for legal immigration status, but lack the resources to apply.

In addition, they also serve:

- women and men of any age who are survivors of sex or labor trafficking.

The vast majority of ALWAYS' clients have survived difficult circumstances and have already sought help moving forward from a homeless youth serving agency or another social service provider. They are ready to address legal obstacles that stand in their way. With help from ALWAYS, they can receive the justice they deserve.

ALWAYS balances the scales of justice for vulnerable youth opening doors to:

- [Safe and Stable Families](#)
- [Opportunity Through Immigration](#)
- [New Roads to Success](#)
- [Justice for Survivors](#)

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER***

305 South Second Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85003

Telephone: (602) 258-3434 x266

Fax: (602) 254-9059

Website: [www.vlpmaricopa.org/VLP/clc](http://www.vlpmaricopa.org/VLP/clc)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

In October, 1998, the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) established the Children's Law Center to help more poor children get assistance from volunteer attorneys. The center has one attorney coordinator who administers the program. VLP also provides support through its staff. Volunteer attorneys are utilized on several projects. **Guardian Ad Litem Project:** Volunteer attorneys serve as guardians ad litem for children in custody disputes in order to advocate for the children's best interests. The Children's Law Center, Family Court, and Maricopa County Bar Association provide free CLE training for volunteer attorneys willing to assist a child through this project.

The **FACT Project:** The Children's Law Center established FACT (Free Advice Clinic for Teens) to provide volunteer attorneys in the community to advise homeless and runaway teens. Attorneys visit the community sites for a block of time and give free legal advice to the teens. Each volunteer attorney is furnished with 'Juvenile Rights and Responsibilities,' a booklet put together by the Superior Court in Pima County, Pima Prevention Partnership / Teen Court, Teen Speak Out Committee and the Pima County Juvenile Court. Another pro bono project of the center is the **Children with Disabilities Project**, which arranges volunteer attorneys for children that are wrongly denied or dropped from their benefits. These children need Social Security funds in order to obtain special care. The **Adoption Project** matches volunteer attorneys with families who are caring for children and need legal help to adopt them. This is an opportunity to assist underprivileged children to achieve stability, security and permanency.

### ***CHILD AND FAMILY LAW CLINIC***

## ***UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA JAMES E. ROGERS COLLEGE OF LAW***

1145 N. Mountain Avenue

Tucson, Arizona 85719

Telephone: 520-626-5232

Website: [http://www.law.arizona.edu/clinics/Child\\_and\\_Family\\_Law\\_Clinic/homepage.cfm](http://www.law.arizona.edu/clinics/Child_and_Family_Law_Clinic/homepage.cfm)

The Child and Family Law Clinic is a working law office in which law students, working in multi-disciplinary teams, represent children in child protection proceedings and adult victims of domestic violence. The Child & Family Law Clinic is committed to providing a quality, supervised, multi-disciplinary learning environment for law students and masters of social work interns.

The Child and Family Law Clinic has four main goals for its law students: 1) Enhancing lawyer skills; 2) Learning how to learn from experience; 3) Developing good lawyer judgment; and 4) Delivering high quality legal services.

## **ARKANSAS**

### ***ATTORNEY AD LITEM PROGRAM***

### ***JUVENILE DIVISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS***

Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts Justice Building

625 Marshall

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Website: <https://courts.arkansas.gov/administration/juvenile/aal>

The Arkansas General Assembly established the Division of Dependency-Neglect (DN) Representation within the Administrative Office of the Courts in 1997 to implement and oversee a program to ensure that all children in dependency-neglect proceedings were provided representation. The Arkansas Supreme Court was charged with developing standards of practice and qualifications for service for all attorneys who seek employment or contracts to provide legal representation to children in dependency-neglect cases. In June of 1999, the Supreme Court issued a Per Curiam Order adopting prerequisite qualifications, standards of practice and caseload standards for Attorneys Ad Litem that became effective on January 1, 2000 and were revised per Arkansas Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 15 in September 2001.

Since implementation of the statewide AAL Program, qualified attorneys are appointed when the DN Petition is filed with the court to represent the best interest and ensure that the articulated wishes are made known to the court for every child in a dependency-neglect case. DN AALs must continue to participate in ongoing CLE and comply with the standards of practice adopted by the Program.

### ***CIVIL CLINIC***



## ***UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW***

School of Law

University of Arkansas

Fayetteville, AK 72701

Telephone: (479) 575-3056

Fax: (479) 575-2815

Website: <http://law.uark.edu/clinic/civil/>

10% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

Established in 1974 by Professor Hillary Rodham as a volunteer no-credit, no-grade general clinic program, the Legal Clinic of the University of Arkansas Law School represents low-income clients seeking to enforce their rights in a variety of civil matters. Under close faculty supervision, students develop and refine their ability to effectively and ethically practice law. Students handle all aspects of client representation, including interviewing and counseling, fact investigation and discovery, negotiation, and court appearances. Students also participate in a weekly seminar and may have the opportunity to engage in other forms of advocacy. If you need help with a civil legal issue, you can contact Legal Aid of Arkansas, which provides legal advice and representation to some qualifying individuals. Legal Aid of Arkansas also has an online library of information about common legal problems.

## **CALIFORNIA**

### ***ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS***

3333 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 550

Los Angeles, CA 90010

Telephone: (213) 368-6010

Fax: (213) 368-6016

Email: [info@kids-alliance.org](mailto:info@kids-alliance.org)

Website: [www.kids-alliance.org](http://www.kids-alliance.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Established in 1992, the Alliance for Children's Rights provides representation for children in a wide range of legal areas by recruiting and training volunteer lawyers. A staff of five lawyers, assisted by one social worker, and a bilingual teacher, coordinate cases with over 350 volunteer attorneys. Clients are referred through the Juvenile Court, schools, social service agencies, health care professionals and other attorneys. Volunteers are recruited through local bar associations, law firms, law schools and seminars. Social workers, child development specialists, paralegals and health care professionals also volunteer and are available to assist the pro bono attorneys in handling their cases. This project has been especially successful at recruiting professionals from a wide range of disciplines. In addition to staff attorneys and paralegals, a number of pro bono attorneys work a

regular schedule in the office. Volunteers may be personally responsible for cases, team with the staff or work on non-litigation projects such as researching and writing reference and “How To” manuals. The Alliance handles impact litigation when appropriate.

### ***BAY AREA LEGAL AID***

1735 Telegraph Avenue

Oakland, CA 94612

Telephone: (510) 663-4755

Website: <https://baylegal.org/>

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

BayLegal’s mission is to provide meaningful access to the civil justice system through quality legal assistance regardless of a client’s location, language or disability.

BayLegal’s clients are low- and very low-income members of our communities. BayLegal’s clients are spread across our seven county service area, from San Francisco to Livermore, Gilroy to Napa. They include the working poor, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities.

**Youth Justice Project:** This project provides disadvantaged youth and adolescents with holistic supports, services, and legal representation and by providing early identification and intervention through a collaborative partnership with community-based religious leaders. BayLegal provides legal assistance in the following practice areas:

- **Foster Care:** BayLegal provides expertise in foster care benefits programs and partners with the Youth Law Center and the Public Interest Law Project to provide trainings in foster care benefits to attorney and advocate organizations. BayLegal is also on the Foster Care Benefits Taskforce, a state-wide taskforce that tackles systemic barriers to benefits for foster care youth.
- **Health Access:** Assist youth by removing barriers to healthcare coverage due to wrongful coverage suspension, termination, language barriers and more.
- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI):** Prepare and submit SSI applications and prepare appeals for denied applications.
- **Education:** Advocate for youth who are disenrolled from their local school when they are placed in juvenile hall, inappropriately placed in self-study programs, in need of an initial special education assessment, or lacking an appropriate and current Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- **Housing:** File habitability claims with local housing agencies to remedy substandard housing conditions such as rodent or pest infestations, mold and other health hazards and prevent imminent homelessness.
- **Homeless Youth Services:** Provide weekly, ongoing clinic at Oakland’s DreamCatcher Emergency Youth Shelter to assist youth with legal issues and help stabilize their housing situation.
- **Alameda Collaborative Courts:** BayLegal acts as the Civil Advocacy Coordinator for the Alameda County Juvenile Collaborative Court. As such, BayLegal works with detained youths and their families to assess and address their civil legal needs (unrelated to the

juvenile justice proceedings) in key areas including accessing health insurance or appropriate mental health treatment, unmet educational needs, low income and housing instability.

***CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS  
WHITTIER LAW SCHOOL***

3333 Harbor Blvd.

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Telephone: (714) 444-4141 ext. 304  
(800) 888-8108

Fax: (714) 444-3230

Website: <http://www.law.whittier.edu/index/centers-programs/ccr/>

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Center for Children's Rights has two broad missions: (1) to train students to represent the rights and interests of children, and (2) to serve as a resource for the community. The Center runs a Fellowship Program that each year offers 20 entering law students the opportunity to participate in a three year curriculum focused on children's law. The Center also runs a monthly colloquia on children's issues for students, the practicing bar, legal scholars and policy makers.

The **Children's Rights Clinic** began in the summer of 2000 as part of the Center for Children's Rights. 25 to 30 students participate in the clinic every year and work with four staff attorneys to handle at least 150 cases a year. Cases are referred from juvenile court, social service agencies, the Legal Aid Society and pro bono programs. The Clinic uses three to four volunteer attorneys a year as mentors and for research guidance; training is provided for volunteers, and interested attorneys should call the clinic. The Clinic accepts calls from children and the public seeking legal information. Although the Clinic is not offered through a class, the law school offers many juvenile law courses, including Family Law, Juvenile Trial Advocacy, Adoption Law, Juvenile Law and Special Education Law.

In addition, the Center runs a **Street Law Program**, a community outreach program through which advanced law students teach various legal subjects to middle and high school students in the Orange and Los Angeles County school districts.

***CENTER FOR JUVENILE LAW AND POLICY***

## ***LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL***

919 Albany St.

Los Angeles, CA 90015

Telephone: (213) 736-8339

Fax: (213) 387-6006

Website: <http://www.lls.edu/academics/centersprograms/centerforjuvenilelawpolicy/>

100% Children's Law

The Loyola Law School Center for Juvenile Law and Policy was created in the fall of 2005 to foster systemic reform of the Los Angeles juvenile justice system by participating in and encouraging research, discussion and advocacy. Part of this project is a **Juvenile Justice Clinic**. Two attorneys and one social worker supervise 12 law students who represent children in approximately 40 cases a year. Social work students also participate in this Clinic. The law school offers several juvenile law courses, including Juvenile Delinquency Law & Procedure, Advanced Criminal Litigation Skills and Children and the Law. The Clinic does not currently utilize volunteer lawyers but would do so if a lawyer was interested. This Clinic does handle impact litigation. Cases are referred from juvenile court, public defenders and the public. Calls are accepted from the public and from children seeking legal information.

## ***CHILD CARE LAW CENTER***

445 Church Street

San Francisco, California 94114

Telephone: (415) 558-8005

Email: [info@childcarelaw.org](mailto:info@childcarelaw.org)

Website: [www.childcarelaw.org](http://www.childcarelaw.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Founded in 1978, the Child Care Law Center specializes in the area of insuring access to child care for low income children. Working primarily with child care providers, the Center serves as a counseling, resource and training center to help providers serving low income families understand and utilize the government benefits available in the child care area. Clients are referred from a local child care resource agency. Volunteer lawyers are recruited through the local bar, law firms, law schools seminars and a training program that is offered annually. CLE credit is available. Pro bono attorneys may team with a staff member, or handle cases independently. Cases are monitored by self reporting from volunteers, or if the client agrees, attorneys are asked to send a copy of all case related documents to the Center. The five staff attorneys are assisted by one paralegal. The Center obtained injunctive relief in *Miller v. Anderson*, which challenged a California regulation that denied child care entitlements to families in which the parents were participating in self-initiated job training or an education program. The Center has also brought other impact litigation cases concerning access to child care entitlements and child care licensing.

The Center produces and has available a comprehensive list of publications available to child care providers on a wide range of legal issues, including: Caring for the Future: Meeting California's Child Care Challenges; Child Care Contracts: Information for Providers; Liability Insurance; Family Day Care Zoning Advocacy Guide; Legal Guide for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies; Caring for Children with Special Needs: the ADA and Child Care. CCLC also produces a quarterly newsletter, the *Legal Update*, which publicizes the latest legal developments affecting the child care field. The Center also maintains a Law and Policy Resources Bank which acts as a clearing house for legislation, cases, briefs, and legal memoranda on critical legal issues in child care. A manual on the reporting responsibilities of child care providers who observe signs of abuse and neglect is published by the Center.

### ***CHILDREN AND FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM***

DISABILITY RIGHTS EDUCATION AND DEFENSE FUND, INC.

3075 Adeline Street, Suite 210

Berkeley, CA 94703

Telephone: 510.644.2555

Fax: 510-841-8645

Email: [info@dredf.org](mailto:info@dredf.org)

Website: [www.dredf.org](http://www.dredf.org)

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children and Family Advocacy Program of the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Inc. (DREDF) began in 1979 to help disabled children and their families. Two of DREDF's projects provide training, information, and assistance to parents of children with disabilities and the professionals who work with them. Services offered through our Parent Training and Information Center, Foster Youth Resources for Education, and Clearinghouse on Foster Youth and Transition enable parents and professionals to become more knowledgeable about educational services available for children with disabilities and their rights and protections under the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other relevant laws.

DREDF is staffed by six attorneys. Clients of the program are referred by parents and disability groups, legal services projects and Protection & Advocacy, Inc., as well as other attorneys in the community. Volunteers are recruited through local law firms and law schools. Training for law students is provided through a law school clinical program and volunteer lawyers are trained on an as-needed basis. CLE credit is offered for some training programs. Cases are monitored by staff telephone calls or by teaming volunteers with a staff member. The program also receives assistance from various technical specialists and parent advocates. Expert witnesses are sometimes employed in education litigation cases. Impact litigation is accepted. A recent case involved education integration or "inclusion" of children with disabilities into general education classrooms under IDEA.

### ***CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY INSTITUTE***

***UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW***

5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110  
Telephone: (619) 260-4806  
Fax: (619) 260-4753  
Email: [info@caichlldlaw.org](mailto:info@caichlldlaw.org)  
Website: [www.caichlldlaw.org](http://www.caichlldlaw.org)

## 100% Children's Law

The Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI) was founded in 1989 with a grant from the Weingart Foundation and has offices in San Diego, Los Angeles and Sacramento. CAI is an institute within the University of San Diego School of Law. The staff of CAI consists of an interdisciplinary team of legal, social science, and health professionals. Within the Institute, CAI operates a law school clinic that teams staff attorneys with volunteer law students to assist clients in abuse and neglect, dependency, and guardianship cases. Clients are referred from the Juvenile Court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals and other attorneys in the community. The law school clinic program of CAI also focuses on impact litigation, and the staff and students have assisted in impact cases brought by CAI. Two recent cases involved funding for child abuse protection in California and playground safety rules.

As an Institute, CAI focuses on child abuse and neglect, child care and development, child health and safety issues, and on efforts to improve the government's delivery of children's services in California. During the 1991-97 sessions of the California State Legislature, for example, CAI sponsored 22 bills that were enacted, and successfully litigated impact cases securing rights for children and children's service providers. The Institute has taken an active stance in a wide number of areas. **Child Abuse Projects:** Improvement of Child Abuse Investigations; Child Abuse Victim-Witness Pilot Projects; Representing Children More Effectively: The SCA Pilot Project; Extending the SCA Model through the Nathan Cummings Foundation Project; Improving Attorney Representation of Children in Juvenile Court; Improving Judicial Performance in Juvenile Court; Legislation to Refine State Law to Protect Children Threatened by Severe Neglect; Detection of Legislation Harmful to Abused Children; Child Abuse Litigation. **Child Care Projects:** Licensing Improvements; Child Care Regulations and Health and Safety Funding: The "Kids' Plates" Program; Training of Child Care Providers; Litigation to Protect Child Care and Development Program Funding. **Child Health and Safety Projects:** Maternal and Child Health Advocacy Project; Childhood Lead Poisoning; Pesticides; Access to Health Care; Managed Care; Immunization; Nutrition; Child Labor. **Government Organization Reform:** California Children's Budget; Child Support Collection; Parenting Education. **Leadership and Collaboration:** Advocacy Training; Collaborative Roundtables; *Child Advocate News*; National Organizations/Conferences.

## ***CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF CALIFORNIA***

Los Angeles Office:  
201 Centre Plaza Drive, Ste. 10

Monterey Park, CA 91754  
Telephone: 323.980.1700  
Fax: 323.980.1708  
Website: [www.clcla.org](http://www.clcla.org)

Sacramento Office:

8950 Cal Center Drive, Suite 301  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
Phone 916.520.2000  
Fax 916.520.7650

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Formerly the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, the Children's Law Center of represents children who are at risk of abuse or neglect in juvenile dependency proceedings and seeks to advocate for critical services and support that these children so desperately need. Practicing in dependency court requires the development of expertise in a variety of areas -- negotiation and mediation skills, legal research and writing, and trial skills - along with an array of non-legal areas related to child and family well being including, child development, health and mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and special education. CLC attorneys and staff are committed and passionate in their representation of our County's foster youth in day to day dependency hearings, as well as a host of other related hearings and proceedings that seek to ensure the child's well being and future success.

On a broader organizational level, CLC strives to identify areas where systemic reforms are needed and to work with other advocacy groups and stakeholders to bring about those more far-reaching changes. Given our organization's status as the largest representative of foster youth in California, if not the nation, we are uniquely positioned to help propel broader positive reforms. As such, CLC is actively engaged in local, statewide and national legislative and other reform efforts and has also spearheaded initiatives to enhance public awareness within our community of the issues and concerns facing foster youth.

***THE CHILDREN'S PROJECT-Children's Legal Issues Clinic***  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW SCHOOL  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0071

Telephone: (213) 740-2574  
Website: <http://weblaw.usc.edu/why/academics/clinics/cli/index.cfm>

Associated with a Law School  
100% Children's Law

Throughout this two semester course, the clinic represents children and their interests in such legal and administrative proceedings as guardianships for abused and neglected children, adoptions of foster children by their foster parents, and special-education entitlements for children with physical or emotional disabilities. Clinic students receive their first case at the beginning of the semester and immediately begin working under the supervision of a clinical instructor. As students become more acquainted with the relevant law, additional cases are assigned. Each student has the opportunity to focus on one or more types of cases of particular interest. All students gain experience in family-law related cases such as adoptions and guardianships for children who have no parents to care for them. In addition, the following are examples of other areas in which students can choose to participate: special education, legal problems of teens (pregnancy, domestic violence, emancipation, etc.), issues surrounding conditions of incarceration of minors in juvenile facilities, or public school disciplinary/expulsion hearings, among others.

### ***CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PROJECT***

PUBLIC COUNSEL LAW CENTER

601 S. Ardmore Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90005-2323

Telephone: (213) 385-2977

Fax: (213) 385-9089

Website: [www.publiccounsel.org](http://www.publiccounsel.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Public Counsel is the public interest law office of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations. It is the largest pro bono law firm in the U.S. The Children's Rights Project is a Public Counsel program that provides free legal and advocacy services to children and youth. The Project is staffed with eight attorneys, three social workers and two legal assistants. The Children's Rights Project has many components, including the Adoptions Project, the Pro Per Guardianship Clinic at the Probate Court, the Peace of Mind Project, the School-Based Legal Assistance Project (Teen Legal Clinic and Community Legal Clinic), the Dependent Children's Tort & Guardian Ad Litem Program, and the Education Rights Advocacy Program. Staff also provides assistance to youth emancipating from foster care, legal representation to abused and neglected children on immigration cases, and guidance to pregnant and parenting teens.

Staff provides legal representation, general counsel and advice, resources and referrals on child-related issues. Cases are assigned to in-house attorneys, volunteer attorneys, and law student interns. The project provides technical support to lawyers, policy makers and service providers



who work with children and youth. The Children's Rights Project offers free educational and training materials on child-related issues, and has written many brochures on legal topics relevant to youth. Staff also offers seminars and workshops to bench officers, attorneys, social workers, foster and adopting parents, probation officers, schools, health care workers, and state and county government agencies.

***DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL CENTER  
LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL***

919 Albany St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90015  
Telephone: (213) 736-1031  
Fax: (213) 736-1428  
Email: [DRLC@lls.edu](mailto:DRLC@lls.edu)  
Website: [www.disabilityrightslegalcenter.org](http://www.disabilityrightslegalcenter.org)

10% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Disability Rights Legal Center is a separate non-profit organization that was established in 1976 to assist the disabled in obtaining the rights available to them under the law. In association with Loyola Law School and with the help of private attorneys, the Center has brought significant cases concerning school access for disabled children, special education, the right of disabled parents to have custody of their children, and dependent's benefits for the children of veterans.

The Center provides training to law students on an ongoing basis through Loyola Law School, and training is provided to volunteer lawyers as it is needed. The directing attorney and the staff attorney teach classes at Loyola and students there may sign up for a clinical program operated by the Center. Pro bono attorneys are recruited through law firms and personal contact. When a client has a particular need, the Center will recruit an attorney who specializes in that area of the law. A number of volunteers are alumni of the clinical program. Volunteers may work independently or team with a staff member. They often are assisted by students on both individual and impact litigation matters.

The Education Advocacy Program represents families of students with disabilities in special education proceedings, including Individual Education Plans meetings, mediation due process hearings, and government complaints. DLRC also provides monthly Education Advocacy Workshops to teach people about special education and an Education Advocacy Manual, a step-by-step guide to assist parents in advocating for their children.

***EAST BAY CHILDREN'S LAW OFFICES***

7700 Edgewater Drive, Suite 210  
Oakland, California 94621  
Telephone: (510) 496-5200

Website: <http://www.ebclo.org/>

East Bay Children's Law Offices (EBCLO) was founded in 2009 to represent children and youth in the juvenile dependency court. Since that time, EBCLO's program has expanded to include the representation juvenile justice cases and education matters including special education and school discipline. Committed to the need for high quality legal advocacy for children, EBCLO's multi-disciplinary team of attorneys and social workers take a holistic approach to providing clients with a voice in the decisions affecting their lives both in and out of court.

***ESPERANZA IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PROJECT***

1530 James M. Wood Blvd., Box 15095

Los Angeles, CA 90015

Telephone: (213) 251-3505

Fax: (213) 487-0986

Website: <http://esperanza-la.org/>

50% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys













































### ***INNER CITY LAW CENTER***

1309 E. 7th St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90021  
Telephone: (213) 891-2880  
Fax: (213) 891-2888  
Website: [www.innercitylaw.org](http://www.innercitylaw.org)

The Inner City Law Center was established as a nonprofit organization in 1980 to provide representation to inhabitants of Los Angeles' inner city area. A portion of the Center's clients are children. Clients are referred to the Center from social service agencies, health care professionals and other attorneys in the community. The Center also works with health care professionals and psychologists to prepare cases. In addition to individual representation, the Center also brings impact litigation and class actions. Recent cases include habitability and government benefit issues.

### ***LEARNING RIGHTS LAW CENTER***

205 S. Broadway, Ste. 1008  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Telephone: (213) 489-4030  
Fax: (213) 489-4033  
Email: [leticia@learningrights.org](mailto:leticia@learningrights.org)  
Website: [www.learningrights.org](http://www.learningrights.org)

Originally part of the Western Law Center for Disability Rights, the Learning Rights Law Center became a separate non-profit organization in 2005. Its sole focus is to ensure students have equitable access to the public education system. Learning Rights helps low-income students at risk of or involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems; students with learning

disabilities and/or learning difficulties; and students not accessing the public school system because of language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness or inadequate facilities.

Learning Rights programs include advocacy for the educational needs of children in the juvenile justice and foster care systems and students with learning disabilities; the **Rez Ed American Indian Program** to train tribal representatives; the **School to Prison Reversal Project**, a pilot project in the San Fernando Valley to reduce the number of youth with learning disabilities entering the juvenile justice system; and the **Cross-Over Youth Project**, which aims to prevent at-risk youth in the foster care system from “crossing over” to the delinquency system by offering a multidisciplinary approach to evaluating their needs.

Learning Rights is also home to the Los Angeles Medical-Legal Collaborative for Education (LAMCE), in partnership with Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles. Started in September 2005 with the generous support of an Equal Justice Works Fellowship, LAMCE continues to provide legal services for special education issues. Currently, LAMCE works with health professionals in several departments of Children’s Hospital to provide education advocacy and legal representation to patients with education needs.

***LEGAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH***

LAW FOUNDATION OF SILICON VALLEY

152 N. Third St., 3rd Floor

San Jose, CA 95112

Telephone: (408) 293-4790

Fax: (408) 293-0106

Website: [www.lawfoundation.org](http://www.lawfoundation.org)

100% Children’s Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

A project of the Santa Clarita County Bar Association Law Foundation, Legal Advocates For Children & Youth (LACY) addresses the problems of children and youth in crisis through legal advice, advocacy, representation, referral, education, and systemic reform. Three staff attorneys and a social worker combine their skills to provide free, comprehensive legal and related social services to children and youth. LACY’s areas of priority are the care, custody, and education of minors. Special programs offered by LACY are the Educational Empowerment Project, Emancipation Project, Guardianship Project, Homeless and Runaway Youth Project, Safe Families Project, Family Court, and a School Based Legal Clinic.

LACY utilizes volunteer attorneys, paralegals, law students, and mental health professionals to reach over 1200 children and youth a year. Cases are closely monitored through staff contact with the volunteers. Training is provided as needed, usually through four training sessions a year.

Referrals to LACY are through client word-of-mouth, Juvenile and Probate Courts, schools, social service agencies, health care professionals, other attorneys, and nonprofit organizations serving runaway and homeless youth.

## ***LEGAL AID OF MARIN***

30 N. San Pedro Rd.

San Rafael, CA 94903

Telephone: (415) 492-0230

Fax: (415) 492-0947

Website: [www.legalaidmarin.org](http://www.legalaidmarin.org)

20% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

In 1995, Legal Aid of Marin began a program focusing on children's law in order to provide comprehensive legal services to the families that they serve. One full-time staff attorney, four MSW graduate students and a clinical social worker work as a team with pro bono attorneys. Clients are referred to the program from juvenile court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, and other attorneys in the area, as well as Legal Aid's own intake system.

Legal Aid of Marin relies on a large network of volunteer attorneys, law students and other professionals in the community to assist with its caseload. Over 250 volunteer attorneys work with Legal Aid of Marin each year, and the children's law programs draws its volunteers from this larger pool. Law students gain valuable experience helping with the intake of new clients. Training is offered to volunteers and others twice a year through sessions where CLE credit is available.

Legal Aid of Marin is involved in bringing impact cases on behalf of children. Some examples include: keeping a shelter open for homeless families; utilizing the closing of military bases to assist the homeless; wages and housing for dairy farm workers (directly affecting 87 children); habitability issues; and an installment sales class action.

In early 2007, the Marin Medical-Legal Partnership made its debut. In collaboration with the Marin Community Clinics (MCC), Legal Aid of Marin began scheduling intakes in MCC's Greenbrae and Novato clinics.

## ***LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, INC.***

1254 Market St., 3rd Floor

San Francisco, CA 94102

Telephone: (415) 863-3762

Fax: (415) 863-7708

Website: [www.lsc-sf.org](http://www.lsc-sf.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Established in 1975, Legal Services for Children, Inc. (LSC) serves children in a myriad of legal issues through the recruitment and training of volunteer lawyers. Clients are referred through the

courts, schools, social service agencies, health care professionals, other attorneys and other kids. Volunteers are recruited through local bar associations, law firms, law schools and word of mouth. Volunteers usually handle cases independently, providing written updates to the staff on case progress. Training programs occur approximately six times a year, depending on demand and LSC hopes to be able to offer CLE credit soon. There are seven staff attorneys who are assisted by social workers when preparing cases. LSC also brings impact litigation cases including a class action to enable children to attend school when living in the school district with non-parents or non-guardians, and a case involving the right of children to appropriate investigation and disposition of child sexual abuse.

### ***LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA***

517 12th St.

Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone: (916) 551-2150 ext. 7110

Fax: (916) 551-295

Email: [exec-office@lsnc.net](mailto:exec-office@lsnc.net)

Website: [www.lsnc.info](http://www.lsnc.info)

10% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) has been in existence since 1956 providing civil legal assistance to low income persons. LSNC handles approximately 1,500 children's cases a year. LSNC is staffed by 20 attorneys and 15 paralegals. Approximately 10% of the caseload is devoted to children's law cases. Clients in children's cases are referred from the Juvenile Court, social service agencies and other attorneys in the community. Volunteer lawyers and law students are recruited through local bar associations, local law firms and law schools, seminars and direct mailings. Training is provided on an as-needed basis and CLE credit is available. Staff members call volunteers about potential cases and monitor progress through follow-up calls and written requests for updates.

### ***NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW***

405 14th St., 15th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

Telephone: (510) 835-8098

Fax: (510) 835-8099

Website: [www.youthlaw.org](http://www.youthlaw.org)



Founded in 1970, the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to use the law to improve the lives of children and youth affected by poverty. NCYL represents poor children in major litigation and provides specialized legal assistance to attorneys and other child advocates who work on behalf of poor children and youth. The center has numerous materials available (bibliography available upon request), and publishes *Youth Law News* bi-monthly.

NCYL's advocacy on behalf of poor children concentrates on six specific areas: protecting abused and neglected children; expanding access to health care for children and adolescents; securing public benefits to meet the special needs of children; increasing access to housing for families with children; addressing the special problems of children living in institutions; improving child support collection. The center also promotes laws and public policies to improve the conditions in which poor children must live.

NCYL has co-counseled cases with numerous firms across the country, including the San Francisco firms of Morrison & Foerster, and Farella, Braun & Martal, and the Salt Lake City firm of Junes, Waldo, Holbrook & McDonough. Pro bono attorneys are recruited through the Litigation Assistance Partnerships Project, Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, and private attorneys interested in child advocacy.

NCYL houses the **Child Support Project**. The Project operates as a resource center of information on child support issues for legal service organizations and child support advocacy organizations. The Project provides bi-monthly mailings containing information for advocates and custodial and noncustodial parents. The Project also does legislative and administrative advocacy.

### ***PENINSULA FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM***

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

The Natalie Lanam Justice Center

Sobrato Center for Nonprofits - Redwood Shores

330 Twin Dolphin Drive, Suite 123

Redwood City, CA 94065

Telephone: (650) 517-8904

Fax: (650) 517-8973

Email: [fguzman@legalaidsmc.org](mailto:fguzman@legalaidsmc.org)

Website: [www.peninsulafap.org](http://www.peninsulafap.org)

The Peninsula Family Advocacy Program (FAP) is a collaboration between: Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, and Ravenswood Family Health Center. FAP also partners with the San Mateo Medical Center and its affiliated clinics. FAP strives to improve the health and welfare of pregnant women, low income children and their families. FAP provides legal representation, advocacy and education to help address underlying causes of poor health among low-income children.

FAP provides free legal services and representation to pregnant women and low-income families and from San Mateo County and Santa Clara County whose children are receiving medical care at these sites. All families regardless of income or county of residence will receive referrals to appropriate resources. FAP currently helps clients with the following legal issues: disability benefits, domestic violence, family law (child custody, divorce, paternity), guardianship, health insurance and medical bills, housing, public benefits, and special education.

### ***VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM***

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO

465 California St., Ste. 1100

San Francisco, CA 94104

Telephone: (415) 982-1600

Fax: (415) 477-2390

Website: [www.sfbar.org/vlsp](http://www.sfbar.org/vlsp)

10% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP), sponsored by the Bar Association of San Francisco, is an active provider of pro bono legal services to the community, including services to children. Programs that focus on children's issues began in 1994, and include: foster care assistance for immigrant children involving applying for a special visa to enable them to obtain permanent U.S. resident status; and "SSI for Kids" which trains attorney and non-attorney advocates to assist parents of indigent and at-risk children with disabilities in applying for SSI. VLSP also has a Guardianship Program which assists families by helping the non-parent caretaker of a child be named as the child's legal guardian. The majority of requests involve grandparents or other relatives who have been primary caretakers since the child's birth. Clients are referred through the Juvenile Court, social service agencies and the schools. VLSP's small staff assists and coordinates a large number of volunteers who handle cases, provide expertise to other volunteers as mentors, assist in preparing and presenting trainings, staff clinics and provide personal as well as telephone consultation services to clients. Impact litigation is referred to pro bono counsel, typically a large law firm.

### ***YOUTH LAW CENTER***

417 Montgomery St., Ste. 900

San Francisco, CA 94104-1129

Telephone: (415) 543-3379

Fax: (415) 956-9022

Website: [www.ylc.org](http://www.ylc.org)

100% Children's Law

The Youth Law Center was established in 1978 to focus attention on legal issues affecting children at-risk of being or who are in out-of-home care, specifically those in the juvenile justice

and child welfare systems. The staff of eight lawyers teams with volunteer lawyers and law students to provide representation in impact litigation cases nationwide. YLC also conducts legislative advocacy, education and technical assistance. Clients are referred through social service agencies, health care professionals, other attorneys and community groups. The Center offers self-trainings for CLE credit to volunteer lawyers. The Center has been responsible for significant impact litigation matters across the country. The Center's staff is supplemented by health care professionals, psychologists and juvenile justice/corrections specialists when needed.

## **COLORADO**

### ***JUVENILE LAW CLINIC UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL***

2450 Kittredge Loop Road

Boulder, Colorado 80309

Telephone: (303) 492 8047

Fax: (303) 492-4587

Website: [www.colorado.edu/law/clinics/jlc](http://www.colorado.edu/law/clinics/jlc)

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Juvenile Law Clinic (JLC) provides legal services for indigent children, youth, and families, in four metro counties. Children and families facing abuse, poverty, homelessness, and despair are among the neediest members of our community requiring quality legal representation. Student attorneys in the JLC meet that need. JLC clients are predominantly children and youth in the child welfare system, or the juvenile justice system. Student attorneys also defend parents in child welfare cases, grandparents seeking adoptions, and school districts trying to intervene to save the educations of at-risk students. The clinic accepts calls from the public and from children.

### ***NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNSEL FOR CHILDREN***

13123 E. 16th Ave., B390

Aurora, CO 80045

Telephone: (303)864-5324

Fax: (888) 828-NACC  
(303) 864-5351  
Email: [advocate@naccchildlaw.org](mailto:advocate@naccchildlaw.org)  
Website: [www.NACCchildlaw.org](http://www.NACCchildlaw.org)

The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1977 to enhance the well-being of children by promoting excellence in the field of children's law. NACC is a membership organization which works to improve the legal protection and representation of children throughout the United States and abroad. The NACC provides training and technical assistance to attorneys and other professionals, serves as a public information and professional referral center, and engages in public policy advocacy to improve the system. Training sessions are held throughout the country.

NACC membership is multidisciplinary and includes attorneys, judges, medical and mental health professionals, social workers, teachers, law enforcement officials, guardians ad litem, court appointed special advocates and other individuals who care about children. NACC maintains a membership Deskbook & Directory which contains NACC organizational information, a membership directory, a referral network of child advocates and other resources. It is provided to all members as a benefit of membership, which costs \$75 annually.

NACC has numerous publications, including *Child Welfare Law and Practice* and other books, a quarterly newsletter of cases, brief articles, news of conferences and other information related to the practice of children's law, and the quarterly journal, *Children's Legal Rights Journal*. The Guardian is a forum through which members share case law, referrals, strategic approaches, and other resources to promote effective representation of children in need of protection. Each year NACC holds a major national conference devoted to children's legal issues. NACC also produces a children's law manual in conjunction with each year's conference.

NACC also works to educate legislators and their staff members about measures that would assist children in need of protection. While NACC does not provide any direct legal representation, in recent years, it has filed amicus Curiae Briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court, state appellate and state supreme courts.

### ***OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE***

1300 Broadway, Suite 320  
Denver, CO 80203  
Telephone: (303) 860-1517  
Website: <http://www.coloradochildrep.org/>

The Office of the Child's Representative (OCR) is the state agency mandated to provide competent and effective best interests legal representation to children involved in the Colorado court system. OCR was created by the General Assembly in 2000 to improve representation for Colorado's most vulnerable children by establishing minimum practice standards and providing litigation support, accessible high-quality statewide training, and oversight of the practice. The OCR oversees attorneys that provide legal representation as guardians ad litem (GAL), counsel

for children in dependency and neglect proceedings, child legal representatives (CLR), as well as attorneys appointed to serve as state-paid Child and Family Investigators (CFI).

OCR attorneys represent the interests of children in dependency and neglect (child abuse), delinquency, domestic relations, adoption, truancy, probate, mental health, and paternity cases. The attorney's responsibilities are dependent upon the case type in which the attorney is appointed and the role the attorney serves in that case. An attorney appointed as GAL and CLR must independently investigate, make recommendations that are in the best interests of the child, and advocate on that child's behalf. An attorney appointed as counsel for children in dependency and neglect proceedings is limited to direct representation in contempt proceedings and/or involving therapeutic privilege issues. Attorneys appointed as state-paid CFIs must independently investigate the matter and report to the court. OCR trains all of its attorneys on the law, social science research, child development, mental health and education issues, and best practices relating to issues impacting children involved in court proceedings.

### ***ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER***

1325 S. Colorado Blvd., Ste. 308

Denver, CO 80222

Telephone: (303) 692-1165

Fax: (303) 302-2890

Website: [www.rockymountainchildrenslawcenter.org](http://www.rockymountainchildrenslawcenter.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center began as a federal demonstration project running from 1981 to 1984. It is now a non-profit organization using lawyers and other professionals to represent poor children in Colorado. Clients are referred from many sources, including the media and general public. Volunteers are recruited through local bar associations, law schools and law firms, as well as seminars and newsletters. Extremely active in training, the Center co-sponsors a major annual conference and at least four other training sessions for which CLE credit is available. The Center uses multidisciplinary pro bono teams, including social workers, health care professionals, child development specialists and psychologists, who meet to staff cases and provide consultation to attorneys.

## **CONNECTICUT**

### ***ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLINIC YALE LAW SCHOOL***

The Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization

P.O. Box 209090

New Haven, CT 06520  
Telephone: (203) 432-4806  
Fax: (203) 432-1426  
Website: [www.law.yale.edu/academics/1155.htm](http://www.law.yale.edu/academics/1155.htm)

100% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

Started in 2003, the Sol and Lillian Goldman Family, Advocacy for Children and Youth Clinic is a recent addition to the clinical program at Yale Law School. The Clinic provides training to 20 law students a year as part of the law school's curriculum. Students represent both children living in the home and children removed on an emergency basis at the time the proceedings commence. Students receive academic credit for their participation in the clinic working with the two staff attorneys. Law students are supervised by staff attorneys to assist clients referred from Juvenile Court and social service agencies. The Clinic also retains social workers as paid consultants when needed. Impact litigation is not handled at this time.

***CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY, INC.  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF LAW***

65 Elizabeth St.  
Hartford, CT 06105  
Telephone: (860) 570-5327  
Fax: (860) 570-5256  
Website: [www.kidscounsel.org](http://www.kidscounsel.org)

100% Children's Law

The Center for Children's Advocacy, Inc. was founded in 1997 as a non-profit entity and based at the University of Connecticut School of Law with a planning grant from IOLTA. The Center handles 75 children's law cases a year. The Center uses 16 students from local law schools, as well as students from other disciplines, such as social work and psychology. The Center employs two staff attorneys and also uses psychologists. Clients are referred by Juvenile Court, social service agencies, schools, and other attorneys. Training is provided for volunteers on a bi monthly basis.

The Center has a TeamChild program that pairs an attorney from the Center with a Public Defender in order to handle a child's civil legal issues and to improve the outcome for the child in the juvenile justice system. There is a medical-legal partnership project that places a Center attorney at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in order to provide comprehensive legal representation to pediatric patients of the Medical Center in matters affecting children's health, education and welfare. The Center also has a school-based legal clinic that places a Center attorney at a local high school in order to handle some of the legal issues of the students.

The Center handles impact litigation including a consent decree involving child welfare system and a consent decree involving three juvenile detention facilities.

## ***CHILD LAW UNIT***

NEW HAVEN LEGAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION, INC.

426 State St.

New Haven, CT 06510-2018

Telephone: (203) 946-4811

Fax: (203) 498-9271

Website: [www.nhlegal.org](http://www.nhlegal.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc. is a legal services office that has established a Child Law Unit to handle a variety of children's law issues. The Child Law Unit is staffed by one attorney and one paralegal who specialize in children's issues. Additional cases are referred to a panel of pro bono attorneys. Clients are referred from Juvenile Court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals and local attorneys.

The New Haven Legal Assistance Association works closely with the New Haven Bar Association. Attorneys working as volunteers for the Child Law Unit are able to attend trainings offered by the New Haven Bar Association and clients who do not meet the income requirements of the Association are referred to a legal referral program operated by the New Haven Bar Association. Staff attorneys at the Child Law Unit often act as faculty for trainings of volunteers as part of the activities of the New Haven Bar Association.

## ***CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER***

30 Arbor St., North Building, 4th Floor

Hartford, CT 06106

Telephone: (860) 232-9993

(888) LAW-DOOR

Fax: (860) 232-9996

Email: [clc@clct.org](mailto:clc@clct.org)

Website: [www.clct.org](http://www.clct.org)

100% Children's Law

The Children's Law Center provides children with legal representation in family matters where there are allegations of abuse, neglect, drug and/or alcohol dependency, domestic violence or chronic conflict. CLC's Court Representation Program involves a team of attorneys and clinical social workers who provide comprehensive legal representation of children in contested custody and visitation proceedings. Attorneys are provided with consultation services from staff and volunteer social workers to provide them with better understanding of the developmental and emotional needs of their clients. CLC's Court Representation Program serves the Greater Hartford and Eastern Regions of Connecticut.

The Center also provides a toll-free statewide information and referral service to any caller with legal issues and problems regarding a child.

***LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN AMERICA, INC.***

151 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, CT 06156-3124  
Telephone: (860) 273-0441  
Fax: (860) 273-6939  
Email: [CT@lawyersforchildrenamerica.org](mailto:CT@lawyersforchildrenamerica.org)  
Website: [www.lawyersforchildrenamerica.org](http://www.lawyersforchildrenamerica.org)

100% Children’s Law  
Does Use Volunteer Lawyers

Lawyers for Children America, Inc. is a non-profit organization that began as a pilot in Hartford, Connecticut to address the issue of youth and violence. Lawyers for Children America seeks to engage the private bar in pro bono work on behalf of children and youth.

Lawyers for Children America trains and provides ongoing support to attorneys who have committed themselves to providing pro bono representation to children in the abuse and neglect system. These attorneys serve as legal advocates, ensuring that necessary services are accessed for the child and family, minimizing the upheaval and trauma typically associated with foster care, and working toward finding a safe and permanent home for the child. The ongoing training and support that Lawyers for Children America provides enables volunteer attorneys to address the multiple needs of children such as medical and dental, special education, emotional and enrichment in a comprehensive manner.

**DELAWARE**

***OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE***

900 King Street, Suite 210  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Telephone: (302) 255-1730  
Fax: (302) 577-6831  
Website: [courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate](http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate)

Georgetown Address:  
6 West Market Street, Suite 1  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
Telephone: (302) 856-5720  
Fax: (302)856-5722



## 100% Children's Law Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Office of the Child Advocate began in 2000 in response to requests by advocacy groups for a statutory mandate for representation of children. Three staff attorneys, one full-time and two part-time social workers, and approximately 100 volunteer attorneys handle roughly 175 cases a year, primarily as guardian ad litem, but in some cases as attorneys advocating for the child's best interest. Aside from representing children, the volunteer lawyers assist in the recruitment of other pro bono attorneys. Law students and volunteers from other professions are utilized as well. Trainings for volunteers are offered two to three times a year. To volunteer a lawyer should fill out an application and attend a one day training. Cases are then assigned by the Child Advocate and monitored through self-reporting and calls from staff members.

The Office of the Child Advocate does accept calls from children, however calls from the public are referred to private attorneys. The Office's cases are referred from juvenile court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, the children themselves and other attorneys.

The Office also does advocacy regarding laws affecting children, community education and oversight of current policy within Delaware's Child Welfare Office. The Office has also filed amicus briefs in impact litigation affecting children, including *Brown/Cooper v. Division of Family Services* (constitutional right to counsel). The Office has a pro bono training manual, updated in 2002, available for distribution.

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

### ***ABA CENTER ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW***

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

740 15th St., NW, 9th Floor

Washington, DC 20005-1009

Telephone: (202) 662-1720

Fax: (202) 662-1755

Website: [http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child\\_law.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law.html)

Founded by the ABA Young Lawyers Division in 1978, the ABA Center on Children and the Law's mission is to improve the quality of life for children through advancements in law, justice and public policy. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, it is the only federally-supported Resource Center specializing in a wide range of legal matters related to the protection of children. No direct representation of clients is undertaken by the Center. The Center also houses the National Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues. This Resource Center provides free or low-cost training, technical assistance and consultation to agencies and courts on all legal and judicial aspects of the child welfare system.

The staff of 12 attorneys and one paralegal provides technical assistance and consultation to attorneys, judges, and child protection professionals, produces a wide range of publications and scholarly policy studies, has an extensive training program and holds a bi-annual National

Conference on Children and the Law. CLE credit is available for most of the Center's trainings. Topics addressed by the Center include: abuse and neglect, adoption, child support, custody disputes, delinquency, family preservation, guardian ad litem, HIV-positive children, kinship care and foster care, law guardian, parental child abduction, and permanency planning.

The Center works with state child welfare agencies to train attorneys and social workers, and has conducted extensive child welfare policy studies to assist states updating their child welfare laws and procedures. After performing a policy study, the Center can recommend and help implement changes – including drafting legislation, court rules, and policy standards, and preparing attorney and caseworker training based on new laws, policies and practices.

The Center publishes two in-house publications: (1) the *Quarterly Report* describing the Center's ABA and grant/contract-funded work; and (2) the *ABA Juvenile and Child Welfare Law Reporter*, a 16-page monthly legal information service containing case law abstracts on abuse and neglect, civil rights, juvenile delinquency, foster care, adoption, drug and alcohol abuse, termination of parental rights, and liability under federal and state laws for agencies and individuals working with children. Also included is Supreme Court news, legislative developments, analysis of cutting-edge legal issues, highlights of new reports and books, and summaries of state legal ethics decisions. Subscriptions and back issues are available. The Center also makes available a wide variety of books concerning children's law.

### ***BAZELON CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH LAW***

1101 15th St., NW, Ste. 1212

Washington, DC 20005

Telephone: (202) 467-5730

Fax: (202) 223-0409

Email: [leec@bazelon.org](mailto:leec@bazelon.org)

Website: [www.bazelon.org](http://www.bazelon.org)

The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law handles impact litigation only, and provides information and support for attorneys nationwide. The Bazelon Center is a separate non-profit that has been operating since 1972. Children's law cases are 30-50% of the total case load and includes cases in the following areas: Civil Rights, Homeless Youth, Medicaid, Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment, Mental Health, Special Education, Status Offenders and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children. The Bazelon Center is staffed by nine attorneys, one paralegal, and nine non-legal professionals, including a social worker. Psychologists are used as paid consultants when appropriate. Clients are referred from the Protection and Advocacy System, other attorneys and community advocates. Volunteer lawyers and law students are recruited through law schools. No specific general training program is offered, but information and support for attorneys is available in a wide range of areas.

The Bazelon Center publishes an "Advocate's Guide to SSI For Children," which explains the laws, regulations, policies and procedures governing a child's eligibility for SSI benefits. The guide is an essential resource for attorneys representing children who are appealing SSI denials.

The Bazelon Center brings impact cases for children with mental disabilities or who are at risk of disability. The Center teamed with the Civil Liberties Union of Alabama and the Southern Poverty Law Center and won a consent decree creating a new child protection and foster care system in Alabama. The Bazelon Center also represented 8,000 children when Florida failed to develop sufficient community-based therapeutic programs for children in state custody. In New Mexico, the Bazelon Center helped local counsel prepare a lawsuit on behalf of children with emotional and behavioral disorders who are at risk of placement in the state's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. A class action focusing on class member's rights under federal special education law challenged the systemic deficiencies in the service-delivery systems of three Vermont state agencies.

In addition to litigation, the Bazelon Center monitors implementation of the Child Mental Health Services Program, advocates for development of appropriate federal regulations and guidelines for state child welfare systems under the Family Preservation Act and works with the Mental Health and Special Education Coalition. Recently, it started a new entity, LINKS, Linking Networks For Kids, a national consortium which promotes the coordination of resources for developmentally vulnerable children. The LINKS newsletter is available from the Bazelon Center.

### ***CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S LAW AND POLICY***

1701 K St., NW, Ste. 600  
Washington, DC 20006  
Telephone: (202) 637-0377  
Fax: (202) 379-1600  
Email: [info@cclp.org](mailto:info@cclp.org)  
Website: [www.cclp.org](http://www.cclp.org)

The Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP), begun in 2006, is a public interest law and policy organization focused on reform of juvenile justice and other systems that affect troubled and at-risk children, and protection of the rights of children in such systems, through a range of activities including research, writing, public education, media advocacy, training, technical assistance, administrative and legislative advocacy, and litigation. CCLP capitalizes on its location in Washington, DC, by working in DC, Maryland, and Virginia, as well as in other states and on national efforts such as the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change and the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

### ***CENTER FOR LAW AND EDUCATION***

1875 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
Telephone: (202) 986-3000  
Fax: (202) 986-6648  
Email: [cle@cleweb.org](mailto:cle@cleweb.org)

515 Washington St., 3rd Floor

Boston, MA 02111-1759  
Telephone: (617) 451-0855  
Fax: (617) 451-0857  
Email: [clebos@cleweb.org](mailto:clebos@cleweb.org)  
Website: [www.cleweb.org](http://www.cleweb.org)

The Center for Law and Education (CLE) strives to make the right of all students to quality education a reality throughout the nation and to help enable communities to address their own public education problems effectively. For the past 25 years, CLE has provided legal service nationwide to parents, students, educators, lawyers, and community organizations. The Center works to improve laws affecting the education of low-income children and to hold local and state educational agencies accountable for the implementation of those laws.

CLE directs three national projects, namely, School Reform/Title I; High School Restructuring/Vocational Education; Educational Rights of Students with Disabilities, and Community Action for Public Schools (CAPS). CLE can help with these topics in a number of ways, including: (1) training of parents, students and community members; (2) assistance to attorneys and advocates representing students and parents; (3) policy analysis and policy drafting; (4) staff development; (5) assistance in dealing with state and federal policy-makers; (6) access to, and assistance in using, out extensive publications on program implementation in these areas (such as our implementation and advocacy guides on Title I, the School-to-Work Opportunities Act, and other programs); (7) access to other resources around the country, including schools, exemplary programs, researchers, and advocates. Some of these services are available to CAPS members, while others may be available through CLE projects, or in some cases on a fee-for-service basis.

Services available from the Center include advice and collaboration on cases, publications, training, federal program advocacy, and litigation. It also handles special, national implementation projects in the areas of Title I/State and Local Education Reform and vocational education/school to work. Other priority areas of the Center are education rights of students with disabilities, early intervention services and early childhood education issues affecting the limited-English proficient student, and educational rights of welfare recipients.

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER, INC.***

616 H St., NW, Ste. 300  
Washington, DC 20001  
Telephone: (202) 467-4900  
Fax: (202) 467-4949  
Website: [www.childrenslawcenter.org](http://www.childrenslawcenter.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children's Law Center began in 1996 and provides free legal services to at-risk children, their families, and foster and kinship caregivers in the District of Columbia. The Center's mission is to improve the lives of low- and middle-income at-risk children and their families by

providing direct legal representation and advocacy and by offering training and technical assistance to the public and to other professionals. Clients are referred from Juvenile Courts, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals and other attorneys.

Volunteer attorneys and law students are recruited through local law firms and schools. Pro bono attorneys are trained and then teamed with staff attorneys or experienced volunteer attorneys. Volunteers are also utilized in corporate and employment matters for the Center. Besides individual representation, the Center has initiated class action suits in the areas of foster home licensing and adoption subsidies. Children's Law Center also coordinates the Health Access Project by maintaining a full-time lawyer at Children's National Medical Center to work with low income patients of the hospital on issues related to health.

***CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLINIC***  
***WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY***

4801 Massachusetts Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20016

Telephone: (202) 274-4223

Fax: (202) 274-0659

Website: [www.wcl.american.edu/clinical/criminal.cfm](http://www.wcl.american.edu/clinical/criminal.cfm)

33% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Criminal Justice Clinic has been in existence for over twenty-five years, making it Washington College of Law's oldest clinic. The Clinic began handling delinquency cases in 1988. Each year 12-16 law students participate in the defense portion of the Clinic as part of the law school's curriculum and receive academic credit. The Clinic is staffed with two full-time attorneys and one part-time attorney. Law students are teamed with faculty attorneys to assist clients referred from the Office of Public Defender of Montgomery County, Maryland. Impact litigation is not handled at this time.

***JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN***

1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Ste. 710

Washington, DC 20009

Telephone: (202)462-4688

Fax: (815) 301-5516

Email: [info@jfcadvocacy.org](mailto:info@jfcadvocacy.org)

Website: [www.jfcadvocacy.org](http://www.jfcadvocacy.org)

100% Children's Law

## Does Use Volunteer Lawyers

Justice for Children (JFC) was started in 1987 by private attorneys “to educate and focus society on the systematic failure to protect victims of child abuse; to seek proper intervention and treatment for abused children; and to develop and implement solutions that enhance the quality of life for children who are victims of child abuse” (from the mission). JFC utilizes 150 volunteer lawyers and law students to handle approximately 100 children’s law cases a year. Volunteer lawyers intervene on behalf of abused children when child protection agencies and courts do not take action; advocate on behalf of children who are victims of abuse but who are forced to spend time with the offender; write amicus briefs; perform legal research and writing; make presentations within their community; train other lawyers and serve on the board of directors. JFC only advocates in cases of documented abuse, and it employs five former investigators. Trainings for volunteers are offered 4 times a year for CLE credit; interested lawyers should contact JFC via e-mail or telephone.

JFC has some manuals available for distribution including the JFC Training Manual and Defending Against P.A.S. (Parental Alienation Syndrome) Allegations. JFC does accept calls from the public and from children. Cases are referred from social service agencies, families or children, professional organizations and hotlines, law enforcement, district attorneys offices, etc.

The main headquarters of JFC are in Houston, with a second location in Washington, DC.

### ***JUVENILE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW CLINIC DAVID A. CLARKE SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA***

4200 Connecticut Ave., NW

Building 38, Second Floor

Washington, DC 20008

Telephone: (202) 274-7314

Fax: (202) 274-5569

Website: [www.law.udc.edu/?page=JuvenileClinic](http://www.law.udc.edu/?page=JuvenileClinic)

#### 100% Children’s Law

The Juvenile Law Clinic of the David A. Clarke School of Law was started in the 1970’s to focus on the legal needs of children in the local community. The Clinic’s staff of three attorneys recruits attorneys and trains law students to represent parents of children, as well as the children themselves, with special education needs who are in the neglect and delinquency systems. The staff train law students as part of the law school curriculum. The Clinic’s faculty also engage in impact work. Examples include: (1) representing a class of persons with mental retardation; (2) developing and publishing in 1995 a symposium regarding illegal detention of children; and (3) developing a manual regarding representing children with special education needs who are in the delinquency system.

***JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINIC  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER***

600 New Jersey Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20001

Telephone: (202) 662-9590

Fax: (202) 662-9681

Website: [www.law.georgetown.edu/clinics/jjc/index.html](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/clinics/jjc/index.html)

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Juvenile Justice Clinic began through a grant in 1973 and provides training to 14 law students a year as part of the law school's curriculum. Students receive academic credit for their participation in the clinic and handle approximately 50-80 children's law cases each year. The Clinic is staffed with two to three attorneys. Law students are teamed with staff attorneys to assist clients referred from Juvenile Court, social service agencies and other attorneys in the community. The Clinic also retains social workers, child development specialists and psychologists as paid consultants when needed. Impact litigation is not handled at this time. All materials produced by the Clinic in the above areas are available through the D.C. Bar.

***KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE, INC. (KIND)***

1300 L St. NW, Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20005

Telephone: (202) 824-8680

Email: [info@supportKIND.org](mailto:info@supportKIND.org)

Website: [www.supportkind.org](http://www.supportkind.org)

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) is a non-profit organization founded by Microsoft Corporation and actress Angelina Jolie in 2008. Its mission is to assist unaccompanied children in the immigration system. KIND helps children with all types of immigration cases, including those in which the child is likely to be deported. KIND provides assistance with asylum, special immigrant juvenile status, U or T visas, VAWA petitions, family based petitions, and other forms of protection from deportation.

KIND works to find pro bono lawyers to represent these unaccompanied children. KIND has partnered with 43 law firms and corporations who have committed to providing pro bono support. KIND hosts trainings to teach attorneys about the immigration process and legal remedies available to children. KIND also provides comprehensive assistance and mentorship to the pro bono attorneys who take on cases. KIND is also partnering with NGOs with expertise in working with unaccompanied children. KIND provides fellowships for attorneys and paralegals at NGOs to dedicate their time and talent to exclusively represent unaccompanied children.

By 2010, KIND intends to ensure that all unaccompanied children in the cities where it works have legal representation. KIND also advocates for changes in U.S. law to protect the rights of unaccompanied children. KIND's headquarters are in Washington, DC, with field offices in

Baltimore, Boston, Houston, Los Angeles, Newark, and New York City.

### ***NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER***

1350 Connecticut Ave., NW, Ste. 304

Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 452-0010

Fax: (202) 452-1205

Website: [www.njdc.info](http://www.njdc.info)

Created in the 1970s as a part of the ABA, the Center works to monitor and influence the policy, practice, fiscal and administrative changes rapidly emerging in juvenile justice systems across the nation. The Center has now left the ABA and is a free-standing non-profit, with regional centers around the country.

The Center provides training, technical assistance, model program design, information and advocacy, and responds to a vast assortment of juvenile delinquency issues and provides leadership to state and local practitioners, bar associations, defenders, judges, youth workers, correctional agency staff, policy makers, and the like. The Center produces a number of policy publications on juvenile justice systems.

The Center addresses many issues such as: quality representation and access to counsel in juvenile delinquency proceedings; juvenile detention and correction reform; waiver/transfer of juveniles into the adult criminal courts; over-representation of children of color in the juvenile justice system; implementing the juvenile justice standards; and designing and implementing model programs. Some of the goals recently identified by the Center include: improving conditions of confinement for youth; increasing juveniles' access to counsel and quality of representation at all stages of the juvenile justice system; and addressing the needs of children waived to adult criminal court.

### ***NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY***

1411 K St., NW, Ste. 1400

Washington, DC 20005

Telephone: (202) 638-2535

Fax: (202) 628-2737

Email: [info@nlchp.org](mailto:info@nlchp.org)

Website: [www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org)

35% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty was established in 1989 as the legal arm of the movement to end homelessness, with an emphasis on protecting the rights of homeless children and youth. The Center focuses on children's civil rights, government benefits, and the education rights of homeless children and youth (the McKinney-Vento Act). As part of its



mission to end homelessness, the Center works to ensure that all homeless children and youth have access to a free, appropriate public education and a real opportunity for academic success. The Center can provide legal and practice information to practicing lawyers, as well as technical assistance and support for cases, opportunities to become involved in education issues on behalf of homeless children and youth, amicus briefs, connection to pro bono assistance from law firms, a membership network, and other assistance and support as needed. The Center has numerous publications available on the education rights of homeless children and youth. Calls are accepted from the public and from children seeking legal information.

The Center utilizes volunteer attorneys, law students and other professionals, in addition to five staff attorneys. Volunteer attorneys provide legal research, and help with policy and legal strategizing. The office does handle impact litigation, such as *Lampkin v. District of Columbia*, which resulted in a 1995 appellate court decision that the McKinney-Vento Act is enforceable via 42 USC 1983.

***THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR THE  
EDUCATION OF NEGLECTED AND DELINQUENT CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH***

1000 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20007

Telephone: (202) 403-5000

Fax: (202) 403-5001

Email: [NDTAC@air.org](mailto:NDTAC@air.org)

Website: <http://www.neglected-delinquent.org/>

**Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys**

The National Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Neglected or Delinquent Children and Youth (NDTAC) was established in 2002 through support from the U.S. Department of Education (ED). NDTAC serves as a national resource center to provide direct assistance to States, schools, communities, and parents seeking information on the education of children and youth who are considered neglected, delinquent, or at-risk. The education of youth involved in the juvenile justice system is a primary focus of the Center.

The overarching mission of NDTAC is to improve educational programming for youth who are neglected or delinquent. NDTAC is legislated to:

1. Provide information, resources, and direct technical assistance to States and those who support or provide education to youth who are neglected or delinquent.
2. Develop a model and tools to assist States and providers with reporting data and evaluating their services.
3. Serve as a facilitator to increase information-sharing and peer-to-peer learning at State and local levels.

## **FLORIDA**

### ***CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CLINIC***

#### ***DWAYNE O. ANDREAS SCHOOL OF LAW, BARRY UNIVERSITY***

6441 E. Colonial Dr.

Orlando, FL 32807

Telephone: (407) 275-4451

Fax: (407) 275-0701

Website: <http://www.barry.edu/law/future-students/academic-program/clinical-program.html>

100% Children's Law

Could Use Volunteer Attorneys

Children and Families Clinic, which began in 1998, focuses on advocacy for children in the areas of delinquency, dependency, mental health and education law. The 12 to 16 students who participate in the clinic are certified as legal interns by the Florida Supreme Court, enabling them to provide actual representation to clients, working under a professor. Although volunteer lawyers are not currently utilized, the clinic could use some volunteer lawyers to take referral cases. Interested lawyers should contact the director. The Clinic accepts calls from children and the public seeking legal information and may obtain cases through phone calls if appropriate. Clients are also referred from juvenile court and other attorneys. Children and Families Clinic has handled some impact litigation including a challenge to Florida's statutory ban on adoptions by gays and lesbians and a challenge to the adequacy of mental health services provided to children in state custody through either dependency or juvenile delinquency proceedings.

### ***CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CLINIC***

#### ***SHEPARD BROAD LAW CENTER, NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY***

3305 College Ave.

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

Telephone: (954) 262-6138

Fax: (954) 262-3832

Website: <http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/clinics/available.cfm>

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children and Families Clinic focuses on the legal needs of individuals, with particular emphasis on the economically disadvantaged. Family law constitutes one of the primary components of civil practice, particularly for practitioners in small firms. Along with the Criminal Justice Clinic, this clinic provides the most extensive litigation experience. Key areas of legal representation include custody and divorce, benefits, employment, housing, and health. Students will serve as interns either in the in-house clinic, under the supervision of NSU Law professor-practitioners, or in a legal-aid or government office that provides legal assistance to

children and families.

***CHILDREN AND YOUTH LAW CLINIC  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW***

1311 Miller Dr., Ste. F305

P.O. Box 248087

Coral Gables, FL 33146

Telephone: (305) 284-2339

Fax: (305) 284-4384

Email: [bperlmur@law.miami.edu](mailto:bperlmur@law.miami.edu)

Website: <http://www.law.miami.edu/clinics/cylc/index.php?op=2>

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children & Youth Law Clinic is an in-house, live-client clinic established in 1995 by the Law School. The Clinic represents children in foster care and former foster youth in dependency, health care, mental health, disability, independent living, education, immigration and other general civil legal matters, ensuring that they have a voice in court proceedings.

Under the supervision of three Florida-licensed attorneys, approximately 24 second and third year law students each year assume primary responsibility for all aspects of a client's case. Students learn fundamental lawyering skills, substantive law and professional ethics. The Clinic seeks to instill in students a sense of professionalism and encourages them to pursue public interest law careers or to devote substantial portions of their legal practices to providing pro bono legal assistance to the poor.

***CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER  
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW***

425 W. Jefferson St.

Tallahassee, FL 32306

Telephone: (850)644.3400

Fax: (850) 644-0879

Website: [www.law.fsu.edu/academic\\_programs/jd\\_program/cac/index.html](http://www.law.fsu.edu/academic_programs/jd_program/cac/index.html)

40% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children's Advocacy Center at the Florida State University College of Law was created and funded by the Florida Bar. Operating since 1991, the Center provides training to law students as part of the law school's curriculum. Law students are teamed with one of two staff attorneys to assist clients referred from Juvenile Court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals and other attorneys. The Center handles between 100 and 200 cases a year. Students who are working on their master's degree in social work volunteer as interns, as do

criminology students who act as investigators. Social workers, child development specialists, health care professionals, and psychologists may be used as expert witnesses by students preparing their cases. The Center has handled impact litigation cases including a challenge of the incarceration of status offenders for contempt of court, conditions of confinement in detention centers, and the law school's refusal to admit disabled students.

### ***CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY PROJECTS***

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, INC.

423 Fern St., Ste. 200

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Telephone: (561) 655-8944

(800) 403-9353

Fax: (561) 655-5269

Email: [info@legalaidpbc.org](mailto:info@legalaidpbc.org)

Website: [www.legalaidpbc.org](http://www.legalaidpbc.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc., a nonprofit organization started in 1955, has several projects that provide legal representation for children in Palm Beach, Florida. Begun in 2001, the **Foster Children's Project** provides an attorney to represent children in the foster care system and to advocate for permanence within 12 months. The **Education Advocacy Law Project** partners with the Palm Beach County School District and the Legal Aid Society's Pro Bono Project to train volunteer attorneys who provide free legal representation to children who are facing expulsion from the school system.

The **Juvenile Advocacy Project** handles approximately 350 children's law cases each year, and has a staff consisting of four attorneys and two paralegals, with the help of volunteer attorneys. Volunteers work with staff attorneys in handling cases, and provide assistance with the intake of information from clients and research. Clients are referred to the JAP Project from the Juvenile Court, Family Court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, and other attorneys in the community. Volunteers are recruited through the local bar association, law firms and law schools. Trainings are offered to volunteers on an as-needed basis. The JAP Project works with social workers, child development specialists, and psychologists to assist in the preparation of cases. The JAP Project has handled impact litigation. A recent suit brought in

federal court challenges a school board policy of referring developmentally disabled children who “act out” as a result of their disability to the state attorney’s office for prosecution without providing an appropriate alternative educational setting.

**Project Permanent Placement** provides legal representation for proposed adoptive parents or guardians for children. Approximately 150 cases are handled each year by the staff of one attorney and 2.5 paralegals. Approximately 10 volunteer attorneys help handle cases and provide assistance with the intake of information from clients and research. Clients are referred to the Project from the Juvenile Court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, and the Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services. Volunteers are recruited through the local bar association, law firms and law schools. Trainings are offered to volunteers on an as-needed basis. The Project works with social workers and psychologists to assist in the preparation of cases. The Project does not handle impact litigation.

### ***FLORIDA LEGAL SERVICES***

2425 Torreya Dr.

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Telephone: (850) 385-7900

Fax: (850) 385-9998

Website: [www.floridalegal.org](http://www.floridalegal.org)

95% Children’s Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Florida Legal Services provides technical expertise and works towards systemic reform in poverty issues of all types. The juvenile program, which began in 1996, engages in systemic reform of the systems which serve children, including foster care, juvenile justice, the health care system, schools and other institutions, through all reasonable and necessary manner of advocacy through the state and federal courts, administrative proceedings, and legislative and other policy advocacy. The office handles impact litigation and was one of many co-counsel on *Bonnie L. v. Bush*, a state-wide challenge to Florida’s foster care system. The juvenile program also secured an appellate decision that when a parent in a dependency is entitled to court-appointed counsel, that counsel must be competent and the remedy for incompetent counsel is through a habeas action. The office does handle a few individual cases if they present any type of due process issue of first impression or otherwise fit into the office’s impact area. Calls from children and the public seeking legal information are accepted.

Florida Legal Services provides support to practicing attorneys through training, technical assistance and sometimes co-counseling. The program also maintains several list-serves on various substantive issues affecting children. Sample memos of law and other pleadings are posted on this site. To view these sites and list-serves, contact the supervising attorney to be admitted as a member. Volunteer attorneys are sometimes utilized to assist in research and in drafting pleadings. Volunteers also provide support with daily case representation.

## ***FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM***

The Holland Building  
600 South Calhoun St., Ste. 154  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
P.O. Box 10628  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
Telephone: (850) 922-7213  
Fax: (850) 922-7211  
Website: [www.guardianadlitem.org](http://www.guardianadlitem.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Statewide Office for Florida's Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program works to provide administrative support and secure additional resources for the circuit GAL offices around the state. The mission of the State of Florida GAL Program is to represent the best interests of children who are alleged to be abused, neglected or abandoned and who are involved in court proceedings. Each judicial circuit has its own GAL office and is supported by a local non-profit organization. Guardians ad Litem need not be an attorney; however the GAL program utilizes volunteer attorneys to represent the program.

## ***FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST***

1801 N. University Dr., 3rd Floor, Ste. B  
Coral Springs, FL 33071  
Telephone: (954) 796-0860  
Fax: (954) 796-0862  
Email: [fcf@floridaschildrenfirst.org](mailto:fcf@floridaschildrenfirst.org)  
Website: [www.floridaschildrenfirst.org](http://www.floridaschildrenfirst.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Florida's Children First is a Florida Bar Foundation funded statewide partnership established in 1990 to advance children's legal rights in a manner consistent with their medical and education needs. Children First brings together the resources of the legal, medical and education professions through its Project members, namely the Children First Project of Nova Southeastern University, Southern Legal Counsel, the University of Miami School of Medicine, Florida Legal Services, and the Florida State University College of Law. It recruits volunteer lawyers on an as-needed basis.

Children First is active in policy advocacy on behalf of children at the state and local level as well as litigating major issues requiring systemic change. Two such impact cases are a statewide class action on therapeutic services for children in state custody and a statewide education adequacy lawsuit. Children First also develops and delivers specialized trainings and materials

for lawyers, guardians ad litem, social workers, educators and doctors, and provides technical assistance and case consultation on cases referred by lawyers.

***CENTER ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW***

P.O. Box 117626

Gainesville, FL 32611

Telephone: (352) 273-0800 or (352)273-0613

Fax: 352.392.2606

Website: [www.law.ufl.edu/centers/juvenile](http://www.law.ufl.edu/centers/juvenile)

100% Children's Law

The mission of the Center on Children and Families is to promote the highest quality of advocacy, teaching and scholarship in the areas of child & family law and policy.

The Center's goals are: 1) to promote quality scholarship on issues of importance to children and their families; 2) train a new generation of advocates for children and their families; 3) educate children about their rights and responsibilities in a free society; and 4) promote interdisciplinary and child-centered methods for studying systems serving children and their families.

***GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM***

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

100 E. Robinson St.

Orlando, FL 32801

Telephone: (407) 841-8310 x3136

Fax: (407) 648-9240

Email: [info@legalaidocba.org](mailto:info@legalaidocba.org)

Website: [www.legalaidocba.org](http://www.legalaidocba.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Legal Aid Society was begun in the early 1960's as a volunteer organization and created by attorneys who were members of the Orange County Bar Association. The volunteer attorneys agreed to take referrals in civil and criminal cases for local residents who could not afford an attorney. In 1967, the organization was formally incorporated in Florida as a not for profit under the name of Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Inc. It hired its first director and full time staff and offered free civil legal services. Currently, Legal Aid employs about 45 staff including 18 attorneys and coordinates the contributions of time and money from over 3000 volunteers both attorneys and non-attorneys.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER**  
**BARRY UNIVERSITY, DWAYNE O. ANDREAS SCHOOL OF LAW**

2169 North Forsyth Road  
Orlando, FL 32807  
Telephone: (407) 681-5411  
Fax: (407) 681-5412  
Website: <http://www.barry.edu/JJC/>

100% Children's Law

The Juvenile Justice Center started in 2007 with a grant from the Eckerd Family Foundation. The Center trains lawyers and law students to represent children in Florida's juvenile delinquency system. The Center emphasizes improving the quality of representation of children in the delinquency system; lasting positive impacts in legislation; and a vision that juvenile delinquency representation is a specialized discipline. The Center provides training and technical assistance to attorneys who represent children in delinquency proceedings as well as to judges and probation officers throughout Florida. The Center also provides consulting services and other resources to public defender offices in Florida.

**LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN AMERICA, INC.**

c/o Steel, Hector & Davis  
200 S. Biscayne Blvd., Ste. 4000  
Miami, FL 33131  
Telephone: (305) 577-4771  
Fax: (305) 577-7001  
Email: [FL@lawyersforchildrenamerica.org](mailto:FL@lawyersforchildrenamerica.org)  
Website: [www.lawyersforchildrenamerica.org](http://www.lawyersforchildrenamerica.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Lawyers for Children America, Inc. is a non-profit organization that began as a pilot in Hartford, Connecticut to address the issue of youth and violence. Lawyers for Children America seeks to engage the private bar in pro bono work on behalf of children and youth.

Lawyers for Children America trains and provides ongoing support to attorneys who have committed themselves to providing pro bono representation to children in the abuse and neglect system. These attorneys serve as legal advocates, ensuring that necessary services are accessed for the child and family, minimizing the upheaval and trauma typically associated with foster care, and working toward finding a safe and permanent home for the child. The ongoing training and support that Lawyers for Children America provides enables volunteer attorneys to address the multiple needs of children such as medical and dental, special education, emotional and enrichment in a comprehensive manner.



***L. DAVID SHEAR CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF  
BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.***

100 E. Madison St., Ste. 301

Tampa, FL 33602

Telephone: 813.227.9050

Fax: 813.227.9070

Website: <https://www.bals.org/special-programs/l-david-shear-childrens-law-center>

Bay Area Legal Services established The L. David Shear Children's Law Center (CLC) in 2006, to provide legal representation to children in the Hillsborough County foster care system. The CLC is named after BALS supporter, attorney L. David Shear, in recognition of his significant contributions to our community and BALS. CLC attorneys receive referrals from various government and social services agencies and are appointed by judges to represent foster children from birth through five years old (and their older siblings). The primary goal of the CLC is to reduce the time that children spend in the foster care system, whether they return to homes that have become stable and safe; they are adopted by loving adoptive parents; or they are given permanent guardians.

The CLC is funded by The Florida Bar Foundation, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, private donations and the Hillsborough County Bar Foundation.

***PUT SOMETHING BACK***

123 NW First Ave.

Miami, FL 33128

Telephone: (305) 579-5733

Fax: (305) 372-7693

Website: <http://www.jud11.flcourts.org/SCSingle.aspx?pid=212>

10% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Put Something Back ("PSB") is a joint pro bono project of the Dade County Bar Association and the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. PSB acts as an umbrella agency for referrals to legal service providers and as a clearinghouse for lawyers who want to volunteer. Through partnerships with other agencies, PSB volunteers are able to serve as guardians ad litem in contested family law custody cases, abuse and neglect cases, and in domestic violence proceedings. Volunteers also assist teen clients in their transition to adulthood and review proposed settlements on behalf of children. Volunteers also assist with intake and act as mentors and co-counsel. Trainings for volunteers are offered on monthly basis and continuing legal education is provided.

Cases are referred from juvenile court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, clients themselves and other attorneys. Calls from children and the public seeking legal information are accepted during normal business hours.

PSB has two manuals available for distribution, "A Child's GAL in Custody Cases" and "Children: The Silent Victims of Domestic Violence."

## GEORGIA

### ***ATLANTA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOUNDATION***

235 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 1750

Atlanta, GA 30303

Telephone: (404) 521-0790

Fax: (404) 521-3434

Email: [info@avlf.org](mailto:info@avlf.org)

Website: [www.avlf.org](http://www.avlf.org)

15% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) was established as an independent non-profit organization in 1979 through an initiative of a local bar association. In the **Guardian ad Litem Program**, pro bono attorneys represent the best interest of children whose parents are disputing custody in Fulton Superior Court in Atlanta. The **One Child, One Lawyer Program** provides representation to children whose parents are in the drug court system. Such children are generally removed from their homes, and AVLF provides attorneys ad litem to represent the best interest of the children throughout the entirety of their legal case. The Program trains volunteers and provides ongoing support, including case consultation and continuing education seminars. The **Advocacy in Education Program** educates the public about the educational rights of children with special needs, and provides legal counsel for the direct representation of qualified families who are concerned that their child may not be receiving the special education that is demanded by law. Pro bono attorneys also represent teenage girls in Juvenile Courts through referrals from Planned Parenthood.

Clients are referred to AVLF through the courts, social service agencies, other attorneys and former clients. Volunteer attorneys are actively recruited through the local bar, law firms, law

schools and seminars to represent children. Volunteers work independently, reporting progress and results to the staff in writing, and call for back up assistance when needed. The two staff attorneys are assisted by one paralegal, two support staff, and law students.

### ***HEALTH LAW PARTNERSHIP***

Children's Healthcare at Scottish Rite

993-C Johnson Ferry Rd., Ste. 245

Atlanta, GA 30342

Telephone: (404) 705-0000

Fax: (404) 705-0010

Email: [babeier@atlantalegalaid.org](mailto:babeier@atlantalegalaid.org)

Website: [www.healthlawpartnership.org](http://www.healthlawpartnership.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Georgia State University College of Law, together with partners Atlanta Legal Aid Society and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, created the Health Law Partnership (HeLP) in 2004 to improve the health and social well-being of low-income children and their families in Georgia. One of HeLP's underlying premises is that by combining the health care expertise of hospital professionals with the legal expertise of attorneys, HeLP can provide a more holistic set of services to address the multiple determinants of children's health.

HeLP provides on-site legal services through three offices located at hospitals operated by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The HeLP Legal Services Clinic is a live-client clinic located at Georgia State University's College of Law. Law and health care graduate students participate in the Clinic for course credit, and work under close attorney supervision. The clinic explores federal and state laws and policies that can affect children's health and well being, such as public benefits, income support, health insurance, family law, employment, housing, and education.

In addition to direct legal services, HeLP works to strengthen the long-term effectiveness of the legal services component by training law and health care professionals to understand and address the social needs and legal rights of low-income children and their families. HeLP provides an interdisciplinary in-service educational program about the legal, ethical, and policy issues that affect children's health and well-being. This program includes in-service training and education for health care professionals at Children's, Children's social work staff, volunteer attorneys who work with HeLP, and medical residents and students in training at Children's. These presentations cover topics such as family law, housing law, public benefits, and special education. In addition to providing representation to children, volunteer attorneys provide research on substantive legal issues and prepare and present education seminars for health providers on matters of law affecting health and well-being of children.

HeLP advocacy efforts focus on work at the legislative, policy-making, and government agency levels on issues such as Medicaid, Georgia's S-CHIP program (PeachCare for Kids), health insurance coverage issues, and other changes in law and regulations designed to improve the overall health and well-being of children.

## ***IMMIGRANT JUVENILE PROGRAM***

CATHOLIC CHARITIES - ATLANTA

680 W. Peachtree St. NW

Atlanta, GA 30308

Telephone: (404)881-6571

Fax: (404) 885-7210

Website: <http://www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org/services/immigration-legal-services/>

10% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

This program represents children detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in their immigration proceedings before an Immigration Judge. The Project also trains and educates area courts, DFCS case workers, CASA's, and other service providers on what relief is available to children found in this country without proper documentation. The office is staffed by two full-time attorneys, one part-time attorney, two paralegals and two volunteers, who receive case referrals from social service agencies, ICE, and Family and Children Services. Volunteer attorneys are trained as needed to handle approximately one case per year, and cases are monitored through self reporting and staff phone calls. Additionally volunteer lawyers handle appeals and staff a clinic. Law students and other volunteer professionals are utilized as well.

## ***TEAMCHILD ATLANTA***

ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY, INC.

151 Spring St., NW

Atlanta, GA 30303

Telephone: (404) 614-3955 or (404) 524-5811

Fax: (404) 614-3977

Website: [www.atlantalegalaid.org](http://www.atlantalegalaid.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

TeamChild Atlanta began in September 2001 at Atlanta Legal Aid with an Equal Justice Works Fellowship. The project serves children who have an active delinquency, dependency or status offense case at the Fulton County Juvenile Court. Team Child Atlanta works in partnership with the child, the child's family, the probation officer and the attorney representing the child in the active case to identify the underlying needs that led to court involvement, and advocates (and litigates if necessary) on the child's behalf to ensure that these needs are met. One full time and one part time attorney work with volunteer attorneys to handle approximately 80 cases a year.

Aside from handling cases, volunteer attorneys assist in trial preparation and case investigation. The office also utilizes volunteer law students and other professionals. Trainings for volunteers are provided as needed. To volunteer contact the project director. The office does accept calls

from the public and from children seeking legal information. Clients are referred from juvenile court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, clients themselves or other attorneys.

## **HAWAII**

### ***MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN IN HAWAII***

2515 Dole Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Phone: (808) 688-3313

Website: <http://www.mlpchawaii.org>

The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i (MLPC) is a Collaboration between the [William S. Richardson School of Law \(University of Hawai'i at Mānoa\)](#) and [Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services](#), a community health center. The partnership, which began in 2009, seeks to address and improve the social determinants of health that impact child and family well-being.

MLPC lawyers and doctors have worked on-site at KKV health center to provide direct legal services to families. MLPC attorneys and law students often meet with families right in the exam rooms, while children wait for their vaccinations and booster shots. MLPC has reached hundreds more through "Know Your Rights" outreach and educational workshops.

MLPC also partners with the communities we serve to identify and address systemic advocacy and health policy issues. This includes working with the Micronesian community to advocate for access to federally-funded healthcare and collaborating with immigrant families, civil rights attorneys, and other advocates to ensure language access rights. The project also trains UH Law and other graduate students in this model of direct service and public health policy issues, developing a robust curriculum alongside other UH Schools and Departments.

### ***HAWAI'I APPLESEED CENTER***

P.O. Box 37952

Honolulu, Hawaii 96837

Telephone: (808) 587-7605  
Email: [lej@hiappleseed.org](mailto:lej@hiappleseed.org)  
Website: <http://hiappleseed.org/home>

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice was created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance and to complement the assistance provided by existing legal service providers in the state. The Center works on education issues, including access to education and assisting English language learners, and on foster care issues, including adequacy of foster care payments.

## **IDAHO – NO PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED**

## **ILLINOIS**

### ***AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF ILLINOIS***

180 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 2300  
Chicago, IL 60601-7401  
Telephone: (312) 201-9740  
Fax: (312) 201-9760  
E-Mail: [acluofillinois@aclu-il.org](mailto:acluofillinois@aclu-il.org)  
Website: [www.aclu-il.org](http://www.aclu-il.org)

15% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The ACLU of Illinois uses class actions for impact litigation involving children's issues. Approximately 15% of the yearly case load is children's law cases. Currently there are several large class actions pending which concern children's law issues. Clients have been referred by the courts, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals and other attorneys. Volunteer lawyers, mainly found through personal contacts by staff members, team with the staff of eleven attorneys and work on impact cases involving the foster care system, state institutions for children, and other issues involving children's rights. Volunteer lawyers are trained on an as-needed basis. The ACLU uses social workers, health care professionals and psychologists to assist in case preparation.

### ***CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES FOUNDATION***

100 N. LaSalle St., Ste. 900  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Telephone: (312) 332-1624  
Fax: (312) 332-1460  
Website: [www.cvl.org](http://www.cvl.org)

6% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Established in 1964, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation is the nation's oldest, largest and most cost-effective provider of pro bono services to individuals. In 2004, over 1,800 volunteers handled 15,079 cases. CVLS volunteers help clients with non-fee generating, everyday civil cases including bankruptcy, family law, consumer fraud, minor and adult disabled guardianships, immigration, tort defense, wills, mortgage foreclosures and landlord-tenant matters. Additionally, CVLS is appointed to serve as Guardians Ad Litem (GAL) in contested or problematic minor guardianship cases in the Cook County Circuit Court Probate Division. GALs investigate the parties and the issues and make written reports to the court that includes a recommendation as to the child's best interests. CVLS' staff works one-on-one with interested volunteers and provides comprehensive training materials. Clients are referred by the courts, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, attorneys and other legal aid programs. We accept calls from the public and from children seeking legal information during business hours. The Foundation handles approximately 600 children's law cases a year.

***CHILDREN & FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF LAW***

357 E. Chicago Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611-3069  
Telephone: (312) 503-8576  
Fax: (312) 503-8977  
Website: [www.law.northwestern.edu/cfjc](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/cfjc)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC), a comprehensive clinical children's law program, promotes justice for children, adolescents and their families through legal representation, policy advocacy and law reform. As part of Northwestern University School of Law's Bluhm Legal Clinic, CFJC faculty, staff, and students work with young people and families in matters relating to delinquency and crime, the collateral consequences of criminal convictions, school discipline, immigration/asylum, and fair sentencing practices. The CFJC also collaborates with community members, government entities and other advocacy organizations to develop fair and effective strategies for systems reform.

***LAF (FORMERLY LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO)***

120 S. LaSalle Street, Ste. 900  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Telephone: (312) 341-1070  
Fax: (312) 341-1041  
Website: [www.lafchicago.org](http://www.lafchicago.org)

## 100% Children's Law Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

LAF provides comprehensive free legal services to resolve non-criminal issues. LAF serves individuals living in poverty within metropolitan Chicago and Cook County. Each year, LAF's more than 80 full-time attorneys and staff help resolve civil legal problems, including domestic violence, consumer fraud, and unfair evictions. Their work impacts about 55,000 people each year. LAF relies on private donations to fulfill its mission.

The Children and Families Practice Group at LAF focuses its efforts on cases where personal safety and financial stability are at risk. The following lists the range of child and family law matters where LAF provides legal assistance:

- Orders of protection for people experiencing domestic violence
- Custody and divorce involving domestic violence or child endangerment
- Divorce when a family home is at risk of foreclosure or there is a substantial financial disparity between the spouses
- DCFS investigations of parents or other caregivers
- Special education and school discipline.
- Elder abuse, including financial exploitation.
- Expungement of juvenile criminal records.

Clients are referred by the courts, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, attorneys and other legal aid programs. LAF accepts calls from the public seeking legal information during business hours.

LAF offers three projects specific to child and family law which rely on volunteer support:

- **Education Law Pro Bono Project:** LAF's Education Law Pro Bono Project mobilizes volunteer attorneys to represent students in special education (e.g., seeking or modifying services, school placement) and school discipline matters. Volunteers receive valuable litigation and mini-trial experience in administrative proceedings and work under the direction of an experienced LAF Staff Attorney, who is available to answer questions and provide ongoing support. Time commitment varies depending on the type of case. Volunteers must have prior experience in education law or complete a required three hour Education Advocacy Pro Bono Training.
- **Order of Protection Litigation Project:** Through this project, LAF represents survivors of domestic violence in obtaining Plenary Orders of Protection against their abusers. All cases are pre-screened and referred to the project by a domestic violence agency and litigated at a suburban Chicago courthouse. Training is online. LAF provides support to attorneys who sign up to take cases. Cases typically take between 3-9 weeks to complete and require 1 or 2 court appearances. No prior litigation or domestic violence experience is required.
- **Juvenile Expungement Clinics:** Join LAF in helping high school students clear their



juvenile records and erase potential barriers to future education and employment! LAF seeks pro bono attorneys to assist at school-based juvenile expungement clinics. Volunteering at a clinic involves one hour on-site volunteer attorney training, with CLE credit and 2-4 hours of meetings with students to help them fill out petitions for expungement. After the clinic, LAF files the petitions and appears in court on the students' behalf. No experience with expungement law is required.

***EDWIN F. MANDEL LEGAL AID CLINIC  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL***

6020 South University Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637

Telephone: (773) 702-9611

Fax: (773) 702-2063

Website: [www.law.uchicago.edu/mandel](http://www.law.uchicago.edu/mandel)

25% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic offers a variety of services to the community including representation of children through the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project. The Clinic opened in 1957 and is staffed with eight attorneys and one paralegal. The Project, established in 1992, is focused on providing legal representation to children accused of criminal and delinquent behavior subject to transfer from juvenile to adult criminal court. Training is provided to law students as part of the law school curriculum and students are teamed with staff attorneys to assist clients referred from Juvenile Court, the Public Defender's Office and other attorneys. Social work students assist the law students and staff in preparation of their cases.

***THE FAMILY DEFENSE CENTER***

70 E. Lake Street, Ste 1100

Chicago, IL 60601

Telephone: (312) 251-9800

Fax: (312) 251-9801

Email: [fdc@familydefensecenter.org](mailto:fdc@familydefensecenter.org)

Website: <http://www.familydefensecenter.net/>

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Family Defense Center is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advocate justice for

families in the child welfare system. They advocate for families who need help the most: families threatened with losing their children to foster care. Nothing is more painful for a child than to be taken from the only parents he or she knows. Yet, child protection systems throughout America frequently remove children from parents as a first resort, not a last resort. Many parents lose custody of their children to state foster care systems primarily because they are poor or because they are victims of abuse themselves. Far too many children in foster care bounce from home to home and are separated from siblings. Any family can be the victim of a false, harassing, or misguided Hotline call.

The Family Defense Center is a legal advocacy organization that provides direct representation, high-level systemic advocacy, and grassroots activities for families treated unfairly by state child protection agencies

***LOYOLA CIVITAS CHILDLAW CLINIC  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO***

25 E. Pearson Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

Telephone: (312) 915-6481

Fax: (312) 915-7201

Website: [http://www.luc.edu/law/academics/special/clinic/child\\_family.html](http://www.luc.edu/law/academics/special/clinic/child_family.html)

100% Children's Law

The Clinic is an outgrowth of the Loyola Childlaw Program, a program that offers degree programs for legal and nonlegal professionals who seek a specialized understanding of the law in order to better serve the needs of children and families. The Clinic began in 1996. There are two staff attorneys and approximately 14 to 18 students participate in the Clinic each semester. The Clinic handles approximately 50 cases each year. Clients are referred from Juvenile Court and other attorneys in the fields of abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency and contested child custody matters.

The Childlaw Program covers a wide variety of classes in children's law, including Children and the Law, ChildLaw Policy, Legislative Advocacy for Children and Adolescence and the Law. Loyola also offers a Masters of Laws (L.L.M.) in Childlaw degree and a Masters in Jurisprudence (M.J.) Degree in children's law for nonlegal professionals.

***NATIONAL IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER***

HEARTLAND ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN NEEDS & HUMAN RIGHTS

208 S. La Salle St., Ste. 1818

Chicago, IL 60604

Telephone: (312) 660-1370

Fax: (312) 660-1505

Website: [www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org)

## Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The National Immigrant Justice Center, a program of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, provides direct legal services to and advocates for low-income and impoverished immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The Center provides legal services to more than 7,500 individuals each year and maintains a success rate of 90 percent in obtaining asylum for those fleeing persecution in their home countries.

The Center's Children's Project employs a Managing Attorney, Staff Attorney and Paralegal who recruit, train and mentor pro bono attorneys who represent unaccompanied children. The Center utilizes pro bono attorneys to represent individuals in immigration cases. Pro bono attorneys primarily come from pro bono programs at private law firms. Attorneys receive training specific to the type of immigration case they will work on. Attorneys can also be involved through policy advocacy efforts and impact litigation.

### ***OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN OF COOK COUNTY***

2245 W. Odgen, 4th Floor

Chicago, IL 60612

Telephone: (312) 433-4300

Fax: (312) 433-5129

Website: [www.publicguardian.org](http://www.publicguardian.org)

98% Children's Law (Juvenile Division)

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Approximately 38,000 children's law cases a year are handled by the Office of the Public Guardian of Cook County. In the Juvenile Division, attorneys act as attorneys and guardians ad litem for virtually all abused and neglected children in Cook County. The office represents these children as soon as their parents are brought to court on charges of either abuse or neglect. A staff of 130 is supplemented with social workers, health care professions and volunteer attorneys at the office who always work under the supervision of staff lawyers. Clients are referred through the Juvenile Court and Domestic Relations Court.

## **INDIANA**

### ***KIDS' VOICE OF INDIANA***

9150 Harrison Park Ct., Ste. C

Indianapolis, IN 46216

Telephone: (317) 558-2870 ext. 100

Fax: (317) 558-2945

Email: [info@kidsvoicein.org](mailto:info@kidsvoicein.org)

Website: [www.kidsvoicein.org](http://www.kidsvoicein.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Kids' Voice of Indiana manages and oversees three key programs vital to child protection and law: Derelle Watson-Duvall Children's Law Center of Indiana, Bette J. Dick GAL for Kids, and Supervised Parent-Child Visitation. The **Derelle Watson-Duvall Children's Law Center of Indiana** is a resource center for Indiana attorneys and other professionals. The primary objectives of the Center are the training and education of professionals who serve children. The Center does not provide direct legal representation for children or adults. The Center promotes multidisciplinary excellence in children's law by providing education and training, legal assistance and resources, and best practice and policy recommendations.

The **Bette J. Dick GAL for Kids** provides guardian ad litem (GAL) services for children using trained, supervised, represented community volunteers and pro bono attorneys. The program is appointed to represent and protect the best interest of the children by judicial officers of the Marion Superior Courts, Civil Division and Probate Division and the Marion Circuit Court, Paternity Division. Clients are referred from juvenile court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, other attorneys and clients themselves. The office does accept calls from the public seeking legal information. The program provides training for lay volunteers, and volunteer attorneys. Volunteer attorneys receive written materials and can attend training sessions, though it is not required. Volunteer attorneys who serve as GALs can also attend a free CLE seminar.

### ***PRO BONO PROGRAM***

INDIANA LEGAL SERVICES

3303 Plaza Drive, Ste. 5

New Albany, IN 47150

Telephone: (812) 945-4123

Fax: (812) 945-7290

Website: [www.indianajustice.org](http://www.indianajustice.org)

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Pro Bono Program began as a joint effort by Indiana Legal Services Inc. and local bar associations in 1994. Clients are referred from social services agencies, health care professionals and other attorneys. Approximately 120 volunteer attorneys are recruited through a local bar association, local law firms and the courts, and handle roughly 80 cases a year.

### ***VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW CLINIC***

501 Freeman Street

Heritage Hall

Valparaiso, IN 46383

Telephone: (219) 465-7903

Fax: (219) 465-7897

Website: [www.valpo.edu/law/clinic](http://www.valpo.edu/law/clinic)

## Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Valparaiso University Law School Clinic provides training to 55-60 law students each year as part of the law school curriculum. Students receive academic credit for their participation in the clinic which handles approximately 700 cases per year. Students in the **Civil Clinic** represent clients in all areas of family law including adoption, guardianship, divorce, child support and visitation. Students in the **Juvenile Clinic** are appointed to serve as guardian ad litem for children who have been abused and neglected and children involved in custody and visitation issues in guardianship, paternity and adoption cases. Students also serve as public defenders for children in delinquency cases.

### ***VIOLA J. TALIAFERRO FAMILY AND CHILDREN MEDIATION CLINIC INDIANA UNIVERSITY MAURER SCHOOL OF LAW***

211 S. Indiana Ave.

Bloomington, IN 47405

Telephone: (812) 855-9229

Fax: (812) 855-5128

Website: <http://www.law.indiana.edu/students/clinic/family.shtml>

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Viola J. Taliaferro Family and Children Mediation Clinic trains law students to mediate disputes involving families with children, such as custody, parenting time, child support, and related disputes between parents in family law cases. The Clinic benefits from a training and research collaboration with the University's Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. The interdisciplinary nature of the Clinic is intended to improve the mediation process for families that mediate and to assist families in focusing on and reaching agreements that best meet their children's needs.

16 students participate in the clinic every year and become fully trained and registered domestic relations mediators in Indiana, with experience mediating between five and eight cases over the course of the semester. Most cases involve custody, parenting time, child support, and related disputes between families or guardians.

## **IOWA**

### ***KIDS FIRST LAW CENTER***

420 6th St. SE Suite 160

Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Telephone: (319) 365-5437

Fax: (319) 366-3308

Website: [www.kidsfirstiowa.org](http://www.kidsfirstiowa.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Kids First Law Center began in January, 2005. Currently three attorneys each represent 40 to 50 children a year in high-conflict family law cases. Kids First court-appointed attorneys represent children in Linn, Johnson, Iowa, Benton, Jones, or Cedar County. Cases are received from social service agencies, schools, other attorneys, or family law court. Approximately 30 private attorneys in Linn County currently provide pro bono representation through Kids First. The offices utilizes volunteer law students to handle administrative work, research, memos, interviews with parents and briefs. The Center also trains volunteers to help facilitate workshops for children of divorcing parents.

***MIDDLETON CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS  
DRAKE LAW SCHOOL***

2621 Carpenter Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50311

Telephone: (515) 271-3851

Fax: (515) 271-4000

Website: [www.law.drake.edu/centers/middleton](http://www.law.drake.edu/centers/middleton)

100% Children's Law

The Joan and Lyle Middleton Center for Children's Rights began in 2001. The Center has four components: legal services, multidisciplinary training, public information and public policy formation. The Children's Rights Clinic employs one staff attorney who supervises 10 student attorneys to handle approximately 80 cases a year. The clinic is an interdisciplinary clinical education program in which representation teams are comprised of student attorneys licensed to practice law under a provisional license rule, a practicum graduate student in social work from one of the major state universities, graduate students in special education or counseling students from Drake's Graduate School of Education. This enables the clinic to provide a holistic approach to case management and provision of services to children in abuse and neglect cases. The clinic employs an in-house social worker as well. The clinic does accept calls from children and the public seeking legal information.

In addition to the Clinic, the Middleton Center trains attorneys, judges, teachers, social workers and other professionals working in the juvenile justice system. The program provides not only instruction in relevant law and legislation for non-lawyers, but also the latest medical and social research on child abuse for lawyers and judges. Beginning in 2003, the Center works to improve laws pertaining to children. Law School students identify issues, draft legislation and work with lobbyists to pass the legislation.

***YOUTH LAW CENTER***

300 Walnut St., Ste. 295

Des Moines, IA 50309

Telephone: (515) 244-1172  
(800) 728-1172  
Fax: (515) 244-4370  
Email: [info@youthlawcenter.org](mailto:info@youthlawcenter.org)  
Website: [www.youthlawcenter.org](http://www.youthlawcenter.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Youth Law Center was founded in 1978 to provide legal representation to children in a wide range of issues. The Center is a full-service nonprofit law office for children, combining the skills of specially trained and experienced attorneys and caseworkers to help victimized and troubled children. Clients are referred from Juvenile Court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals and other attorneys. Volunteer lawyers are recruited through local bar associations and law schools. Training is offered to law students. The Center also operates a state-wide toll-free hotline for youth law issues and a list serve for child advocates. The Center also works on state legislative issues affecting children.

## **KANSAS**

### ***CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW CENTER WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW***

1700 SW College Ave.

Topeka, KS 66621

Telephone: (785) 670-1838

Fax: (785) 231-1037

Website: [www.washburnlaw.edu/centers/children](http://www.washburnlaw.edu/centers/children)

100% Children's Law

The primary mission of the Washburn University School of Law's Children and Family Law Center is to prepare Washburn law students to become advocates and creative problem solvers for children and families. Policy issues addressed by the Center include welfare reform and protection of children in state care and in custody cases. A few family law cases are handled each year by law students in partnership with faculty members and practicing lawyers. The Center also sponsors lectures, symposia, workshops and CLE programs. The School of Law offers several courses regarding children's law including Family Law, Children and the Law and Domestic Violence. Students can receive a certificate in Family Law. In addition to the traditional classes, the Center offers students training in crucial skills such as counseling, negotiation, mediation, interdisciplinary research and advocacy.

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW UNIT KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES***

712 S. Kansas Ave., Ste. 200  
Topeka, KS 66603  
Telephone: (785) 233-2068  
Fax: (785) 354-8311  
Website: [www.kansaslegalservices.org](http://www.kansaslegalservices.org)

The Children's Law Unit was founded as a part of Kansas Legal Services. The Unit represents children in delinquency, family law custody disputes, dependency and termination of parental rights cases. Kansas Legal Services also runs several programs that support legal representation of children.

The **Children's Advocacy Resource Center** is a resource for guardians ad litem, social workers, judges and child advocates. The Center publishes several newsletters each year, which can be online. The **Foster Care Helpline** provides free legal advice, legal representation and referral services to children in foster care and their foster families. Areas of assistance include: disability, special education, mental and medical health referrals, education decisions, emancipation/independent living, adoption and other issues related to foster care.

Funded by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the Office of Judicial Administration, the **Child Welfare Mediation Project** provides mediation services to resolve child welfare matters in a manner that is less divisive and time consuming than traditional court proceedings. Child welfare meditations are currently available in Sumner County, Wichita and Topeka.

## **KENTUCKY**

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER***

1002 Russell Street  
Covington, KY 41011  
Telephone: (859) 431-3313  
Fax: (859) 655-7553  
Email: [childrenslaw@fuse.net](mailto:childrenslaw@fuse.net)  
Website: [www.childrenslawky.org](http://www.childrenslawky.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Since its start in 1989, the Children's Law Center has provided legal representation for children in Kentucky in a wide variety of children's law categories. Clients are referred from the courts, schools, health care professionals and other attorneys. Volunteers are recruited through the local bar and law schools.

The Children's Law Center works with law students from Salmon P. Chase College of Law of Northern Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky Law School, and the University of Cincinnati Law School on fellowships and externships. Social work and criminal justice students



from Northern Kentucky University, University of Cincinnati, and Xavier University also are involved with the Center.

Pro bono attorneys work independently, with information and back up provided by the two staff attorneys. Training and written materials are provided on an as-needed basis. CLE credit is available. The Center has brought impact litigation challenging the confinement of children in adult jails and for failure to provide counsel for children who have been committed.

### ***TEAMCHILD***

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

416 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd., Ste. 300

Louisville, KY 40202

Telephone: (502) 584-1254

Fax: (502) 584-8014

Website: [www.laslou.org](http://www.laslou.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

TeamChild is a collaboration with the Jefferson County Public Defender that began in 1999. The Public Defender represents youths in delinquency court while the Legal Aid Society staff accesses services for these clients such as the proper educational placement. These services may address the underlying causes of their delinquency and prevent the need for institutionalization. One staff attorney and one child development specialist handle approximately 50 to 100 cases a year. TeamChild does accept calls from the public and from children who are seeking legal information, however all clients are referred from the public defender.

## **LOUISIANA**

***JUVENILE LITIGATION CLINIC***

***TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL***

6329 Freret St., Ste. 130

New Orleans, LA 70118

Telephone: (504) 865-5153

Fax: (504) 862-8753

Website: [www.law.tulane.edu/tlsAcademicPrograms/index.aspx?id=4184](http://www.law.tulane.edu/tlsAcademicPrograms/index.aspx?id=4184)

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Tulane Juvenile Law Clinic is one of seven clinics run by the Tulane University School of Law. Begun in 1980, the Clinic handles up to about 50 children's law cases each year. 10 law students litigate delinquency and dependency (or abuse and neglect cases) in the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court system. They are supervised by one supervising attorney. Other professionals such as health care professionals, psychologists and psychiatrists are employed by the Clinic on a case by case basis. Clients, which include parents, are referred to the Clinic by the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. The Clinic handles impact litigation. In one recent case, the state was ordered to devise a case plan to be implemented statewide for children suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome or effect.

***LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL CLINIC  
STUART H. SMITH LAW CLINIC AND CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE***

7214 St. Charles Ave.

Campus Box 902

New Orleans, LA 70118

Telephone: (504) 861-5590

Fax: (504) 861-5440

Website: <http://www.loyno.edu/lawclinic/law-clinic>

20% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

Clinic students have conducted litigation resulting in fundamental changes in adoption and child in need of care laws in Louisiana. Students are appointed to protect the rights of children and parents in the juvenile justice system. In abuse and neglect cases or delinquency cases, students provide vigorous advocacy at all levels of the judicial system, including the Louisiana Supreme Court.

***CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE UNIT  
ACADIANA LEGAL SERVICES***

1020 Surrey Street

Lafayette, LA

Telephone: (337) 237-4320

E-Mail: [alscalaf@la-law.org](mailto:alscalaf@la-law.org)

Website: <http://la-law.org/>

100% Children's Law (Children in Need of Care Unit)

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Acadiana Legal Services represents children in Children in Need of Care, Families in Need of Supervision, Parental Rights Termination, and Child Abuse and Neglect Cases. The office also handles special education cases as well as school disciplinary proceedings.

## ***JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECT OF LOUISIANA***

1600 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard

New Orleans, LA 70113

Telephone: (504) 522-5437

Email: [info@jjpl.org](mailto:info@jjpl.org)

Website: <http://jjpl.org/>

The Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana's mission is to transform the state's juvenile justice system into one that builds on the strengths of young people, families, and communities to ensure children are given the greatest opportunities to grow and thrive. JJPL monitors Louisiana secure juvenile facilities, advocates for alternatives to incarceration, improves detention standards, and works to eliminate the zero tolerance system that pushes students out of school and into prisons. JJPL utilizes impact litigation, legislative advocacy and community and youth organizing to achieve its goals.

## **MAINE**

### ***JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM, CUMBERLAND LEGAL AID CLINIC UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW***

246 Deering Ave.

Portland, ME 04102

Telephone: (207) 780-4370

Fax: (207) 780-4541

Website: <http://mainelaw.maine.edu/academics/clinical-programs/juvenile.html>

20% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

This clinic began in September 2006 with a grant from a local foundation. The Program is part of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, in existence since 1969. Currently the Program works with 10 to 15 students a year, and handles about 50 cases. Its goals include effectively educating and training the next generation of juvenile defenders, as well as serving as a resource center for practicing attorneys. Students also work with other legal aid attorneys in the Street Law project, which involves weekly meetings with homeless teens at the Preble Street Teen Center to provide free legal advice and resource referrals.

Aside from the clinic the law school also offers the class Juvenile Defense: Policy and Practice and Juvenile Law. The clinic does accept calls from the public and from children seeking legal information.

### ***KIDS LEGAL AID OF MAINE PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE***

P.O. Box 547  
Portland, ME 04112  
Telephone: (207) 774-8246  
(866) 624-7787  
Fax: (207) 828-2300  
Website: [www.kidslegalaid.org](http://www.kidslegalaid.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

KIDS Legal Aid of Maine, a project at Pine Tree Legal Assistance, officially launched in May 2004, with three staff attorneys and an intake assistant. Clients are referred from juvenile court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, other attorneys and the child him/herself. In addition to general advocacy for low-income children, including education, benefits and housing issues, KIDS currently includes a medical/legal collaboration with a local children's hospital (KIDS Family Advocacy Program) and a "Team Child" initiative focused on tribal children and youth. KIDS Legal Aid of Maine provides: direct representation of children and youth in civil matters (or through their parents), trainings to youth, parents, legal professionals and community providers, consultations to professionals in Maine working with low-income youth, and an annual KIDSLAW conference.

## **MARYLAND**

### ***ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH***

8720 Georgia Avenue, Suite 303  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Telephone: (301) 585-5333  
Website: [www.acy.org](http://www.acy.org)

Advocates for Children and Youth (ACY) works to improve the lives and experiences of Maryland's children through policy change and program improvement. ACY provides advocacy and impact data as well as personalized stories to help tell the story of Maryland's children in a simple way. This information is often used by state agencies, legislators and Maryland advocates.

### ***CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & THE COURTS UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW***

1420 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Telephone: (410) 837-5657  
Fax: (410) 333-3053  
Clinic Website: <http://law.ubalt.edu/template.cfm?page=409>

Center website: <http://law.ubalt.edu/template.cfm?page=531>

50% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

Students in the **Child Advocacy Clinic** represent low-income individuals and community organizations that could not otherwise afford legal representation. The Clinic is focused on both lawyering skills and poverty law. The Clinic has three staff attorneys and 20 to 25 students participate in the Clinic each year. Clients are referred from social service agencies and judges.

Students also work on special projects, including testifying before the General Assembly on legislation that impact Clinic clients and conducting community education presentations at homeless shelters. The law school also offers a Family Law Clinic and Family Mediation Clinic.

**The Center for Families, Children and the Courts** focuses on the development and implementation of family justice system planning and reform initiatives. The Center supports the creation of unified family courts, promotes a therapeutic and holistic approach to family justice issues, and undertakes projects, such as its Truancy Court Program, within Baltimore and beyond. CFCC's Student Fellows Program provides law students with a unique opportunity to experience the cutting edge of family justice system reform.

### ***HOMELESS PERSONS REPRESENTATION PROJECT, INC.***

201 N. Charles Street, Ste 1104  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Telephone: (410) 685-6589  
Website: <http://www.hprplaw.org/>

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

HPRP is Maryland's only legal services and advocacy organization dedicated to eliminating homelessness. HPRP's staff and volunteers provide free legal services, including advice, counsel, education, representation and advocacy, for low-income persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Pursuing [systemic solutions to homelessness](#) is also a critical part of HPRP's work.

### **Homeless Youth Initiative**

The [Homeless Youth Initiative](#) provides outreach, legal representation, and advocacy for and with homeless youth ages 13 to 25 who are unaccompanied by a parent or guardian in Baltimore City. The initiative operates two community-based legal clinics, one at a youth shelter and the other at a youth drop-in center. Legal representation is provided in the areas of public benefits, housing, and expungement of criminal records.

### ***LEGAL AID BUREAU, INC.***

500 E. Lexington St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
Telephone: (410) 539-5340  
Fax: (410) 951-7818  
Website: [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org)

20% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. began in 1981 through a contract with the state, and is now a statewide general civil legal services office. The office represents children in two-thirds of Maryland's jurisdictions. Fifty staff attorneys, 15 paralegals, two child development specialists, and one social worker handle 7,500 to 10,000 children's law cases a year, representing the children as attorneys. The project also utilizes volunteer lawyers, law students and other professionals. Volunteer lawyers handle cases, assist with trainings and provide mentoring. Trainings for volunteers are offered as often as needed.

Legal Aid does accept calls from the public and from children. Cases are referred from juvenile courts, social service agencies, schools and health care professionals. The office has handled impact litigation in the past and currently provides input to ongoing cases.

### ***MARYLAND DISABILITY LAW CENTER***

1500 Union Avenue, Suite 2000  
Baltimore, MD 21211  
Telephone: (410) 727-6352  
Fax: (410) 727-6389  
Website: [www.mdldbaltimore.org](http://www.mdldbaltimore.org)

50% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Established in 1978, the Maryland Disability Law Center handles a number of cases a year involving children with disabilities. The Center is staffed by 13 attorneys and eight paralegals. Clients are referred from the courts, schools, social service agencies, health care professionals and other attorneys. The Center has teamed with the Maryland Bar Association to maintain a panel of pro bono attorneys who are available for special education cases that arise throughout the state. Cases are assigned through the bar association. Pro bono attorneys work independently once they are assigned a case, but back up is available from the staff attorneys. Volunteers report significant case progress in writing or by calling the Center. Training is provided to volunteers on an as-needed basis. Psychologists, psychiatrists, or nurses are sometimes used as consultants on cases. The Center is a Protection and Advocacy office and has brought impact cases, including a class action against a school district in violation of IDEA and a class action involving hospitalization of children and adolescents beyond the recommended discharge date.

## ***PUBLIC JUSTICE CENTER***

1 North Charles Street, Suite 200  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Telephone: (410) 625-9409  
Fax: (410) 625-9423  
Email: [info@publicjustice.org](mailto:info@publicjustice.org)  
Website: [www.publicjustice.org](http://www.publicjustice.org)

25% Children's Law

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a Maryland non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and expanding the legal rights of the under represented. PJC only undertakes impact litigation. In the early 1990s, PJC successfully litigated a case involving the delivery of special education for youth incarcerated in adult prison, as well as a child abuse case that resulted in key reforms in the Baltimore City Department of Social Services.

For more than a decade, PJC has been committed to Children's Rights Law, particularly the rights of homeless children. In 1996, PJC published a report entitled *A Dream Deferred: A Report on Barriers to Education for Homeless Children and Youth*, which focused on Maryland's failure to comply with key provisions of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. This Act required states to remove barriers to educating homeless children. As a result of the PJC's report, the Maryland State Department of Education has issued a comprehensive Action Plan responding to each of PJC's recommendations for remediation.

PJC is co-counsel for the plaintiff class of more than 5,000 foster children in Baltimore City in a class action to enforce a 1988 consent decree on their behalf. In 2009, the parties came to a proposed settlement which would replace the current consent decree with a new compliance and exit plan requiring BCDSS to adequately meet 40 exit standards in the areas of preservation and permanency planning, placement, health care, education and workforce before asking the federal court to terminate the consent decree.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

### ***CENTER FOR LAW AND EDUCATION***

515 Washington St., 3rd Floor  
Boston, MA 02111-1759  
Telephone: (617) 451-0855  
Fax: (617) 451-0857  
Email: [clebos@cleweb.org](mailto:clebos@cleweb.org)

1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 510  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
Telephone: (202) 986-3000  
Fax: (202) 986-6648

Email: [cle@cleweb.org](mailto:cle@cleweb.org)  
Website: [www.cleweb.org](http://www.cleweb.org)

The Center for Law and Education (CLE) strives to make the right of all students to quality education a reality throughout the nation and to help enable communities to address their own public education problems effectively. For the past 25 years, CLE has provided legal service nationwide to parents, students, educators, lawyers, and community organizations. The Center works to improve laws affecting the education of low-income children and to hold local and state educational agencies accountable for the implementation of those laws.

CLE directs three national projects, namely, School Reform/Title I; High School Restructuring/Vocational Education; Educational Rights of Students with Disabilities, and Community Action for Public Schools (CAPS). CLE can help with these topics in a number of ways, including: (1) training of parents, students and community members; (2) assistance to attorneys and advocates representing students and parents; (3) policy analysis and policy drafting; (4) staff development; (5) assistance in dealing with state and federal policy-makers; (6) access to, and assistance in using, out extensive publications on program implementation in these areas (such as our implementation and advocacy guides on Title I, the School-to-Work Opportunities Act, and other programs); (7) access to other resources around the country, including schools, exemplary programs, researchers, and advocates. Some of these services are available to CAPS members, while others may be available through CLE projects, or in some cases on a fee-for-service basis.

Services available from the Center include advice and collaboration on cases, publications, training, federal program advocacy, and litigation. It also handles special, national implementation projects in the areas of Title I/State and Local Education Reform and vocational education/school to work. Other priority areas of the Center are education rights of students with disabilities, early intervention services and early childhood education issues affecting the limited-English proficient student, and educational rights of welfare recipients.

***CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL***

Pound Hall 407  
1563 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Telephone: (617) 496-1684  
Fax: (617) 496-4947  
Website: [www.law.harvard.edu/programs/about/cap/](http://www.law.harvard.edu/programs/about/cap/)

**100% Children's Law**

The Child Advocacy Program (CAP) provides an academic classroom course, a policy workshop, and a clinical course. CAP focuses on child welfare (abuse and neglect, foster care, adoption), education (including special education issues), and juvenile justice. Students are involved with field work through several different organizations in order to secure hands on



experiences. Students in the Clinic are placed with lawyers representing children in individual advocacy contexts, with legal organizations promoting systemic change through impact litigation and legislative reform, with the state care and protective organizations, with early home visitation programs that focus on supporting fragile families, and with other types of organizations.

The **Juvenile Justice Project** within the Criminal Justice Institute also provides representation to juveniles, with a focus on delinquency issues. Juveniles are represented in administrative and school hearings. The Project's four clinical instructors and one social worker work with 20 to 30 students a year to handle 100 cases each year. The Project receives appointments from district court.

### ***CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW PROGRAM***

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES

44 Bromfield

Boston, MA 02108

Telephone: (617) 482-6212

Fax: (617) 988-8455

Website: [www.publiccounsel.net](http://www.publiccounsel.net)

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) was created by the legislature and is funded by the state to provide counsel services throughout the Commonwealth to all indigent parties who are entitled to assigned counsel in Massachusetts. The Children and Family Law Program of CPCS trains and certifies lawyers to represent indigent parents and children in state intervention cases (child abuse and neglect and parental rights termination cases), children in Children in Need of Services (CHINS) cases, and parents and children in any other child custody or guardianship proceeding in which the state or a licensed child custody agency is a party. Representation is provided by a panel of private court appointed attorneys and by staff attorneys in offices located throughout the Commonwealth.

Separate training and certification requirements govern attorneys assigned to represent children in delinquency cases. The Program offers a basic training program which attorneys must attend to obtain certification before accepting assignments. Experienced attorneys provide mentoring and support after training, and regional coordinators provide advice and technical assistance. The Program also monitors completion of continuing education requirements by attorneys so that they can maintain their certification. These continuing education credits are available through programs offered by the Program and relevant programs offered by bar associations and other entities and institutions. The Program also offers a separate, additional, mandatory training that is required for attorneys who wish to be assigned appeals.

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.***

298 Union St.

P.O. Box 710

Lynn, MA 01903  
Telephone: (781) 581-1977  
Fax: (781) 598-9364  
Website: [www.clcm.org](http://www.clcm.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Founded in 1977, the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts provides legal representation to low-income and indigent children who are abused, neglected, runaways or delinquent; children with special education and mental health needs; and children with multiple human service problems. Child development specialists and psychologists are employed in appropriate cases. The Law Center has brought significant lawsuits to enforce special education rights and sibling rights. And, from time to time, the Law Center has filed Amicus Briefs regarding the rights of juveniles in delinquency matters.

The Children's Law Center employs an innovative and comprehensive approach to its child and adolescent services, which combines information and referral assistance, direct representation and statewide training of attorneys, human service providers, educators and youth. The agency seeks to ensure that youth have the legal and social services support they need to complete their education and maintain safe, secure and healthy lives for themselves and their families.

In 1996, the Law Center created the Children's Pro Bono Program in response to the growing number of requests for legal assistance in special education and school exclusion matters that it received from students and families who are unable to afford legal assistance. The Pro Bono Program enables the Law Center to educate the larger legal community about the unmet needs of children and to increase the agency's capacity to serve its child-clients. The Law Center provides volunteer attorneys with substantive and procedural training and appoints each attorney an experienced attorney mentor in order to ensure the highest quality of representation.

***CHILDREN'S LAW SUPPORT PROJECT  
MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN***

25 Kingston St., 2nd Floor  
Boston, MA 02111  
Telephone: (617) 357-8431  
Fax: (617) 357-8438  
Website: [www.massadvocates.org](http://www.massadvocates.org)

Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) began in 1969 as the Task Force on Children out of School, focusing on school suspension and expulsion. In 1992, MAC became part of the network of civil legal aid agencies in Massachusetts, and through that network, began the Children's Law Support Project. The Project's goals are to identify the emerging legal needs of Massachusetts' low income children; provide back-up legal support to legal service agencies around the state; and conduct advocacy at the state level to create system change.

The Project builds and participates in coalitions with legal services and other organizations to meet the needs of low income children as they arise, through collaborative legislative and administrative advocacy, and where necessary complex litigation. MAC coordinates the Education Law Task Force to provide on-going training, information and technical assistance to over 130 lawyers and advocates in the state.

MAC receives calls from about 800 families a year seeking advice, information or representation on concerns related to special education, school exclusions (suspensions or expulsions), the needs of children exposed to family violence, schooling disrupted by homelessness, autism, and MCAS. Currently, the Project is focused on the needs of children affected by domestic violence, disabilities, school suspension and expulsion, and homelessness. However, it retains the flexibility to respond to other issues as they arise.

***DISABILITY LAW CENTER, INC.***

11 Beacon St., Ste. 925

Boston, MA 02108

Telephone: (617) 723-8455

Fax: (617) 723-9125

Website: [mail@dlc-ma.org](mailto:mail@dlc-ma.org)

Website: [www.dlc-ma.org](http://www.dlc-ma.org)

25% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Disability Law Center, Inc. represents disabled children in many aspects of their lives, particularly educational rights of disabled students. The staff of 16 lawyers and two paralegals work with volunteers recruited from local law schools and seminars. Over 50 children's law cases a year are handled by staff and volunteers. Some volunteers work in-house with the staff while others are assigned cases which the volunteer then controls. The staff is always available for support and information. Training is provided on an as-needed basis. The Center also works with social workers, child development specialists, health care professionals and psychologists.

Impact litigation cases handled by the Center include enforcing the provision of ongoing special education services to a child in a residential placement, enforcing the provision of education services in the least restrictive environment, and enforcing the provision of Medicaid funded personal care services to children living at home.

***JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER and  
CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC  
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL***

120 Tremont Street

Boston, MA 02108

Telephone: (617) 305-3200 or 617-573-8000

Fax: (617) 451-2641

Website: [www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/clinical/jjc](http://www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/clinical/jjc)

100% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Suffolk University Juvenile Justice Center (JCC) is guided by the philosophy that comprehensive lawyering is essential to meet the needs of juveniles involved with the courts. The Center is a demonstration model wherein thorough representation by advocates continues through disposition and addresses the legal needs of the child. The Juvenile Defenders Clinic serves the Boston Juvenile Court, South Boston, West Roxbury and Chelsea Juvenile Courts.

The Center handles 500 to 600 delinquency cases annually. Two JJC attorneys supervise Suffolk Law students representing youth in court, as well as provide direct representation to juveniles from arraignment through disposition. Students represent juveniles who are charged with crimes and any ancillary legal matters flowing from the case such as special education and suspension/expulsion; this will include all aspects of the court process commencing with arraignment, bail/detention, pre-trial motions, plea negotiations, trial, disposition and post-dispositional advocacy in the Department of Youth Services, the youth correctional agency in Massachusetts.

In addition to the Juvenile Justice Center, students can represent child clients in other clinics. Students in the **Child Advocacy Clinic** provide legal representation, counseling and advocacy on behalf of children and families in civil proceedings. Most clients are adolescents who are in foster care or who have recently "aged out" of state custody. Typical cases will involve advocating for clients' housing, education, financial, and independent living needs and protecting clients' rights to visit siblings or extended family members. The Clinic focuses on interdisciplinary advocacy, as students learn about the social work, mental health, and medical fields and how to collaborate effectively with professionals from these disciplines. The **Education Advocacy Clinic** provides legal representation to children facing school exclusions to ensure that schools are providing children with all the substantive and procedural due process rights to which they are entitled.

***JUVENILE RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROJECT  
BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL***

885 Centre St.

Newton Centre, MA 02459

Telephone: (617) 552-2530

Fax: (617) 552-2615

Website: [www.bc.edu/jrap](http://www.bc.edu/jrap)

100% Children's Law

The Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project (JRAP) began in 1995 as a grant-funded project to investigate a juvenile prison in Massachusetts. The Project represents youth, with a focus on girls, who are in the delinquency system. Two and one-half staff attorneys, four law students

handle approximately thirty cases a year as attorneys and guardian ad litem. In the past, the clinic has utilized volunteer lawyers and former students as consultants on immigration law issues. Clients are referred to the project through juvenile court, social service agencies, self-referral, schools, health care professionals and other attorneys. The project does accept calls from children, but not from the public, seeking legal information.

Once staff take a young woman's case, they will continue to represent her through the many legal issues that arise over the years until she ages out of the system. In addition to developing a model of comprehensive legal representation, staff focus on policy advocacy relating to young women in the justice system through research and dissemination, public education, and consultation with defense counsel and advocates for girls nationally.

In addition to individual representation, JRAP is involved in ongoing research and policy advocacy aimed at reducing incarceration and supporting youth in their communities. Within its policy agenda, JRAP seeks to develop and model programs for delinquent youth that provide access for youth to a range of social services and promote collaboration across systems.

### ***LEGAL ASSISTANCE CORPORATION OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS***

405 Main St.

Worcester, MA 01608-1735

Telephone: (508) 752-3718

Fax: (508) 752-5918

Website: [www.lacm.org](http://www.lacm.org)

The Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts (LACCM) is a civil legal services program that provides free legal assistance to low-income people. Children's rights is one of its priorities. The program has a Families and Children's Law Unit, staffed by five attorneys and one paralegal, which provides representation in the areas of education, family law issues, and government benefits. Impact litigation brought by the LACCM includes a suit involving the denial of emergency food stamps and a case arguing against inappropriate criteria for temporary absence in AFDC cases.

### ***MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP BOSTON***

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

88 E. Newton St., Vose 5

Boston, MA 02118

Telephone: (617) 414-6393

Fax: (617) 414-3629

Website: [www.mlpboston.org](http://www.mlpboston.org)

Effective July 2012, and pending its pursuit of independent non-profit status, MLP | Boston has become a fiscally sponsored program of Third Sector New England, Inc. ([www.tsne.org](http://www.tsne.org)), an established non-profit that serves as a corporate umbrella for programs advancing the causes of equality and social justice. Like our founding partner BMC, TSNE shares MLP | Boston's core values and we are delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate more closely with that team. With support from 20 private law firms and in-house *pro bono* partners, MLP | Boston provides services at Boston Medical Center (Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Women's Health/Cancer Care), the Primary Care Center at Boston Children's Hospital, and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

MLP | Boston is the Founding Site of the national [MLP Network](#), a network of over 80 medical-legal partnerships across the country, partnered with 280+ health care institutions. In addition to regular contributions to national conferences, publications, and other such technical assistance activities, MLP | Boston actively supports the growing community of MLPs that serve patients in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, New England, and beyond

### ***MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN***

TUFTS MEDICAL CENTER

Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center

755 Washington Street

Boston, MA 02111

Telephone: (617) 636-5000

Fax: (617) 636-4017

Website: [www.floatinghospital.org](http://www.floatinghospital.org)

The Medical Legal Partnership for Children introduces legal advocacy into the clinical setting to address the root causes of such childhood maladies as asthma, injuries, malnutrition and other medical issues that cannot be treated by medicine alone. Advocacy is provided regarding hunger and nutrition, family violence, family court matters, housing and utilities, and special education. In addition to direct services to patients, the Partnership also trains and educates healthcare professionals to identify non-medical sources of poor child health and learn how to access available services. Policy advocacy is also utilized to address programs and policies that impact the health of vulnerable pediatric patients.

### ***NATIONAL CENTER FOR MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP***

Boston Medical Center

88 E. Newton St., Vose 5

Boston, MA 02118

Telephone: (617) 414-7439

Fax: (617) 414-3629

Website: [www.medical-legalpartnership.org](http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org)

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children was founded in 1993 to provide low-income children and their families with legal representation on a host of issues to improve child health

by ensuring that families' basic needs are met. It expanded from Boston Medical Center and since 2006 has provided technical assistance to partnership sites, facilitated the MLP Network, and coordinated national research and policy activities related to preventive law, health disparities, and the social determinants of health. MLPC's National Center officially became the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (NCMLP) in 2009.

The National Center supports the expansion, advancement, and integration of the medical-legal partnership model through: technical assistance and support for partnership sites; sample training materials; leadership and project support for medical-legal partnerships; Annual Medical-Legal Partnership Summit; facilitation of the MLP Network and four Working Groups in core areas of medical-legal partnership; and, coordination of national research and evaluation and policy activities related to preventive law, health disparities, and the social determinants of health.

### ***VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT***

99 Chauncy St., 4th Floor  
Boston, MA 02111  
Telephone: (617) 423-0648  
Fax: (617) 423-0061  
Email: [info@vlpnet.org](mailto:info@vlpnet.org)  
Website: [www.vlpnet.org](http://www.vlpnet.org)

10% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

In 1978 Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) began as a project of the Boston Bar Association, but has now become a separate nonprofit organization that is staffed by eight attorneys and two paralegals. VLP recruits volunteer attorneys and law students through local bar associations, law firms and law schools as well as by offering free trainings. VLP utilizes 600 volunteer attorneys to handle 450 cases a year in a variety of legal matters for low income, U.S. citizens who are Boston area residents.

In the areas of children's law, VLP recruits and trains pro bono attorneys to represent children in SSI matters and to represent relatives or friends raising children who wish to formalize their arrangement through guardianship or adoption. These volunteer lawyers are mentored by the staff or by experienced pro bono attorneys.

### ***YOUTH ADVOCACY DIVISION***

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES  
7 Palmer Street, Suite 302  
Roxbury, MA 02119-1776  
Telephone: 617.445.7581  
Fax: 617.445.7587  
Website: <http://youthadvocacydepartment.org/>

100% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

For 20 years the Youth Advocacy Project's (YAP) mission has been to help Boston's neediest children at some of the most challenging moments of their lives. In October 2009, the Youth Advocacy Project became the Youth Advocacy Division (YAD). With offices in Fall River, Hyannis, Lowell, Quincy, Roxbury, Salem, Somerville, Springfield and Worcester, YAD will lead, train, and support the entire Massachusetts juvenile defense bar. YAD's over arching purpose will be to improve legal and life outcomes for youth by building the skills and capacity of their advocates. YAD assists children in delinquency proceedings with effective representation in court, educational advocacy, psychological assessments, and individualized referrals to community resources. YAD's aim is to ensure that a clients' involvement with YAD becomes their last encounter with the criminal justice system by addressing their many life needs beyond simply their immediate legal needs.

## **MICHIGAN**

### ***DETROIT CENTER FOR FAMILY ADVOCACY***

3031 W. Grand Blvd., Ste. 440

Detroit, MI 48202

Telephone: (313) 875-4233

Fax: (313) 875-4313

Email: [lawdetroitcfa@umich.edu](mailto:lawdetroitcfa@umich.edu)

Website: <https://www.law.umich.edu/centersandprograms/pcl/cfa/Pages/default.aspx>

The Detroit Center for Family Advocacy (CFA) provides legal advocacy and social work services to low-income families to prevent the unnecessary placement and prolonged stay of children in foster care. By doing so, the CFA aims to keep children safe with their families, minimize the emotional trauma caused by removal, and allow the foster care system to focus its resources on children who need its protection. The Center is limited to serving clients in Wayne County. The CFA gives at-risk families the legal tools necessary to protect their own children. CFA lawyers, with the assistance of a social worker and parent advocate, use legal mechanisms—such as guardianships, child custody or personal protection orders, and educational advocacy—to allow family members to protect and provide for children without the need for expensive and traumatic out-of-family placement. The CFA also assists kinship and other caregivers to overcome legal obstacles in adopting or obtaining permanent guardianship, thus allowing children to exit government foster care.

The Center, which started in July 2009, does not currently utilize volunteer attorneys, but may do so in the future.

### ***MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER***

One Heritage Pl., Ste. 210

Southgate, MI 48195

Telephone: (734) 281-1900



Fax: (734) 281-1231  
Website: [www.miclc.org](http://www.miclc.org)

The Michigan Children's Law Center (MCLC) is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, which provides legal services to children in the trial and appellate courts of Wayne County. Its mission is to advocate for the safety and well-being of children in the courts and through other programs and services. The Center represents children who have been neglected or abused or who have been charged with delinquent behavior. MCLC works with social workers, doctors, psychologists, school personnel and other professionals to ensure that all issues relating to each child are properly addressed.

MCLC's initially provided legal services to children in child protective (neglect) cases. The caseload has since expanded to delinquency cases and appellate work. Since November 2006, MCLC has been assigned over 8200 child protective and delinquency petitions and at any one time average approximately 3000 open petitions. MCLC attorneys serve as the lawyer-guardian ad litem (L-GAL) in child protective proceedings, protecting the client's legal rights and advocating for the child's best interests. The Center also represents the best interests of children in custody disputes.

In delinquency matters, the MCLC attorneys provide legal representation to minors charged with violations of laws or ordinances, running away from home, acts of incorrigibility, and school truancy. After adjudication, the MCLC attorney represents the juvenile at progress hearings, administrative review hearings, and probation review hearings until the Court dismisses the wardship or the youth ages out of the system.

The Center also presents programs and workshops and participates in task forces and collaborative councils whose goals and objectives are to more effectively prevent the maltreatment of children, redirect the lives of at risk children and improve the health, education, safety and well-being of children.

***CHILD ADVOCACY LAW CLINIC  
JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINIC  
PEDIATRIC ADVOCACY CLINIC  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL***

625 S. State St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215

Telephone: (734) 763-5000

Fax: (734) 647-4042

Website: <http://www.law.umich.edu/clinical/Pages/default.aspx>

100% Children's Law

**[Child Advocacy Law Clinic](#)**

The Child Advocacy Law Clinic (CALC), the oldest child welfare law clinic in the country in which law students, under the supervision of experienced faculty members, represent children,

parents, and other parties in foster-care proceedings. Created in 1976, CALC has represented thousands of families involved in the child-welfare system and has trained thousands of students who now serve in leadership positions in nonprofit organizations, state and local government agencies, and private firms. CALC graduates often rank their involvement in the clinic as the most formative experience in their legal education.

In addition to directly representing families in trial court proceedings, students in the clinic have drafted statutes, conducted trainings, written articles, and handled appeals. The work of the students and faculty has led to systemic reform on both the state and national level and has earned the praise of judges, policy makers, and others.

### **Juvenile Justice Clinic**

In the Juvenile Justice Clinic (JJC), students represent minors charged with violations of the criminal law and status offenses in Michigan's family courts. Students have first-chair responsibility for the JJC clients and their cases. This responsibility means that students directly engage in, and reflect on, the practice of law while in law school, under the supervision of experienced professors. While primarily a litigation clinic, students may, from time to time, handle appellate matters and may be involved in public policy issues.

In the course of the clinic, students will develop litigation skills including case investigation, trial preparation, and presenting evidence and argument in the courtroom. Casework, which is supervised by a clinical professor, may involve client interviewing and counseling, legal research and motion drafting, negotiation with prosecuting authorities, and courtroom presentation of the case. Students are encouraged to take a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to their representation and to develop creative or systemic solutions to the legal problems presented. In addition to trial advocacy and casework, the classroom seminar will also focus on legal ethics, the basics of child development, juvenile justice reform, and other relevant topics.

### **Pediatric Advocacy Clinic**

The mission of the Pediatric Advocacy Clinic (PAC) is to achieve justice and dignity for all low-income children and their families by integrating high-quality legal advocacy into health care settings. As a medical-legal partnership, they pursue their mission by uniting health care providers, attorneys, and social workers to eliminate the effects of poverty on children's health and well-being. By representing individual families and supporting health care providers in addressing social issues that impact child health, PAC seeks to improve the health and quality of life of low-income pediatric patients and their families.

## **MINNESOTA**

### ***CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC HAMLIN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW***

1536 Hewitt Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55104-1284

Telephone: (651) 523-2898  
Fax: (651) 523-2400  
Website: <http://law.hamline.edu/Content.aspx?id=4294986696>

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Child Advocacy Clinic offers the opportunity to appear in juvenile court, family court and administrative hearings concerning children. Students in this clinic investigate and advocate directly for children who have been abused or neglected, children subject to adoption, guardianship, or third-party custody proceedings, and minors seeking to live independently. A weekly classroom component teaches the advocacy, negotiation, and communication skills needed to work with and on behalf of children in the court system, and provides a great introduction to issues that arise in family law practice. The Child Advocacy Clinic is taught by Professor Mary Jo Hunter and is one of the four clinics that operates on-site in Hamline's Clinic Law Office.

### ***CHILDREN AND THE LAW SECTION***

MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

600 Nicollet Ave., Ste. 301

Minneapolis, MN 55402

Telephone: (612) 333-1183

(800) 882-6722

Fax: (612) 333-4927

Website: <http://www2.mnbar.org/sections/children/index.asp>

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children and the Law Section is a project of the Minnesota State Bar Association which began in 1990. The Section currently staffs high school legal clinics where volunteers do on-site consultation and screening for the students. The clinics are coordinated through an agency called the Volunteer Lawyers Network. Volunteer attorneys are recruited through Section members and bar association meetings.

The Section holds training sessions at least once a year to staff the high school clinics, as well as one hour of CLE training at a monthly meeting.

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA***

450 N. Syndicate, Ste. 315

St. Paul, MN 55104

Telephone: (651) 644-4438

Fax: (651) 646 4404

Email: [info@clcmn.org](mailto:info@clcmn.org)

Website: [www.clcmn.org](http://www.clcmn.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

CLC is appointed by the court to provide legal representation to children who are either wards of the state – “legal orphans” – or have been removed from their homes because they are in need of protection. CLC also represents foster children who request help. CLC provides this quality representation free of charge. Currently, CLC represents over 560 children.

Since 1995, CLC, with the help of over 300 volunteer attorneys, has represented more than 1,300 foster children. When children are taken from abusive or neglectful parents, they need to know their legal rights. CLC provides a multidisciplinary team of volunteer and staff attorneys and a social worker to listen to the children and help them navigate the complicated systems that control their lives. These advocates help guide the children by empowering them to speak up for what they want. CLC advocates help children understand the system and help judges and other court workers understand what the children want.

CLC's staff attorneys and social worker provide expertise and years of experience to volunteer attorneys to support their efforts in representing foster children, including knowledge about specific laws and services available for the children.

***CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL***

190 Mondale Hall  
229 19th Ave. So.

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Telephone: (612) 625-5515

Fax: (612) 624-5771

Website: [www.law.umn.edu/current/clinics.html](http://www.law.umn.edu/current/clinics.html)

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The **Child Advocacy Clinic** is a two-semester clinic offered annually since 1995. Currently six students participate in the Clinic and handle approximately 30 cases a year. The Clinic also has a project with the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office to provide representation to juveniles in CHIPS (Children in Need of Protection and Services) matters in juvenile court. Additional cases involve family court custody and Guardian ad Litem representation for the Hennepin County Guardian ad Litem program.

In addition, the **Indian Child Welfare Act Clinic**, offered since 1996, gives students practical experience in handling family law and juvenile law cases with a special emphasis on the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) passed by Congress in 1978.

The **Special Education Law Clinic** offers advanced-standing law students the opportunity to work with and represent children with disabilities and their families. The law students, working

under the supervision of an experienced school law attorney, assist with special education legal questions, reviewing special education documents, participating in conciliation conferences and mediations, working informally with schools to resolve disputes, and provide representation in state-level administrative complaints, hearings, and court actions. Law students may also participate in research projects and legislative and administrative proceedings.

### ***YOUTH LAW PROJECT***

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS

2929 4th Ave. South, Ste. 201

Minneapolis, MN 55408

Telephone: (612) 332-4668

Fax: (612) 334-5755

Website: <http://legalaidmpls.org/>

20% Children's Law

The Youth Law Project is devoted to working with at-risk youth in Hennepin County through the Southside Office of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis. The office was established in 1978 and is staffed by one full-time attorney, and one half-time attorney and one half-time paralegal. Working with local law schools and the Minnesota Justice Foundation, an organization established to encourage pro bono work by law students, the Society represents children in a variety of legal areas. Clients are referred from Juvenile Court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, other lawyers and word of mouth. Approximately 200 cases a year are children's law cases. Training is provided as needed. Some training qualifies for CLE credit. The Society was responsible for impact litigation regarding foster care payments for children in relatives' homes.

## **MISSISSIPPI**

### ***FAMILY & CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER***

#### ***MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE OF LAW***

151 East Griffith Street

Jackson, MS 39201

Phone: (601) 925-7180

Fax: (601) 925-7182

Website: <http://law.mc.edu/law-centers/children/>

The Family and Children's Law Center provides a vital service to children involved in the legal system as well as practical training for MC Law students. The Family and Children's Law Center equips students and community volunteers with the skills required to shepherd children in need of an advocate through the court system.

The Family and Children's Law Center includes substantive courses, clinical experiences, and a student run society. Annual Guardian ad Litem trainings offered through MC/Law CLE Department are also an integral part of the center.

At the heart of the Family and Children's Law Center is the Child Advocacy Program and its Clinics. Under faculty supervision, second and third year law students have the opportunity to participate in Youth Court and Chancery Court on child-related cases or serve as a court-appointed Guardian ad Litem.

The Center's Adoption Clinic provides free legal assistance to families who wish to adopt, and matches those families with law student lawyers. Second and third year law students can participate in the Adoption Legal Clinic and serve as counsel under the supervision of faculty professors.

***CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC***  
***UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW***

481 Coliseum Drive

University, MS 38677

Phone: (662) 915-7429

Fax: (662) 915-7447

E-mail: [UMLS LC@olemiss.edu](mailto:UMLS LC@olemiss.edu)

Website: <http://law.olemiss.edu/academics-programs/clinics/child-advocacy-clinic/>

Students in the Child Advocacy Clinic are appointed by courts to represent children in cases involving allegations of neglect and abuse. As Guardians ad Litem for the child, students interview witnesses, investigate the child's home, review pleadings and medical and school records, and make recommendations to the court regarding the best interests of the child.

**MISSOURI**

***CHILDREN'S HEALTH ADVOCACY PROJECT***

3700 Lindell Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63108

Telephone: 314 534 4200

Website: [www.lsem.org/CHAP](http://www.lsem.org/CHAP)

Begun with funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health, the Children's Health Advocacy Project (CHAP) is a medical-legal partnership between Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and

St. Louis University School of Law, and numerous health care providers: Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Center, SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center, St. Louis Children's Hospital. The program is expanding with a substantial grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health.

This groundbreaking partnership is changing the culture of pediatric practice in St. Louis by encouraging a holistic approach to children's healthcare. Because growing up in poverty presents a serious threat to a child's health, a medical-legal partnership is a unique way to improve children's health outcomes by bringing together providers who ensure that the basic needs of the child and family are met. By helping patients navigate the complex government and community systems that often hold solutions, providers and CHAP can improve the health of the most vulnerable people in our society—low-income children.

***CHILDREN'S LEGAL ALLIANCE  
LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MISSOURI***

4232 Forest Park Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63108

Telephone: (314) 534-4200 ext. 1315

(800) 444-0514

Fax: (314) 534-1075

Email: [info@lsem.org](mailto:info@lsem.org)

Website: <http://www.lsem.org/lsem-services/children-s-legal-alliance/>

100% Children's Law

At-risk youth, particularly those with disabilities and unmet mental health needs, too often encounter barriers which prevent them from receiving appropriate educational services. As a result of these barriers, many children and teens do not receive appropriate classroom instruction and services to which they are entitled.

The Children's Legal Alliance works to combat these problems by providing FREE educational advocacy to qualifying children with special needs who are not receiving appropriate services and those who have been illegally or improperly excluded from school.

***JUVENILE LAW AND JUSTICE CLINIC &  
CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY CLINIC  
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW***

One Brookings Drive, Box 1120

St. Louis, MO 63130

Telephone: (314) 935-6088

**Juvenile Law and Justice Clinic**

Student attorneys enrolled in the Juvenile Law and Justice Clinic provide representation to young people in the St. Louis area, acting as lead counsel on a range of youth advocacy matters. The

clinic cases focus on juvenile court cases, post-*Miller* juvenile life without parole sentence challenges; and medical/legal partnership matters referred to us by the Medical School. The clinic utilizes a holistic approach to representation, and may include education law and school discipline arenas, administrative proceedings, and appellate courts.

### **Child and Family Advocacy Clinic**

The Children & Family Advocacy Clinic (CFAC) is one of several "live client" representation clinics housed within Washington University Law School's clinical suite. The CFAC's core practice areas are in juvenile and family courts and related hearings in metropolitan St. Louis. Thus the CFAC will expose students to a range of family matters such as child protection, domestic violence, paternity, custody, termination of parental rights and guardianship. CFAC students perform as lead counsel on children and family law matters

## **MONTANA – NO PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED**

### **NEBRASKA**

#### ***CENTER ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND THE LAW UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA***

206 S. 13th St., Ste. 1000

Lincoln, NE 68588-0227

Telephone: (402) 472-3479

Website: [ccfl.unl.edu](http://ccfl.unl.edu)

The Center on Children, Families, and the Law (CCFL) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was established in 1987 as a home for interdisciplinary research, teaching, and public service on issues related to child and family policy and services. The knowledge of child and family issues generated and synthesized by the Center faculty is widely disseminated to educate policy makers, scholars, service providers, and the general public. Work done by the Center has served as the primary basis for new local, state, and national legislation and has been cited in court rulings, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

Research by faculty in the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Law, and Education and Human Sciences is integrated through the Center. Faculty members from the School of Social Work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and various units at the University of Nebraska Medical Center also contribute to Center activities. The Center's own distinguished faculty reflects its interdisciplinary goals, including professionals with degrees in law, psychology, pediatrics, special education, sociology, and education. The Center is located administratively within UNL's College of Arts and Sciences and is a member of the College's Family Research and Policy Initiative.

#### ***CIVIL CLINICAL LAW PROGRAM***



## ***UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF LAW***

172 Welpton Courtroom  
P.O. Box 830902  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0902  
Telephone: (402) 472-3271  
Fax: (402) 472-3228  
Website: <http://law.unl.edu/curriculum#clinics>

25% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Civil Clinical Law Program at the University of Nebraska College of Law handles approximately children's law cases as part of its General Civil Practice Clinic. Sixty-six students participate in the work of the Clinic each year, including students from other disciplines. Clients are referred from social service agencies, attorneys in the community, and court personnel. In addition to the written materials noted above, the Program also has information on guardianships prepared in 1998. The Program does not handle impact litigation.

## ***NEBRASKA APPLESEED***

941 O Street, Ste 920  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Telephone: (402) 438-8853  
Fax: (402) 438-0263  
Email: [info@neappleseed.org](mailto:info@neappleseed.org)  
Website: [neappleseed.org](http://neappleseed.org)

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

Nebraska Appleseed is a nonprofit organization that fights for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans. The center takes a systemic approach to complex issues – such as child welfare, immigration policy, affordable healthcare and poverty – and they take their work wherever they believe it can do the most good, whether that's at the courthouse, in the statehouse or in the community. The child welfare program consists of three staff members, two of whom are attorneys. The program is committed to reforming the child welfare system to make sure it is effective for children and families who need its intervention.

Nebraska Appleseed works with government, lawmakers, and communities on better child welfare policies, and sometimes fights to protect the legal rights of children through impact and class action litigation. Nebraska Appleseed also operates the Foster Care Reform Legal Resource Center (LRC), which provides technical assistance, including legal research and amicus briefs, to "frontline" attorneys in juvenile court practice to help them raise systemic issues in their individual cases. Other resources include a listserv, monthly electronic newsletter, access to sample legal documents, a series of policy briefs, publications highlighting child welfare issues, and other relevant resources geared toward the child welfare community.

## ***VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT***

NEBRASKA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

635 S. 14th St.

P.O. Box 81809

Lincoln, NE 68501-1809

Telephone: (402) 475-7091

Fax: (402) 475-7098

Website: [www.nebar.com](http://www.nebar.com)

10% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) is a Statewide volunteer legal services project and referral network founded on the belief that all citizens should have access to the legal system, regardless of ability to pay. Established in 1982 as a project of the Nebraska State Bar Association, VLP seeks to match people who have civil legal problems with attorneys who are willing to provide legal assistance on a pro bono, reduced fee, contingency fee, or full fee basis. Providing pro bono or reduced-fee legal services to those low-income people who need legal assistance is the primary goal of the Program. Any attorney who is an active member of the Nebraska State Bar Association may participate in the program.

Cases are referred from social service agencies, other attorneys, courts and Nebraska Legal Services. Volunteer lawyers are recruited through the bar association, and trainings are provided as needed. One staff attorney, one full-time paralegal and one part-time paralegal distribute a list of cases or call volunteers regarding potential cases, and volunteers are monitored through written requests for updates and self-reporting. Approximately 50 pro bono attorneys each handle one children's law case a year. Volunteer Lawyers Project is willing to handle areas other than those described above depending on the interests of the volunteer lawyers.

## **NEVADA**

### ***CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS PROJECT***

LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

725 E. Charleston Blvd.

Las Vegas, NV 89104

Telephone: (702) 386-1070 ext. 111

Fax: (702) 366-0569

Website: [www.lacsn.org](http://www.lacsn.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children's Attorneys Project began in October 1999 through a Task Force composed of judges, court administrators, legislators, professors and others. The Project's nine attorneys

represent children as attorneys in abuse and neglect cases. The Project also has two specific areas of focus: the Special Education Program and the Educational Surrogate Parent Initiative. Referrals come from juvenile court, social services agencies, schools, health care professionals and other attorneys. The Project utilizes law students, works with the William S. Boyd School of Law's clinical program and has begun a pro bono program for attorneys to represent children. Trainings for volunteer attorneys will be conducted as needed. Last year volunteer lawyers donated 10,000 hours to pro bono representation.

***THOMAS AND MACK LEGAL CLINIC  
WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS  
VEGAS***

4505 Maryland Parkway

P.O. Box 71075

Las Vegas, NV 89170-1075

Telephone: (702) 895-2080

Fax: (702) 895-2081

Website: <http://www.law.unlv.edu/clinical-program.html>

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Faculty at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas began this project in August 2000. Among the clinical offerings are several related to children: Education Advocacy, Family Justice, and Juvenile Justice. Students in the **Education Advocacy Clinic** work with graduate students from the School of Education's Educational Psychology Department to advocate for the educational rights of children with disabilities in the public school system. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the law school's innovative Kids' Court School, which educates child witnesses in Clark County court cases about the judicial process in order to reduce their system-induced stress.

The **Family Justice Clinic** has a particular focus on prisoners and their families, clients engaged with immigration issues, and those affected by the child welfare system and other forms of state intervention. Law students represent children, parents or guardians in family cases including custody and visitation, guardianship, domestic violence and other family matters. Cases may involve contested trials, negotiations, administrative advocacy, and cutting edge legal and policy issues.

Students in the **Juvenile Justice Clinic** represent children who have been charged in juvenile delinquency proceedings. Law students negotiate with district attorneys, conduct contested hearings or trials, and advocate for proper dispositions and sentences. As part of their clinic

work, students also have the opportunity to shadow Juvenile Public Defenders and observe all aspects of their work in Juvenile Court. Clients are referred from Juvenile Court, social service agencies and community members.

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE – NO PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED**

## NEW JERSEY

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS RUTGERS SCHOOL OF LAW-CAMDEN***

217 N. Fifth St.

Camden, NJ 08102-1203

Telephone: (856) 225-6568

Fax: (856) 225-6666

Website: [www.camlaw.rutgers.edu/clinics](http://www.camlaw.rutgers.edu/clinics)

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Students in the **Child and Family Advocacy Clinic** represent children in child abuse and neglect cases in Family Court in Camden. Clients are referred from South Jersey Legal Services. Students may also represent children in administrative hearings and proceedings regarding public benefits, education, immigration, medical and mental health issues. Students work with a partner and in some cases will collaborate with social workers to undertake all steps necessary to prepare for court hearings. The Clinic has been in existence since 2009, and approximately 20 students participate each year.

The **Children's Justice Clinic** is a holistic lawyering program using multiple strategies and interdisciplinary approaches to resolve problems for Camden youth facing juvenile delinquency charges. Students primarily provide legal representation in juvenile court hearings. Approximately 36 students participate in the Clinic each year. Students work in trial teams and have the opportunity to handle two of their own trials in delinquency court. In addition to providing legal services related to that forum, students work with their clients to address the causes of delinquency problems in their home environment.

Third-year students in the Rutgers Civil Practice Clinic can also participate in the **Rutgers/LEAP Legal Project**, a partnership between the Clinic and the LEAP Academy University Charter School (LEAP Academy), began in 1998. The Project provides legal advice, representation and community education to the parents of LEAP Academy students. LEAP Academy is a full-service year-round school in Camden that provides legal assistance, health care and a full range of social services to LEAP families and children. 8 to 12 law students participate in the Legal Project and conduct weekly intake sessions for parents at the LEAP Academy. Legal advice and representation is provided to parents in several different areas of law; children are not represented.

Providing effective representation and appropriate referrals is also made possible with the assistance of the LEAP Pro Bono Panel. The panel is made up of attorneys from the Camden County Bar Association who support the project by providing expertise and/or training in a substantive area, help in the community education workshops or by taking on pro bono representation.

***CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS  
RUTGERS SCHOOL OF LAW-NEWARK***

123 Washington St.

Newark, NJ 07102

Telephone: (973) 353-5576

Fax: (973) 353-3397

Website: <http://law.newark.rutgers.edu/clinics/introduction-clinics>

Students in the **Child Advocacy Clinic** represent children and/or families in court hearings and trials, in administrative hearings, and in mediation conferences. Students also do advocacy work in order to obtain or maintain Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for children, secure needed therapeutic and medical interventions for children, and assist kinship caregivers in meeting the legal financial, and educational needs of the children in their care. In addition, the CAC is the law guardian (attorney) for several abused and neglected children who are residing in foster care, many of whom are children with disabilities.

The **Special Education Clinic** represents parents and caregivers seeking to obtain appropriate early intervention and educational services and placements for children with disabilities. The Clinic also educates parents and others involved in the lives of children with disabilities about their legal rights and responsibilities. Clinic students help prepare instructional materials and conduct workshops for family court judges, kinship caregivers, probation officers, law guardians, and child welfare workers, as well as parents. The clinic also provides training to the bar in an effort to increase the number of lawyers who represent indigent parents and caregivers of children with disabilities.

***CHILDREN'S LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER  
ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY***

35 Halsey St.

Newark, NJ 07102

Telephone: (973) 643-3876

Fax: (973) 643-9153

Website: [www.kidlaw.org](http://www.kidlaw.org)

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children's Legal Resource Center is a service of the Association For Children of New Jersey (ACNJ). ACNJ is a statewide child advocacy organization whose goal is to bring about positive changes for children through a variety of advocacy strategies. The Children's Legal Resource Center acts as a clearinghouse of information by answering telephone inquiries and publishing and distributing manuals and fact sheets on the status of New Jersey law affecting children. These services are available to lawyers and interested individuals and cover a comprehensive list of children's law issues. Written materials are available in the areas of abuse and neglect, family law custody disputes, guardianships, and law guardians. A manual regarding the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, Pro Bono Attorney's Manual (1998); a book

covering the general rights of children in New Jersey entitled *You Have The Right* (1990); and a 1992 manual covering foster care are available upon request.

The Center does not offer direct representation of children, but does recruit and train pro bono lawyers who are then assigned cases in two areas of law: termination of parental rights cases and children's SSI appeals. These training programs are co-sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Association. Volunteer attorneys are recruited through advertisements in legal publications and bar association mailings. In exchange for taking one pro bono case, attorneys are provided comprehensive training and a manual, free of charge. The Center does use volunteers for projects other than litigation.

### ***EDUCATION LAW CENTER, INC.***

60 Park Place, Ste. 300

Newark, NJ 07102

Telephone: (973) 624-1815

Fax: (973) 624-7339

Email: [educlawctr@aol.com](mailto:educlawctr@aol.com)

Website: [www.edlawcenter.org](http://www.edlawcenter.org)

100% Education Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Education Law Center, Inc. (ELC) is a not-for-profit, public-interest law firm specializing in reform of the public elementary and secondary school systems in New Jersey. Founded in 1973, ELC provides free legal assistance to parents, students, their organizations, and concerned individuals who encounter individual or system problems in public school education. ELC also maintains a community education program to inform individuals of educational rights, monitors the impact of federal and state judicial decisions, legislation, and regulatory activity on public education, and is involved in drafting and commenting on legislation and administrative regulations that concern education. ELC is staffed by three attorneys who work with volunteer lawyers to handle approximately 1,000 cases each year. In addition to the three attorneys, the Center has a director of school reform initiatives, a director of research, a community liaison, and an intake coordinator/office manager.

Clients are referred from juvenile court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, other attorneys in the community. Volunteers are recruited through the local bar association, local law schools and through legal service agencies. Training is offered to volunteers on an as-needed basis. Staff members are teamed with volunteer attorneys who, along with handling cases, also assist in writing and updating publications. In addition to the written materials listed above, ELC also has materials pertaining to HIV positive children.

ELC brings extensive impact litigation. *Abbott v. Burke*, a class action in behalf of poor and minority children residing in poor urban districts, resulted in a 1990 landmark decision by the New Jersey Supreme Court declaring school funding for poor urban schools unconstitutional and requiring the State to assure more funding for poor children than for wealthier children because poor children have greater education needs.

***JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINIC***  
***SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW***

1 Newark Center  
Newark, NJ 07102

Telephone: (973) 642-8297  
(973) 642-8784

Fax: (973) 642-5939  
(973) 642-8295

Website: <http://law.shu.edu/ProgramsCenters/PublicIntGovServ/CSJ/Juvenile-Justice-Clinic.cfm>

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Juvenile Justice Clinic began in 1973 as a joint effort of the law school and the Public Defender's Office. The Juvenile Justice Clinic represents indigent juvenile defendants in all facets of juvenile proceedings in the Essex County Family Court.

***OFFICE OF LAW GUARDIAN***  
***OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER***

Mountain View Office Park  
840 Bear Tavern Rd., Ste. 200  
Ewing, NJ 08628

Telephone: (609) 530-3623  
Fax: (609) 530-7880

Website: [www.state.nj.us/defender/div\\_lawguardian.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/defender/div_lawguardian.shtml)

The Office of Law Guardian (OLG), a unit within the Office of the Public Defender, provides legal representation to children in family court matters involving allegations of abuse and neglect against parents or other caregivers, or in cases involving termination of parental rights. New Jersey law guarantees children the right to an attorney (a law guardian) to represent the child in court, present the child's wishes to the judge and protect the child's legal interests throughout the legal proceeding. A law guardian maintains a traditional lawyer-client relationship with the child to the extent possible.

The law guardian helps the child-client understand the child's legal rights and the court process and keeps the child informed as the case progresses through the child welfare system. The law guardian will counsel the child and give legal advice about the most realistic course of action to protect the child's safety and to advance the child's wishes and interests. The special training and expertise of law guardians help the child participate fully in court hearings.

Each law guardian works as a part of a team of professionals on behalf of the children OLG represents. This team includes specially trained investigators and clerical staff. Investigators take an active role in meeting the child to discover the relevant facts of the case necessary to



developing a position on behalf of the child-client.

OLG has a separate appellate unit (OLGA) responsible for handling appellate matters. Currently, OLGA has seven appellate attorneys representing the interests and wishes of minor clients before both the Appellate Division and the New Jersey Supreme Court. The OLG also undertakes DYFS conflict investigations when allegations of abuse are made against DYFS staff or members of their families. The “Conflict Unit” within OLG is comprised of a team of highly skilled investigators who work exclusively on conducting investigations of such allegations.

***YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTER  
COVENANT HOUSE NEW JERSEY***

330 Washington St.

Newark, NJ 07102

Telephone: (973) 621-8705

Fax: (973) 621-7658

Email: [chnj@covenanthouse.org](mailto:chnj@covenanthouse.org)

Website: [www.covenanthousenj.org](http://www.covenanthousenj.org)

75% Children’s Law

Covenant House New Jersey is the largest provider of services to homeless and at-risk adolescents between the ages of 16 and 21 and provides not just shelter but a comprehensive array of supportive services that help young people to not only stabilize their crises, but also to transition to a stable living environment, where they can continue to progress in their life goals. The Youth Advocacy Center at Covenant House New Jersey offers direct legal services to the clients of Covenant House and engages in policy initiatives to best serve homeless and runaway youth.

The attorneys at the Youth Advocacy Center primarily provide direct representation in civil matters including: custody and child support, public benefits, housing, and foster care cases. Many of the clients at Covenant House have criminal legal issues as well and the legal staff helps these clients to understand the criminal process and to better communicate with their court appointed public defender. The direct services aspect of the Center began in the fall of 1998.

The Center’s second major area of work revolves around advocacy efforts to shape public policy in a way that is beneficial to the clients served by Covenant House. Those efforts include lobbying Congress around juvenile justice issues and drafting, proposing, and generating support for a state Homeless Youth Act to give minors the right to seek crisis shelter without the permission of a parent or guardian. The staff at the Center strongly believes that the provision of direct service and interaction with their clients should inform and shape the policy work of the Center.

## **NEW MEXICO**

### ***ADVOCACY INC.***

6301 Fourth NW, Ste. 3

Albuquerque NM 87107

Telephone: (505) 266-3166

(866) 257-5320

Fax: (505) 254-2559

Website: [www.nmadvocacy.org](http://www.nmadvocacy.org)

Advocacy Inc. is a non-profit agency protecting and promoting the interests of at-risk children and youth in New Mexico by providing low or no cost legal advocacy and support services. Advocacy provides guardianship, adoption, and guardian ad litem legal services. Advocacy provides direct representation to children orphaned or living with people other than their parents, children who are victims of abuse or neglect, children of incarcerated or institutionalized parents, exploited teenagers, and teenagers involved in the juvenile justice system.

Since 1986, Advocacy has provided Guardian ad Litem services for all children who are subjects of cases alleging abuse, neglect or abandonment in the Second Judicial District. The Guardian ad Litem represents the best interests of the child during the judicial process to determine a proper course of action to provide adequate care for the child. Advocacy recruits attorneys in the Bernalillo County/Rio Rancho area who are interested in helping children by providing legal services at substantially reduced rates as set forth by the Administrative Office of the Court. Each attorney completes an initial eight hour training course; is assigned a mentor, and participates in regular training.

### ***CORINNE WOLFE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF LAW***

1117 Stanford Ave. NE

Albuquerque, NM 87131

Telephone: (505) 277-5006

Fax: (505) 277-7064

Website: <http://childlaw.unm.edu/>

The Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center (CLC) is a center at the [Institute of Public Law, UNM School of Law](#), working to enhance the knowledge and skills of the many professionals and volunteers who work in the child abuse and neglect and juvenile justice systems. It was established in December 1997 by memorandum of understanding between the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Institute, upon the recommendation of the New Mexico Supreme Court Foster Care Task Force. Named in honor of the late Corinne Wolfe, a lifelong advocate for New Mexico children and families, the CLC is overseen by a steering committee that includes judges, attorneys, CYFD personnel, volunteer advocates, and AOC and Court Improvement Project personnel.

### ***PEGASUS LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN***

3201 4th St. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87107  
Telephone: (505) 244-1101  
Fax: (505) 244-0060  
Website: [www.pegasuslaw.org](http://www.pegasuslaw.org)

Founded as a non-profit in 2002, Pegasus Legal Services for Children is a legal resource for children, youth, their caregivers and the community concerning the legal rights and needs of children and youth. It provides services to children and parents in the areas of education law, child abuse and neglect, and guardianship.

Pegasus represents children and youth in foster care as guardians ad litem for children up to age 14, and as attorneys for children 14 and older. In the area of education, Pegasus represents families seeking to enforce their children's right to appropriate public education, prioritizing children with disabilities. Pegasus also advocates for the education needs of children in foster care.

Pegasus provides a range of legal services to kinship caregivers around the state. The **Guardianship Legal Helpline**, a project of Pegasus and Law Access New Mexico, is a statewide legal helpline that provides information, advice, and assistance to self-represented litigants in kinship guardianship cases. Pegasus also provides full service direct legal representation in contested guardianship cases in many parts of the state.

**Youth Law Project:** The Pegasus Youth Law Project provides legal representation to youth age 14-23 on a range of legal issues including family law for young parents, access to health and mental health care, and helping youth transition from foster care to adulthood. Pegasus prioritizes services to youth who are homeless, parents, or transitioning from foster care.

Pegasus also conducts policy advocacy to ensure that children's needs are addressed in areas such as access to public benefits including health and mental health care. And Pegasus provides training and community legal education to the community throughout the year in a variety of settings. Speakers are available to come to schools, social service agencies, shelters, or any venue where children, youth and adults are interested in learning about the legal rights of children.

## NEW YORK

### ***ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK, INC.***

151 W. 30th St. 5th Floor

New York, NY 10001

Telephone: (212) 947-9779

(866) 427-6033

Fax: (212) 947-9790

Email: [info@advocatesforchildren.org](mailto:info@advocatesforchildren.org)

Website: [www.advocatesforchildren.org](http://www.advocatesforchildren.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorney

Advocates for Children of New York, Inc. (AFC) is a non-profit organization started in 1988 that provides a full-range of educational support, legal and advocacy services for parents, young people and professionals. AFC works in partnership with New York City's most impoverished and vulnerable families to secure quality and equal public education services for every public school child in New York City. AFC's program is carried out by a multi-racial, bilingual staff of attorneys, educational specialists, policy analysts and trainers. AFC utilizes a strong network of law firms to provide pro bono legal assistance for individual clients and for impact litigation.

AFC's five key program areas are individual advocacy, impact advocacy, workshops and training, public policy and informal dissemination. AFC has several programs that address different educational advocacy needs. **Project Thrive**, one of AFC's original programs, provides in-depth representation at the New York City Department of Education to New York City's low income families struggling to assure their children with special needs an appropriate education. **Project Achieve** works to ensure that children in or at-risk of placement in foster care receive access to the educational services and programs they need to succeed in the New York City public schools. The **Foster Care Youth Project** assures access to education services for youth transitioning out of foster care. The Project is supported by Morrison & Foerster LLP and the not-for-profit Equal Justice Works. The **Immigrant Rights Project** focuses on improving educational opportunities for immigrants and English Language Learner students. The **Juvenile Justice Educational Advocacy Project** provides court-involved youth and their families with advocacy, information, and referrals to help resolve their school difficulties and secure the educational resources to which they are entitled. Referrals come from probation officers, judges, or other juvenile justice service providers who identify an education issue that needs a specialist. The **Out Of School Youth Project** provides assistance to high school aged youth and young adults who have been pushed out of school. In 2005, AFC was awarded a grant from the New York Education Department to establish the **New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students**, designed to build the capacity of school districts throughout the state to improve education of homeless youth and children.

### ***CENTER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND THE LAW***

## **HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**

121 Hofstra University

Hempstead, NY 11549

Telephone: (516) 463-0386

Fax: (516) 463-4054

Website: <http://law.hofstra.edu/centers/ccfl/index.html>

75% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Founded in 2001, the Center for Children, Families and the Law began as a collaboration between Hofstra University and the North Shore-Long Island Health System. The Center's mission is to provide interdisciplinary education, community service and research to benefit children and families involved in the legal system. Five entering JD students are selected each year as **Child and Family Advocacy Fellows**. Fellowships are awarded to students who intend to pursue careers in child and family advocacy. The Center also trains law students to serve as child advocates through the Hofstra University **Child Advocacy Clinic**. Students in the Clinic represent children in abuse and neglect cases, and special immigrant juvenile matters. Students advocate in New York City and Nassau Family Courts on behalf of children in cases where the allegations range from physical and sexual abuse to educational neglect, abandonment and inadequate supervision. Cases are referred to the clinic by the Juvenile Court. The clinic is run by one attorney and a psychologist, and they utilize students from non-legal disciplines such as social work or psychology in their work.

The Center promotes important interdisciplinary research and proposed reforms through the *Family Court Review*, a quarterly journal sponsored by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) and edited by Hofstra law students. Court reform projects include participation in a tri-state alliance of institutions focused on developing more effective court services for dissolving families, and a program of research and development in cooperation with Nassau county courts and agencies to help divorcing and separating parents manage their conflicts over their children responsibly.

The Center houses the **P.E.A.C.E.** (Parent Education and Custody Effectiveness) Program, a court-affiliated, interdisciplinary education program for divorcing and separating parents (a P.E.A.C.E. Program and Curriculum Manual is available through the Center). Lawyers working on a pro bono basis assist local P.E.A.C.E. providers with the presentation of the program.

In collaboration with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, the Center offers practicing lawyers two training programs: "Training the Lawyer to Represent the Whole Child," and "Modern Divorce Advocacy." The Center also organizes conferences to foster dialogue between academic disciplines, policy makers and the judiciary about how children and families are treated by the legal system.

***CENTER FOR FAMILY REPRESENTATION, INC.***

40 Worth Street  
Suite 605  
New York, NY 10013  
Telephone: (212) 691-0950  
Fax: (212) 691-0951  
Email: [info@cfny.org](mailto:info@cfny.org)  
Website: [www.cfny.org](http://www.cfny.org)

The Center for Family Representation seeks to strengthen parents through interdisciplinary advocacy so that families can stay together. CFR intervenes with families as soon as a risk to a child is identified, and works with foster care agencies, law guardians, and prosecutors, to assist families so that children do not enter foster care, or, if they do, are quickly reunited with their families. Legal teams include social workers and parent advocates, who are themselves parents who have been through the child protective system and were successfully reunited with their children. CFR also trains attorneys, caseworkers, judges, and service providers to enhance the systems' ability to build on best practices in a coordinated way. CFR also does policy advocacy at the city, state and national level.

The Community Advocacy Teams (CAT) program provides a full cycle of services by offering families the assistance of an attorney, a social worker and a parent advocate. After a successful pilot program between 2004 and 2006, CFR was awarded a contract by the City of New York to provide CAT services to 600 families a year and to focus on parents already brought before the court in the borough of Manhattan. While valuable opportunities to avoid foster care are often compromised when CFR can not intervene early (during an investigation), CAT continues to achieve results for the city's most vulnerable families that drastically outpace city and state outcomes. Children of CAT families spend, on average, 73% less time in foster care than children in the city and state and in 50% of CFR cases, children never enter care at all, but instead stay at home with the services needed to help them stay safe and thrive.

CFR utilizes pro bono attorneys to directly assist clients with appeals, and to assist staff with administrative hearings on behalf of clients or in the development of practice toolkits.

***CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC  
COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL***

Morningside Heights Legal Services, Inc.  
410 W. 116th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Telephone: (212) 854-3123  
Fax: (212) 854-3699  
Website: [www.law.columbia.edu/focusareas/clinics/childadvocacy](http://www.law.columbia.edu/focusareas/clinics/childadvocacy)

100% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Family Advocacy Clinic provides training to law and social work students as part of the

Columbia Law School's curriculum. Students receive academic credit for their participation in the Clinic. Students in the Clinic represent children in foster care through a collaboration with lawyers representing children at the Juvenile Rights Division of the Legal Aid Society of New York City. Clients are referred from preventive service agencies, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs); and other legal services offices. Students are supervised by two law school professors and a social work director. In addition, forensic psychiatry fellows from Columbia University's medical system participate in clinic classes and casework as part of their fellowships, enhancing their own and the law students' understanding of the complex social problems that affect children the clinic represents.

The Clinic currently has an immigrant children's representation project in which clinic students represent youth seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, an immigrant visa available to children who are abused, neglected or abandoned by their parents. As an outgrowth of this project, Clinic students launched a website which serves as a guide for advocates, caseworkers and potential immigrant children clients.

The Clinic also handles some appellate cases and impact litigation challenging inappropriate removals of children from long-term foster families. The Clinic also does advocacy work, and has lobbied in the state capital for new forms of subsidized guardianship for relatives.

***CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC  
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW***

8000 Utopia Parkway  
Jamaica, NY 11439

Telephone: (718) 990-2937

Fax: (718) 990-6696

Website: <http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/law/academics/clinics/childadvocacy>

100% Children's Law

Could Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Child Advocacy Clinic began in the fall of 2005. 16 to 24 students participate in the clinic every year representing children as law guardians in abuse and neglect cases. The clinic utilizes a multidisciplinary approach by collaborating with St. John's departments of psychology, human services and counseling, and fine arts. Staff consists of one attorney, one fellow, one health care professional and one education consultant. Clients are referred from juvenile court and the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Practice (Queens County). Law students also conduct "Know Your Rights" trainings for youth in the community. The clinic does not accept calls from the public but does accept calls from children seeking legal information.

The Clinic also offers a two-year clinical teaching fellowship to law school graduates and lawyers interested in a career in law school clinic teaching.

***THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER***

44 Court St.  
New York, NY 11201  
Telephone: (718) 522-3333  
Fax: (718) 522-7376  
Website: <http://clcnny.org/>

100% Children's Law

The Children's Law Center (CLC), incorporated in 1997, is a not-for-profit law firm composed of 30 lawyers, paralegals and social workers. CLC is appointed by the court to represent children in custody/visitation, guardianship and domestic violence cases in Brooklyn, NY, and handles over 3,000 cases as attorneys and law guardians. Volunteer lawyers are not utilized.

CLC does not accept calls from the public or from children.

***CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS***  
***NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW***

Washington Square Legal Services, Inc.  
245 Sullivan St.  
Furman Hall 5th floor  
New York, NY 10012  
Telephone: (212) 998-6430  
Fax: (212) 995-4031  
Website: [www.law.nyu.edu/academics/clinics](http://www.law.nyu.edu/academics/clinics)

100% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The **Family Defense Clinic** is a teaching clinic of the New York University School of Law which focuses on children who are in foster care or at risk of foster care placement. This includes abuse and neglect cases, voluntary foster care cases, extensions of foster care placement, foster care review proceedings, termination of parental rights cases, adoption, and post-termination issues. In addition, the Clinic handles matters connected with custody, visitation, and guardianship matters as well as representing clients in administrative proceedings in the areas of foster care, welfare, SSI and public assistance.

Each year, the staff of 2 supervising attorneys, 1 social worker, 2 graduate social work students and 12 law students handle approximately 15 to 20 cases. Other professionals such as psychiatrists, psychologists, and medical doctors are consulted when necessary. The Clinic has written materials giving an overview of foster care, additional collected readings on the subject, and teaching simulations. The Clinic does not handle impact litigation.

Students in the **Children's Rights Clinic** represent children, with a particular focus on LGBTQ youth. 10 law students participate in the Clinic each semester, and work in one of four different fieldwork sites: The Peter Cicchino Youth Project of the Urban Justice Center, The Door Legal



Services Center, The Juvenile Rights Division of the New York Legal Aid Society, and Advocates for Children.

The **Juvenile Defender Clinic** provides fieldwork training to law students as part of the New York University School of Law's curriculum. Students receive academic credit for their participation in the clinic and take a substantive course which meets twice a week to provide relevant information and training. The delinquency manual prepared in 1990 is updated periodically. Law students work with staff attorneys and social workers of the New York Legal Aid Society to assist clients. The project began in 1975 and is staffed with three clinical teachers to supervise the students. Impact litigation is not handled at this time.

***CHILDREN'S PROJECTS***  
***VOLUNTEERS OF LEGAL SERVICE, INC.***

281 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10010  
Telephone: (212) 966-4400  
Fax: (212) 219-8943  
Email: [info@volsprobono.org](mailto:info@volsprobono.org)  
Website: [www.volsprobono.org](http://www.volsprobono.org)

15% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) works to increase pro bono civil legal services to New York City's poor. VOLS has a number of different projects for volunteer lawyers to serve vulnerable New York City populations, and to assist poverty law offices. There are two VOLS Children's Projects. The Hospital-based Children's Project is an undertaking by volunteer lawyers who work with doctors and social workers at local hospitals to improve health outcomes for poor children through the provision of free legal services. The Children's Project recruited seven law firms to be matched with seven participating hospitals. Hospital social workers refer cases directly to the contact person at the matched law firm. VOLS monitors the project by regular requests for case activity reports from each law firm. Current participating law firms include Cravath, Swaine & Moore; LeBoeuf, Lamb Greene & MacRae; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; Patterson, Balknap, Webb & Tyler; Pillsbury Winthrop; and White & Case. Law firms interested in participating in the Children's Project should contact VOLS.

The School-based Children's Project pairs six law firms with six New York schools. The law firms provide legal services to children enrolled in the school (and their families if needed). VOLS arranges for training and mentoring for law firms involved in this project. Current participating law firms are: Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson; Debevoise & Plimpton; Simpson Thacher & Bartlett; WilmerHale; Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel; and Baker & McKenzie.

In addition to providing legal services, the project organizes workshops for the participating medical and social work teams to familiarize them with basic legal issues in the areas of housing,

benefits and immigration law, thereby enabling them to be part of the advocacy process. Training sessions are also held for the volunteer lawyers on medical and social issues facing children and their families served by the project.

***CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, INC***

330 Seventh Ave., 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
Telephone: (212) 683-2210  
Fax: (212) 683-4015  
Website: [www.childrensrights.org](http://www.childrensrights.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Children's Rights, Inc. began in 1995 to continue the work begun by the Children's Rights Project of the ACLU, which was formed in 1973. Children's Rights, Inc. is at the forefront in the fight for the rights of poor children in the custody of child welfare agencies across the country. With an annual budget of nearly two million dollars, a staff of seasoned litigators, and a growing public policy department, Children's Rights combines the power of the courts and the assistance of expert partners to improve services for abused and neglected children.

Singularly focused on impact litigation, Children's Rights has won landmark cases improving child welfare systems in Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Equally importantly, Children's Rights is drawing from its experience to evaluate the long-term effect and limitations of impact litigation, and, based on its own analyses and partnerships with experts, identifying new and more effective means of creating and sustaining long-term change. In all instances, Children's Rights recognizes that no one approach works everywhere and that the needs of children must come before those of any government bureaucracy or courtroom strategy.

***CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CLINIC  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW***

P.O. Box 6543  
Syracuse, NY 13217-6543  
Telephone: (315) 443-4587  
Fax: (315) 443-3636  
Website: <http://law.syr.edu/academics/clinical-legal-education/childrens-rights-and-family-law-clinic.aspx>

100% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children's Rights and Family Law Clinic provides legal representation to children and their

families in matters relating to access to public benefits, housing, special education, school suspension and disciplinary hearings, emancipation, guardianship, AIDS-related issues, and general family law matters including adoption, child support and custody. Student attorneys represent children and their families in federal and state court proceedings, administrative hearings, and engage in community advocacy and education on behalf of children.

Students also assist clients through the Family Advocacy Program, a collaborative venture with SUNY Upstate Medical University where students address legal needs that impact children's health.

### ***COVENANT HOUSE NEW YORK***

460 W. 41st St.

New York, NY 10036

Telephone: (212) 613-0300

Fax: (212) 239-8781

Website: [www.covenanthouseny.org](http://www.covenanthouseny.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Covenant House Legal Department provides direct legal services to the residents of the agency's homeless shelters in Manhattan, and to low income residents of the Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn who are working with Covenant House non-residential programs. All of the clients in the agency's shelters are homeless, "push-out," and/or runaway adolescents. Typically clients are between the ages of 16 and 21. The majority of their legal problems pertain to family and immigration law matters. The Legal Department's domestic relations work includes child custody disputes and child support motions. The Legal Department's staff of three attorneys, one paralegal and several law students works with volunteers to handle 150 cases a year. Volunteer lawyers are recruited through the local bar association and law schools and trainings are provided as needed. Volunteers are utilized to provide direct representation, conduct research and work on policy issues. The Legal Department works with in-house social workers, health care professionals and psychologists.

The Advocacy and Legal Services Office also works on policy issues on behalf of kids, on a local, state and federal level. The staff and volunteers analyze bills and government policy, meet with officials regarding policies, and provide testimony on proposed bills.

Legal services are provided to youth involved in several Covenant House programs. For example, Covenant House runs school programs in seven schools which provide tutoring and academic services to youth. Covenant House also runs a crisis center and a transitional skills program. Participating in these programs allows these kids access to the Advocacy and Legal Services Office.

### ***THE DOOR – A CENTER OF ALTERNATIVES, INC.***

121 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10013  
Telephone: (212) 941-9090  
Fax: (212) 941-0714  
Website: [www.door.org](http://www.door.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Door's Legal Services Center is part of a multi-service alternative youth center that opened in 1972. It provides direct representation and information to children and young adults about their rights under the law. In addition to the areas listed above, The Door's Legal Services Center is also involved in employment, foster care and housing issues, living wills, health proxies and guardianships. Clients are referred from the courts, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals and other attorneys. Volunteer lawyers are recruited through the local bar, law firms, law schools, and with the help of Volunteers of Legal Service, Inc. (discussed herein). Training is offered to volunteers four times a year and on an as-needed basis. Volunteers may work independently, or with the staff attorneys. The staff attorneys are assisted by a paralegal.

Volunteers handle cases, help train clients to handle their own cases, or hold legal trainings for social workers and other professionals who work with children. Legal Services has created a law-related education curriculum that is taught in high schools and GED classes. Volunteers are trained to conduct legal education workshops throughout New York City. The Door maintains an extensive, multi-lingual, library of instructional pamphlets to teach clients how to handle problems concerning immigration, benefits, education, family law and street law. Pamphlets are distributed throughout New York State and copies are available upon request to anyone. In addition to the legal staff, the project provides over 70 services including, complete health care, vocational and college counseling, intramural sports, a free weight room, creative arts classes, complete counseling services ranging from individual therapy to group workshops, GED and English classes, and a nursery. The project employs social workers, child development specialists, health care professionals, psychologists, and teachers.

### ***LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN, INC.***

110 Lafayette St., 8th Floor  
New York, NY 10013  
Telephone: (212) 966-6420  
(800) 244-2540  
Fax: (212) 966-0531  
Website: [www.lawyersforchildren.org](http://www.lawyersforchildren.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Lawyers for Children (LFC) provides free legal and social work services to children who come before the family courts of New York City in abuse, neglect, termination of parental rights, custody, visitation and foster care proceedings. AFC assists individual clients and does impact

litigation and public policy advocacy. Pro bono attorneys can join the appellate panel, who work on appeals as the need arises. LFC also maintains a list of law firms who can support LFC in class action and other major litigation.

Attorneys and social workers at Lawyers for Children work to ensure that a child who must be placed in foster care finds a temporary home where he or she feels safe and wanted. And they reduce the time a child must spend in foster care by advocating for court ordered plans that will achieve permanency for children by helping them to return to their families or speed their adoption. Lawyers for Children employs a collaborative system of child advocacy. Together, our social workers and lawyers evaluate the background, needs and desires of our clients. Attorneys inform the court of a child's plight and plan the legal strategy that will insure that a child's rights are protected.

In addition to individual representation, LFC has several projects focused on specific groups of youth. The **Child Sexual Abuse Evaluation and Education Project** serves individual children in foster care who have been the victims of sexual abuse, as well as undertaking initiatives designed to benefit this entire group of historically unseen and underserved children. The **Project on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth** aims to identify the needs of LGBTQ youth in foster care and advocate for changes to the foster care system to meet those needs. The **Domestic Violence Project** provides specialized and comprehensive legal services to children in foster care who have been exposed to domestic violence. The **Immigration Project for Youth in Foster Care** files Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for immigrant youth in foster care. The **Adolescents Confronting Transition Project** focuses on providing the legal and social work services to assist adolescents in foster care access the community-based support they need to succeed as independent adults.

## ***JUVENILE RIGHTS DIVISION***

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

199 Walter St., 3rd Floor

New York, NY 10038

Telephone: (212) 577-3300

Fax: (212) 577-3520

Website: [www.legal-aid.org](http://www.legal-aid.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Juvenile Rights Division of The Legal Aid Society was established in response to a mandate issued by the New York State Legislature in 1962 that required children to be represented by counsel in the State's new Family Court, and provided that such services could be obtained by contract with a legal aid provider. The Division has approximately 131 attorneys. The Division represents 90 percent of the children who appear before the Family Court in New York City on child protective, termination of parental rights, PINS (person in need of supervision), and juvenile delinquency petitions.

Volunteers are increasingly an important part of this effort. Volunteers are recruited through law schools, seminars and by word of mouth. Training for volunteers is provided on an as-needed basis after which they are supervised by a staff attorney. CLE credit is available only for in-house staff training.

Volunteers are welcomed in all aspects of the Division's practice, but there are two areas in which volunteers are especially welcome. One is the Appeals Bureau Project which represents children in appeals from a variety of juvenile matters arising in the Family Court. Volunteers are provided with sample briefs and work closely with a senior appellate attorney. Secondly, the Division has developed a Post Termination Review Project through which attorneys represent children at post termination reviews which address the status of children who are freed for adoption but not yet adopted. The purpose of these reviews is to ensure that these children achieve permanence.

### ***PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS***

271 Madison Ave.

New York, NY 10016

Telephone: (212) 683-7999

Fax: (212) 683-5544

Email: [LSC@kidslaw.org](mailto:LSC@kidslaw.org)

Website: kidslaw.org

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Partnership for Children's Rights began in 1999 as a nonprofit organization. The Partnership has two focus areas: access to special education services, and access to social security disability benefits. Currently five staff attorneys, one social worker, one paralegal and volunteer attorneys handle approximately 1000 cases a year, representing their child clients as attorneys. Trainings for the volunteer attorneys are offered periodically, and a staff member teams with the volunteer in order to monitor the pro bono cases.

Partnership for Children's Rights accepts calls from the public and from children who are seeking legal information. Cases are referred from social services agencies, schools, health care professionals, clients themselves, other attorneys and other legal service organizations.

### ***PETER CICCHINO YOUTH PROJECT***

URBAN JUSTICE CENTER

123 William St. 16th Floor

New York, NY 10038  
Telephone: (646) 602-5600  
Fax: (212) 533-4598  
Website: [www.urbanjustice.org/ujc/projects/peter](http://www.urbanjustice.org/ujc/projects/peter)

The Peter Cicchino Youth Project (PCYP) focuses on the particular needs of at-risk LGBT youth. PCYP hosts legal clinics with one-on-one client counseling at drop-in centers for homeless and LGBTQ young people. Staff attorneys provide legal advocacy and representation on cases arising from those sessions. The Project also engages in systemic advocacy and impact litigation around issues such as the mistreatment of LGBT youth in New York City's foster care and juvenile detention systems. PCYP also works with LGBT young adults who are "aging" out of foster care, to ensure that they receive legally required discharge planning, and to give them the skills they need to successfully transition into independent, adult lives.

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### ***ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES***

201 West Main St., Ste. 400  
P.O. Box 2101  
Durham, NC 27702  
Telephone: (919) 226-0052  
(919) 226-0053  
Fax: (919) 226-0566  
Email: [ACSinfo@legalaidnc.org](mailto:ACSinfo@legalaidnc.org)  
Website: <http://www.legalaidnc.org/Pages/about-us/projects/Advocates-for-Childrens-Services.aspx>

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Advocates for Children's Services ("ACS") is a statewide project of Legal Aid of North Carolina. ACS focuses on providing free legal representation for children primarily in education cases such as long-term suspension, expulsion, repeated short-term suspension, denial of enrollment, suspended students facing criminal or delinquency charges, discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, gender, or disability, inadequate Personal Education Plans (PEPs) or Individualized Education Plans and special education. ACS does work with volunteer lawyers.

The agency accepts calls from children and the public who are seeking legal information

### ***CENTER FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH & THE LAW***

PO Box 3795

Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
Telephone: (919) 968-8850  
Fax: (919) 968-8851  
Email: [info@cahl.org](mailto:info@cahl.org)  
Website: [www.cahl.org](http://www.cahl.org)

100% Children's Law

The Center for Adolescent Health & the Law is a unique national organization that works exclusively to promote the health of adolescents and their access to comprehensive health care. The Center addresses a broad range of complex legal and policy issues that affect access to health care for the most vulnerable youth in the United States. The Center provides information and analysis, publications, consultation, and training to health professionals, policy makers, researchers and advocates who are working to protect the health of adolescents.

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA***

8 West 3rd Street, Ste M6  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
Telephone: [\(336\) 831-1909](tel:(336)831-1909)  
Fax: (336) 831-1910  
Website: <http://www.childrenslawcenternc.org/>

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The mission of the Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina (CLC) is to provide children with quality legal advocacy focusing on domestic violence issues, high conflict custody cases and ensuring access to education. CLC's ultimate goal is to enable children to grow up in safe environments and to become emotionally healthy adults. CLC is committed to making Forsyth County and Central North Carolina a safer place for children - one family at a time.

The CLC provides a voice for these vulnerable children in court proceedings and advocates for safe placement and counseling in the following types of situations.

- **Children in Domestic Violence:** Protecting the best interests of children in domestic violence cases where a protective order has been filed and there is a question of child custody and safety. CLC can be appointed to serve as Guardians ad Litem in "Chapter 50B" cases.
- **High-Conflict Custody:** Protecting the best interests of children in high conflict custody cases, called "Chapter 50" cases. The CLC tries to shield children from the psychological and emotional damage caused when children are caught in the middle of adult conflicts.
- **Educational Issues:** Protecting the best interests of children of indigent parents with issues involving the public school system.

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CLINIC***



## ***DUKE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL***

Box 90360

Durham, NC 27708

Telephone: (919) 613-7169  
(888) 600-7274

Fax: (919) 613-7262

Website: [www.law.duke.edu/childedlaw](http://www.law.duke.edu/childedlaw)

100% Children's Law

The Children's Law Clinic is a community law office that provides free legal advice, advocacy, and legal representation to low-income children. The clinic assists clients with special education issues and student discipline. The law students in the clinic advocate for children in the public schools when parents have been unable to obtain appropriate educational services for their children. In addition, the law students represent public school students facing suspension.

The Children's Law Clinic is an active partner in the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Durham. This partnership creates a collaboration between lawyers and doctors to enhance the overall health and well-being of area children.

## ***COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS***

601 E. Fifth St., Ste. 510

Charlotte, NC 28202

Telephone: (704) 372-7961

Fax: (704) 943-5941

Email: [info@cfcrights.org](mailto:info@cfcrights.org)

Website: [www.cfcrights.org](http://www.cfcrights.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Council for Children's Rights 30-person strong professional staff of attorneys and advocates provide a full range of research, advocacy and legal services for children and serves thousands of children in the community ever year. The Clients are referred from the courts, schools, social service agencies, health care professionals and other attorneys. Lawyers and community members are welcomed as volunteers.

The Council has several different projects to help clients. The **Individual Advocacy Program** helps 4,000 children each year receive the educational, health and mental health or other services they need. The **Custody Advocacy Project** has provided guardians at litem for high conflict custody cases. The **Larry King Center for Building Children's Futures** supports work being done in three areas: school readiness, child abuse and neglect, and access to health and mental health care. The Center provides research and evaluation, strategic and community planning, and public policy impact. The **Children's Defense Team** assists youth in criminal cases.

## ***MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN IN DURHAM***

4020 N. Roxboro Rd.

Durham, NC 27704-2120

Telephone: (919) 668-4000

Fax: (919) 681-8927

Website: [www.law.duke.edu/partnershipforchildren](http://www.law.duke.edu/partnershipforchildren)

Launched in 2007, the Partnership is a collaborate relationship between local pediatricians and local lawyers to benefit low-income children. The legal team consists of lawyers, a paralegal, and law students from Duke Children's Law Clinic and Legal Aid of North Carolina. The medical team consists of pediatricians and pediatric clinicians at Duke Medical Center, Duke Primary Care for Children and Lincoln Community Health Center. Pediatricians and their staff consult with the legal team and refer patients who have legal needs. The first year, 76 individuals were served. Legal assistance is provided in the areas of housing, government benefits, domestic violence, family law, consumer law, employment law and education law.

## ***NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM***

P.O. Box 2448

Raleigh, NC 27602

Telephone: (919) 733-7107

Fax: (919) 733-1845

Website: [www.nccourts.org/Citizens/GAL/Attorneys.asp](http://www.nccourts.org/Citizens/GAL/Attorneys.asp)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The North Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Program was created in 1983 when the state legislature passed legislation requiring the appointment of a guardian ad litem (GAL) together with an attorney advocate. These two individuals work as a team to promote the best interests of any child who comes before the courts because of abuse or neglect by his or her parents or caretakers. Every district court in the State of North Carolina has an office through which GAL volunteers can be trained and put to work. Currently approximately 90 part-time attorneys work and are paid as attorney advocates. These attorneys worked with nearly 5,000 GAL volunteers last year, handling over 17,000 cases

The GAL Program also created the Pro Bono Project, which specifically trains attorneys to advocate for children in abuse, neglect and dependency matters. Currently, the greatest need is for pro bono attorneys to handle appellate cases. Whether serving as a GAL or working on appeals, attorneys receive free CLE training and stay updated on current legal events through GAL publications.

## ***NORTH DAKOTA – NO PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED***

## **OHIO**

### ***FAMILY AND YOUTH LAW CENTER CAPITAL UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL***

303 East Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Telephone: (614) 236-6730

Fax: (614) 236-6958

Website: <http://familyyouthlaw.org/>

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Family and Youth Law Center at Capital University Law School (FYLaw) works within child welfare, adoption, and juvenile justice systems to support positive outcomes for children, youth, and families. Established in 1998 as the National Center for Adoption Law & Policy, FYLaw partners with local, state, and national agencies and organizations in collaborations aimed at improving the laws, policies, and practices associated with child protection, adoption, and juvenile justice systems.

Over the past few years, FYLaw has expanded the services it provides beyond advocacy, training, and education to include direct representation of systems-involved youth. FYLaw launched the Foster Youth Advocacy Center (FYAC) to provide civil legal services to young adults transitioning out of the child welfare system. This year, FYAC expanded its operation to offer these services to families at risk of systems involvement.

In each of these initiatives, FYLaw partners with Capital University and Capital University Law School to help provide experiential and service learning opportunities to law and social work students interested in working in child welfare and other related fields. FYLaw's student-oriented programming includes a national moot court competition, a fellowship program, externships, and pro bono opportunities.

### ***GUARDIAN AT LITEM PROJECT***

9300 Quincy Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44106

Telephone: (216) 443-3377

Fax: (216) 443-3490

Email: [info@galproject.org](mailto:info@galproject.org)

Website: [www.galproject.org](http://www.galproject.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Established in 1980 by the Cuyahoga County Bar Association, the Guardian Ad Litem Project represents children in abuse and neglect cases, as well as in other juvenile court cases in which

there is a parent/child conflict, where the child has no parent, where the parent is a minor or appeared to be mentally incompetent, or where appointment is otherwise necessary to ensure a fair hearing. The Guardian ad Litem Project recruits and trains GALs and monitors their performance. The Project serves as the liaison between the GALs, the Juvenile Court, and the public. Some attorneys serve as guardian ad litem pro bono, while others earn a fee, either paid by Cuyahoga County or the parties to the case. The Guardian ad Litem Project provides a two-day training for attorneys to become qualified GALs in Cuyahoga County. Advanced Trainings, also provided by the Project, are required to continue serving as a GAL.

***JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN PROJECT***  
***OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MORITZ COLLEGE OF LAW***

55 W. 12th Ave.

Columbus, OH 43210

Telephone: (614) 292-6821

Fax: (614) 292-5511

Website: <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/justice-for-children/>

100% Children's Law

The Justice for Children Project is an interdisciplinary research initiative at The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law. The Project engages in research and law reform while providing law students with opportunities to explore issues pertaining to children. The Project may undertake law reform initiatives. For example, the Project filed an amicus brief in the Ohio Supreme Court and the Kentucky Supreme Court, arguing that the children have a constitutional right to maintain and pursue their sibling relationship in a contested adoption matter. The Project is also developing GAL standards in abuse, neglect, dependency, delinquency, and unruly cases, and in domestic matters.

The **Justice for Children Practicum** began in January 1998 through funding from an Ohio State University academic enrichment grant. Part of the Justice for Children Project, the Practicum provides direct legal representation of children and their interests. The objective of the Practicum is not to represent a large number of clients, but instead to assemble a selection of cases that provides students with an opportunity to learn an ethical and strong legal practice model. 16 to 20 students, along with one staff attorney, handle approximately 40 cases as both attorneys and guardians ad litem. In addition to representing children in juvenile justice cases, the Project, through the Practicum, has filed a number of constitutional challenges on behalf of children. These have included cases addressing curfew ordinances, free speech, and search and seizures. Cases are referred primarily through juvenile court, though some are referred by other attorneys or from the clients themselves. The clinic does accept calls from the public seeking legal information.

In addition, the Justice for Children Project's **Pro Bono Partnership** pairs local attorneys who are willing to serve as pro bono guardians ad litem with law students from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Pro Bono Research Group, who provide the attorneys research, drafting, and other assistance in performing the duties of the guardian ad litem.

## ***PROKIDS***

2605 Burnet Ave.

Cincinnati, OH 45219

Telephone: (513) 281-2000

Fax: (513) 487-6444

E-mail: [info@prokids.org](mailto:info@prokids.org)

Website: [www.prokids.org](http://www.prokids.org)

100% Children's Law

ProKids was created in 1981 by the Hamilton County Juvenile Court, the Cincinnati Bar Association and the Junior League of Cincinnati out of a concern for children in Hamilton County, Ohio who had been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. ProKids recruits and trains CASAs: court appointed special advocates for children who have been abused or neglected. CASAs need not be attorneys. Funding is provided by United Way, victims' assistance funds, grants and hundreds of donors.

## ***TEAMCHILD AND CHILDREN'S PRACTICE GROUP***

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI

215 E. Ninth St., Ste. 200

Cincinnati, OH 45202

Telephone: (513) 241-9400

(800) 582-2682

Fax: (513) 241-7871

Website: [www.lascinti.org](http://www.lascinti.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

This project began when the Legal Aid Society decided to focus on children's advocacy as a result of community input. The Children's Practice Group engages in advocacy including representation, advice, and referrals related to a range of issues including school discipline and special education, children's mental health, and serving as lawyers and guardians ad litem in abuse and neglect cases. Clients are referred from court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, the client him or herself and other attorneys. Training is offered for volunteers and mandatory continuing legal education credit is available.

The program does accept calls from the public and children seeking legal information. If an attorney is interested in volunteering he or she should contact the agency's executive director.

## **OKLAHOMA**

### ***CARE ADVOCACY PROJECT***

OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES, INC

4200 Perimeter Center Dr., Ste. 222

Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Telephone: (405) 943-6457

Fax: (405) 917-7060

Website: [www.oilsonline.org](http://www.oilsonline.org)

65% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

OILS is a legal aid office that provides civil legal services to low-income Native Americans in Oklahoma. It began through a law firm and is still associated with that firm. OILS provides services to people in five general areas: children's issues, property, tribal sovereignty, housing, and property. 10 staff attorneys and 4 paralegals also utilize law students and volunteer lawyers, and they represent approximately 150 children a year. Clients are referred from juvenile court, social service organizations, other attorneys and tribes. Training is provided for volunteers. The office also handles impact litigation.

OILS has partnered with the American Bar Association's Child Custody and Adoption Pro Bono Project to present standards and education regarding children's representation in tribal courts. As a result of this partnership, OILS conducts trainings on the ABA standards for representation in divorce, guardianship and adoption cases as they relate to Indian children. CAP seeks to train attorneys in the guidelines, and to make sure that tribal courts are aware of the standards and use them when children are involved. OILS also publishes *The Indian Child Welfare Act: Case and Analysis*. It is updated annually and is one of the few national resources for case information in this fast-changing area of Indian law.

OILS does work with pro bono lawyers.

### ***OKLAHOMA LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN***

4901 Richmond Square, Suite 101

Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Telephone: (405) 232-4453  
Fax: (405) 232-4145  
Email: [olfc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olfc@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.oklahomalawyersforchildren.com](http://www.oklahomalawyersforchildren.com)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Oklahoma Lawyers for Children (OLFC) began in 1997 by a group of private attorneys. Staff work with volunteer attorneys and non-attorney volunteers to provide representation to children in abuse and neglect cases, guardianships, adoptions, and special education for foster youth. The project also utilizes volunteer private investigators and court reporters.

### ***TULSA LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN, INC.***

P.O. Box 2254  
Tulsa, OK74101-2254  
Telephone: (918) 425-5858  
Fax: (918) 382-0350  
Email: [tulsakidlaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tulsakidlaw@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [tulsalawyersforchildren.org](http://tulsalawyersforchildren.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Tulsa Lawyers for Children (TLC) began in the spring of 2000 and recruits, trains and provides ongoing assistance to volunteer attorneys representing children in abuse and neglect cases. Tulsa Lawyers receives a case when a juvenile judge determines the need for an attorney other than the Public Defender (who is automatically appointed to every case unless there is a conflict) and at that time a volunteer lawyer is assigned. Lawyers interested in volunteering should contact the office.

TLC has a manual prepared by the organization's Director of Program and Professional Services which is updated before each training. The manual includes information on juvenile law statutes, procedures applicable to abuse and neglect cases, the role of the child welfare agency, and the role and duty of a child's attorney.

Calls are accepted from the children and the public for the sole purpose of referrals to appropriate agencies.

## **OREGON**

### ***CHILD & FAMILY ADVOCACY CLINIC***

## ***WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY***

245 Winter Street SE  
Salem, OR 97301

The Child & Family Advocacy Clinic is devoted to the protection of children and families across the country and around the world. The faculty and students work to advance legal protections that provide stability to the family structure and nurture children's healthy development, as well as pro bono legal representation to individual children and families in crisis. Students in the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic have the opportunity to represent family members in family law matters such as adoptions, guardianships, dissolutions, child custody and parenting time, paternity, education advocacy cases, impact litigation, and law reform. In addition to gaining experience interviewing clients and witnesses, drafting legal documents, formulating legal strategies, and conducting legal research, factual investigations, and discovery, certified law students also may have the opportunity to make courtroom appearances and conduct depositions.

## ***YOUTH, RIGHTS & JUSTICE***

401 NE 19th Ave., Ste. 200  
Portland, OR 97232

Telephone: (503) 232-2540

Fax: (503) 231-4767

Email: [info@jrplaw.org](mailto:info@jrplaw.org)

Website: [www.jrplaw.org](http://www.jrplaw.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

Youth, Rights & Justice, formerly the Juvenile Rights Project, began as part of Multnomah County Legal Aid in 1975. Attorneys and law students represented youth in delinquency cases in Multnomah County Juvenile Court and in a class action against the MacLaren Training School, a state juvenile correctional facility.

By 2011, Youth, Rights & Justice had represented 50,000 individual children, youth and parents in the juvenile court system, including the Multnomah County Juvenile Court, Oregon Court of Appeals, Oregon Supreme Court and the Oregon Juvenile Psychiatric Security Review Board, and in other venues, including local school districts.

Youth, Rights & Justice is court-appointed to represent children in foster care, parents in the child dependency system and youth in the juvenile court system. YRJ represents individual clients in the Multnomah County (Oregon) Juvenile Court, the Oregon Court of Appeals and Oregon Supreme Court. The organization also represents youth under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Juvenile Psychiatric Security Review Board and the SchoolWorks program serves children and youth who are involved in the juvenile court system and advocates for their educational rights and needs.

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### ***CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CLINIC***



***PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW***

371 W. South St.

Carlisle, PA, 17013

Telephone: (717) 243-2968

Fax: (717) 241-3556

Website: <http://law.psu.edu/practice-skills/clinics/childrens-advocacy-clinic>

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Children's Advocacy Clinic (CAC) is an innovative interdisciplinary clinical program where law students and graduate social work students represent children in the legal system and work to address problems in the child welfare system. The Clinic provides students with the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on training serving children and advocating for policy issues related to children in the welfare system. Under the direction of a supervising attorney, law students represent children who are abused and/or neglected as well as those involved in other civil court actions such as adoption, domestic violence, and custody matters.

Clients are represented by both a law student and a graduate social work student who use a team approach to address children's needs. Social work students are supervised by a clinic social worker. Additionally, Clinic students work with pediatric residents and child psychiatry fellows from Penn State Hershey.

***EDUCATION LAW CENTER***

Philadelphia Building

1315 Walnut St., 4th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Telephone: (215) 238-6970

Fax: (215) 772-3125

Website: [www.elc-pa.org](http://www.elc-pa.org)

702 Law & Finance Building

429 Fourth Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Telephone: (412) 258-2120

Fax: (412) 391-4496

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Education Law Center has been representing the health and education needs of children since 1975 with a focus on poor children, children of color, children with disabilities, English language learners, children in foster homes and institutions and others. Clients are referred from social services agencies, schools, health care professionals, other attorneys, advocacy groups and former clients. The Center has published several manuals, reports and fact sheets, many of which

are published on their website. The website also links to Pennsylvania education legislation and guidance from the state Department of Education. Impact litigation handled by the Center has included a case concerning the established right to compensatory education under IDEA and representation of a class of Asian refugee students.

***INTERDISCIPLINARY CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL***

Gittis Center for Clinical Legal Studies  
3501 Sansom Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
Telephone: (215) 898-8427  
Fax: (215) 573-6783  
Website: [www.law.upenn.edu/clinic/interchild](http://www.law.upenn.edu/clinic/interchild)

100% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

Founded in 1983 through a partnership with the Medical School and School of Social Work, law students in the clinic work with medical students and social work students to study the legal system's response to child abuse and neglect in an interdisciplinary context. Students represent child clients in court hearings, participate in developing a plan to serve the child's best interest, and assure that the plan is carried out through a variety of interactions with parents, the Department of Human Services, and various service providers. Cases are referred from juvenile court and from schools. Clinic staff includes medical personnel and a social worker, as well as an attorney. The twice-weekly seminars are co-taught at Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania by an interdisciplinary faculty team. The clinic does not accept calls from the public seeking legal information.

***JUVENILE LAW CENTER***

The Philadelphia Building  
1315 Walnut St., 4th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Telephone: (215) 625-0551  
(800) 875-8887  
Fax: (215) 625-2808  
Website: [www.jlc.org](http://www.jlc.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Juvenile Law Center (JLC) was formed in 1975 to provide pro bono representation to children who have come within the purview of public agencies (for example foster children or delinquent youth). The staff of seven attorneys and three paralegals, with the help of volunteers, litigates key cases in state and federal court, including appellate advocacy, and writes amicus

briefs. JLC works with academic researchers to develop sound public policy and advises the executive and legislative branches of state and federal government on the effects of proposed legislation or regulations on children. In addition, JLC trains lawyers, judges and professionals who work with children, educates the public, and serves as a resource to the media and answers telephone inquiries or questions asked to our website. The Center's publications are available on their website. Current projects focus on reforming the juvenile justice system, access to education and health care, and children aging out of the juvenile justice or foster care systems.

Law students are recruited through local law schools. Lawyers who contact the Center wishing to volunteer do not directly represent clients, but assist the staff with legal research and occasional class action suits. Training is provided on an as-needed basis. The Center also works with social workers, child development specialists and psychologists.

### ***KIDSVOICE***

437 Grant St., Ste. 700

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Telephone: (412) 391-3100

Fax: (412) 391-3588

E-Mail: [info@kidsvoice.org](mailto:info@kidsvoice.org)

Website: [www.kidsvoice.org](http://www.kidsvoice.org)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

KidsVoice is a non-profit organization, begun in 1984, that handles approximately 5,000 children's law cases a year. Twenty-two staff attorneys work with seventeen full time child advocacy specialists (experts in development, drug and alcohol abuse and domestic abuse) to represent children primarily in abuse and neglect cases. This multi-disciplinary approach represents a new model of advocacy that permits KidsVoice to take full account of the child's needs and provide comprehensive child advocacy in the most effective and efficient manner. Attorneys working on these cases are able to represent children in many of the collateral issues that arise, for example, in their special education or delinquency cases.

The office does utilize volunteer lawyers, law students and other professionals. Currently volunteer lawyers consult on issues such as immigration, trusts and estates, and personal injury matters, however KidsVoice is starting a pro bono program in spring, 2003.

The office does not accept calls from the public seeking legal information, however calls are accepted from children. Cases are received from juvenile court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, other attorneys and from children themselves.

KidsVoice does handle some impact litigation brought in conjunction with other law firms, and it submits amicus briefs on some cases.

## ***PENNSYLVANIA IMMIGRATION RESOURCE CENTER***

50 Mt. Zion Rd.

York, PA 17402

Telephone: (717) 600-8099

Fax: (717) 600-8044

Email: [info@pirclaw.org](mailto:info@pirclaw.org)

Website: [www.pirclaw.org](http://www.pirclaw.org)

30% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Started in 1996 as a separate, non-profit organization, the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center represents unaccompanied immigrant children in their deportation hearings. One staff attorney, an accredited representative and volunteer attorneys and law students handle roughly 20 cases a year. In the past, trainings for volunteers has taken place once a year and mandatory legal education credit is offered for the training. Besides taking cases volunteer lawyers also enforce detention standards for immigrant children. If lawyers are interested in volunteering, they should call the center. The center does accept calls from children and the public seeking legal information.

## ***PHILADELPHIA VOLUNTEERS FOR THE INDIGENT PROGRAM***

1500 Walnut Street, Suite 400

Philadelphia PA 19102

Telephone: (215) 523-9550

Fax: (215) 564-0845

Website: [www.phillyvip.org](http://www.phillyvip.org)

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP) was started in 1981 as a project of The Philadelphia Bar Association, but is now a separate nonprofit organization, though still funded largely by the Bar. Clients are referred from Community Legal Services, Philadelphia Legal Assistance, and other agencies to the staff of two attorneys and three paralegals. Volunteer lawyers are recruited from local law firms and law schools and training seminars. VIP holds frequent training seminars for attorneys wanting to know more about representing the indigent. CLE credits are available at the training sessions, the price for which is acceptance of one VIP client referral. Impact litigation cases are accepted for possible referral to volunteer lawyers.

## ***PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA***

United Way Building, 2nd Floor

1709 Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Telephone: (215) 627-7100  
Fax: (215) 627-3183  
Website: [www.pilcop.org](http://www.pilcop.org)

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Started in 1969 in affiliation with the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights, the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia now represents children in civil rights cases which include access to health care and education. The staff of eight attorneys works with health care professionals and psychologists as well as a small number of volunteer lawyers whose help is solicited directly by a staff member. The **Children's Health Care Project** brings lawsuits throughout the country to ensure that states provide prompt and effective medical services for poor children in accordance with Title XIX of the Social Security Act. The **Education Quality and Funding Project** brings lawsuits and does advocacy efforts to pursue equalization of resources for all of Pennsylvania's school children. A number of impact cases have been handled by the Center including actions to open classes to disabled students, a Medicaid case to expand services to all eligible children, and an action to end unequal education provided to racial minorities.

### ***SUPPORT CENTER FOR CHILD ADVOCATES***

1900 Cherry St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Telephone: (267) 546-9200  
Fax: (267) 546-9201  
Website: [www.advokid.org](http://www.advokid.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Support Center for Child Advocates is Philadelphia's lawyer volunteer program for abused and neglected children, providing legal assistance and social service advocacy to more than 500 children each year. The Support Center is one of the most successful volunteer models serving children in the country, with 200 active volunteers. Each child receives the service of one of seven staff social workers, who are teamed with volunteer attorneys throughout the term of representation; the agency is also staffed by four attorneys who provide technical assistance and service on special projects.

Support Center's legal and social services are offered to child victims in four core programs. The **Child Abuse and Neglect Program** represents child victims in criminal prosecutions for child abuse, and children who are parties to civil dependency proceedings. Special service initiatives include: the Children's Paralegal Program, offering paralegals and legal assistants the opportunity to serve children in casework, legal research and initiatives for systemic reform. The **Kids 'N Kin: The Caregiving Program** is a joint venture that provides in-home legal and social services to relative caregivers. **Volunteer Attorneys for Medically Needy Children** is an advanced volunteer program targeted at children with serious medical needs. Clients are referred from the Juvenile Court, the District Attorney, social service agencies, schools, health care

professionals and other attorneys. Volunteers are recruited from law firms, corporate legal offices and solo practitioners in the Philadelphia legal community. A full-day training (CLE credit) and half-day Courtroom Observation are offered semi-annually.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

### ***RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN***

Hasbro Children's Hospital, Room 119

Providence, RI

Phone: 401 300-0657

Website: [www.riclapp.org](http://www.riclapp.org)

The Rhode Island Medical-Legal Partnership, Inc. (RIMLP) is a project of the Rhode Island Center for Law and Public Policy. The partners for the RIMLP include Hasbro Children's Hospital, Roger Williams University School of Law and the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. The Rhode Island Medical Legal Partnership utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to address the social determinants that prevent good health outcomes for traditionally under-served populations.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER***

### ***UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW***

1600 Hampton St., Ste. 502

Columbia, SC 29208

Telephone: (803) 777-1646

Fax: (803) 777-8686

Website: [childlaw.sc.edu](http://childlaw.sc.edu)

100% Children's Law

The Children's Law Center is a resource center for South Carolina professionals who are involved in child maltreatment or juvenile justice court proceedings. The overall purpose of the Children's Law Center is to help professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills, so that court proceedings will have the best possible outcomes for children. This goal is accomplished through a variety of training events, information and technical assistance, written resource materials, and education through the USC School of Law. Most services are available to all parties, prosecutors, guardians ad litem, judges, juvenile justice staff, child protection caseworkers and expert witnesses.

The Children's Law Center, a program of the USC School of Law, is funded by a variety of state and federal grant sources. The office was established in 1995 through the efforts of S.C. Families

for Kids, a partnership of the United Way of South Carolina and the S.C. Department of Social Services. The office began with a focus on resources for child protection professionals. The Children's Law Center is also responsible for coordinating the South Carolina Children's Justice Task Force.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA – NO PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED**

### **TENNESSEE**

#### **EDUCATION LAW PRACTICUM AND YOUTH JUSTICE**

##### ***UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF LAW***

1505 W. Cumberland Ave.

Knoxville, TN 37996-1810

Telephone: (865) 974-4141

Fax: (865) 974-6782

Website: [www.law.utk.edu](http://www.law.utk.edu)

In 2008 The Education Law Practicum was inaugurated to provide 2Ls and 3Ls an opportunity to engage in holistic representation of public school students who were being prosecuted for truancy in juvenile court. The course has evolved into a Practicum that focuses on reforming policies and practices—at the intersection of education law and juvenile justice-- that harm children, youth, and families. The Practicum employs a wide range of methods critically to understand and to challenge existing systems and to build better alternatives.

Ten students in the course represent clients in a variety of school- and juvenile court-related matters (including school discipline hearings and special education matters) and develop real-time public interest lawyering projects that tackle issues of educational inequality, racial discrimination, due process in juvenile court proceedings, access to justice, and other current issues in these dynamic fields. The Practicum also collaborates with the Knox County Public Defender's Office in selected case work.

***CHILD AND FAMILY LITIGATION CLINIC  
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS CECIL C. HUMPHREYS SCHOOL OF LAW***

1 North Front Street

Memphis, TN 38103-2189

Telephone: (901) 523-8822 ext. 404

Fax: (901) 543-5087

Website: <http://www.memphis.edu/law/experiential/childlitigation.php>

100% Children's Law

The Child and Family Litigation Clinic develops core legal skills through representing the child in context.

Broadly grouped as "child advocacy," clinic cases offer practice in "holistic" child representation, including: Child abuse and neglect; Foster care; Delinquency; Child custody, paternity, and adoption; Education or mental health; Public benefits, such as TennCare; Any legal forum necessary to meet each child's needs

Student attorneys also experience the variety of roles and responsibilities required: in one case representing a child's best interests; in another representing a child's legal interests or expressed wishes; or in another scenario, representing the child's parent to promote the child's welfare. In addition to developing core legal skills, student attorneys participate in problem-solving, co-counseling, collaboration, meeting facilitation, and multidisciplinary consultation and practice essential in today's global society.

***CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS  
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE  
CUMBERLANDS***

PO Box 5209

226B Broadway

Jackson Square

Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Phone: 865-483-8454

300 Deaderick Street

Nashville, TN 37201

Phone: 865-244-6610

Website: [www.las.org/](http://www.las.org/)

The Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland has several projects for children:

- The **Juvenile Courts** project is located within the Oak Ridge office. Under a unique agreement, the Oak Ridge office collaborates with the juvenile court judges in Anderson



and Claiborne Counties. Oak Ridge attorneys accept guardian ad litem (GAL) appointments of children who are having difficulty receiving state services, such as special education or medical care funded by TennCare. Neither the courts nor the private attorneys who usually handle GAL appointments have the expertise to handle the complex issues that arise in these situations. By acting under the authority of the court, LAS attorneys have been able to gain valuable services for highly vulnerable children.

- **Adams Kirshner Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC)** is a collaboration between the Legal Aid Society and the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt to provide free legal aid to low-income patients and their families. The purpose of the MLPC is to improve the health of children by addressing social, economic and physical needs through legal intervention. This program is coordinated out of the the Legal Aid Society's Nashville office. In addition to direct services, this program provides regular trainings for the residents, medical students and the hospital's social workers and provides many other resources to all hospital staff.
- The **Oak Ridge Education-Legal Partnership** involves staff from the Oak Ridge office who participate in an Education-Legal Partnership with the Family Resource Center of Oak Ridge Schools. Through this United Way funded program, Legal Aid Society attorneys handle legal problems referred by the Center that interfere with children's ability to succeed in school. Legal Aid Society attorneys also conduct legal check-ups and give training to parents and teachers as part of this partnership.

### ***WEST TENNESSEE LEGAL SERVICES***

210 W. Main St.

Jackson, TN 38301

Telephone: (731) 423-0616

Fax: (731) 423-2600

Email: [wtls@wtls.org](mailto:wtls@wtls.org)

Website: [www.wtls.org](http://www.wtls.org)

10% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

West Tennessee Legal Services (WTLS) began doing children's law cases as part of their overall work in 1994. WTLS has 10 staff attorneys, 10 paralegals and 2 social workers currently on staff. Approximately 40 volunteer lawyers are utilized each year, and volunteer law students could be utilized as well. Trainings for volunteers are offered as needed. Cases are assigned through a pro bono coordinator and monitored through calls to volunteers, written requests for updates, volunteer mentors and self reporting. To volunteer, contact the agency.

The office has handled impact litigation, a recent example being a case on special education policy and procedure conformance with IDEA and due process.

Calls are accepted from the public and from children seeking legal information. Cases are

referred from juvenile court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals, other attorneys, and children themselves.

## **TEXAS**

### ***CABRINI CENTER FOR IMMIGRANT LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES***

2900 Louisiana St.

Houston, TX 77006

Telephone: (713) 526-4611

Fax: (713) 874-6792

Website: <http://www.catholiccharities.org/services/services-programs-immigration>

19% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Cabrini Center began in 1978 and began representing children in 2002. The Cabrini Center is the largest of the three Houston-based non-profit agencies accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals to represent individuals in immigration legal matters. Volunteer attorneys are utilized to handle individual cases, and training is provided for CLE credit.

The program does accept calls from children and the public seeking legal information. Clients are referred through the Unaccompanied Immigrant Children Program of Catholic Charities, other attorneys or the children themselves.

### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN SCHOOL OF LAW***

727 E. Dean Keeton St.

Austin, TX 78705

Telephone: (512) 232-1290

Fax: (512) 475-8874

Website: <http://www.utexas.edu/law/clinics/>

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

Students in the **Children's Rights Clinic** represent children in Travis County District Court as student attorneys *ad litem* in cases in which the state seeks custody or termination of parental rights based on allegations of abuse and neglect. Although the supervising attorneys sign pleadings drafted by the students and accompany the students to formal proceedings, the student attorneys sit "first chair" at hearings, depositions, mediations, and trial appearances, and they research and prepare cases as the primary attorneys.

In the **Juvenile Justice Clinic** students serve as student attorneys with the Travis County Juvenile Public Defender. Clients are indigent juveniles, aged ten to seventeen, charged with criminal offenses ranging from Class B misdemeanors to first-degree felonies. The Clinic provides an opportunity for students to learn juvenile law, interact with clients, advocate in court proceedings, and participate in educating children about the law. Student attorneys are assigned cases for which they have primary responsibility under the supervision of an experienced attorney in the public defender's office. Students perform all investigation, interviews, discovery, negotiation, and litigation functions on their cases.

***IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE PROJECT  
SOUTH TEXAS PRO BONO ASYLUM REPRESENTATION PROJECT***

119 W. Van Buren Avenue

Suite 204

Harlingen, TX 78550

Telephone: (956) 365-3775

Fax: (956) 365-3789

Email: [immcenter@americanbar.org](mailto:immcenter@americanbar.org)

Website:

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_services/immigration/projects\\_initiatives/south\\_texas\\_pro\\_bono\\_asylum\\_representation\\_project\\_probar/immigrant\\_childrensassistanceprojecticap.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_services/immigration/projects_initiatives/south_texas_pro_bono_asylum_representation_project_probar/immigrant_childrensassistanceprojecticap.html)

40% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Presentation Project (ProBAR) was created in 1989 as a joint project of the State Bar of Texas, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the American Bar Association. ProBAR recruits, trains and coordinates the activities of volunteer attorneys, law students and legal assistants from across the country who provide legal services to detained immigrants and asylum-seekers in South Texas.

Founded in 2003 with just one staff-person, ProBAR's Children's Project now has a team of seven attorneys, two Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representatives, fifteen paralegals, and two full-time volunteers. The Children's Project currently serves more than 900 detained, unaccompanied children at shelters in South Texas by providing them with "Know Your Rights" presentations and coordinating their legal representation.

ProBAR is designed to utilize the services of volunteers who are not experienced in immigration law as well as those who are. We welcome volunteer attorneys, recent law graduates, law students and legal assistants. Attorneys need not be licensed in the State of Texas to participate.

***JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN***

6750 West Loop South

Suite 120

Bellaire, Texas 77401  
Telephone: 713-225-4357  
Website: [www.jfcadvocacy.org](http://www.jfcadvocacy.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Justice for Children is a national child advocacy organization with headquarters in Houston, Texas. It was founded in 1987 by Randy Burton, a former Chief Prosecutor of the Family Offenses Section of the Harris County District Attorney's office, and a group of concerned citizens within the community in response to the inadequacies and failure of child protective system to protect abused and neglected children.

Today, Justice for Children continues to function as the voice of the abused and neglected child. The organization is unique in that its purpose is to advocate and intervene on behalf of the abused and neglected child at any stage of an abused child's case, even prior to any court action. Justice for Children cases involve persons trying to protect an abused or neglected child. Individuals call asking for our assistance and guidance through a system that is often overwhelming, especially due to the emotional and traumatic events that are taking place in an abused or neglected child's life.

The purpose of Justice for Children is to provide a full range of advocacy and services for abused and neglected children; that includes legal advocacy, public policy monitoring, guidance through a complex child protective system, professional referrals, mental health services, court watch, research, education, and emotional support. Justice for Children assists and refers several thousand callers annually through the complicated maze of governmental agencies established to protect abused children. Advocating for an abused or neglected child takes on many different forms of participation and involvement that include, researching and gathering supporting documentation; reviewing supporting documentation; referring persons to professionals; guiding them through the legal and judicial process; initiating child abuse investigations; generating advocacy correspondence and amicus briefs- court hearings; and acting as facilitator of professional services.

Justice for Children proposes and drafts legislation to improve the laws pertaining not only to child abuse and child protection, but also laws concerning the funding for protective services.

**W. W. CARUTH, JR. CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC**  
SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW  
P.O. Box 750116  
Dallas, TX 75275-0116

Telephone: 214-768-3486  
Fax: 214-768-1611  
Website: <http://www.law.smu.edu/ChildAd/Home>

The W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas represents abused and neglected children in Dallas County. The clinic is appointed by the Juvenile District Courts to serve as Guardian/Attorney ad litem for children. Student attorneys, under the supervision of the clinic director, are responsible for determining the best interests of the children and representing the children's voice in court.

### ***TEXAS LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN***

P.O. Box 192586  
Dallas, Texas 75219  
Phone: (214) 219-5852  
Toll Free: (800) 993-5852  
Fax: (214) 219-5851  
Website: <http://www.texaslawyersforchildren.org/>

Texas Lawyers for Children's (TLC) mission is to improve case outcomes for abused and neglected children by enhancing the quality of legal services they receive. The most important decisions about an abused or neglected child's future are made in court. TLC exists to help ensure that those decisions are the best possible for the child.

TLC maintains an on-line legal resource center as well as professional e-mail networks and discussion boards.

TLC, along with the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the State Bar Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, is building a statewide network of attorneys willing to provide pro bono services in areas such as: Trial Preparation Mentoring, Appellate Law, Kinship Placements, Adoption, and Assisting with Representation of Foster Children.

## **UTAH**

### ***HOMELESS YOUTH LEGAL CLINIC***

## ***VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA, UTAH***

888 South 400 West

Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Telephone: (385) 355-4952

Website: [https://www.voaut.org/pdf\\_files/hylc](https://www.voaut.org/pdf_files/hylc)

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Homeless Youth Legal Clinic has partnered with Volunteers of America, Utah and the Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake to provide free legal services to youth ages 15-22 experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Youth Legal Clinic is helping to remove barriers so youth can obtain housing, employment and achieve their potential. Volunteers provide consultation, identify legal issues, represent youth in the courtroom, and teach on any topic of law.

## ***UTAH OFFICE OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM UTAH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS***

450 S. State St. N31

P.O. Box 140241

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-0241

Telephone: (801) 238-7861

Fax: (801) 578-3843

Website: [www.utcourts.gov/specproj/galcasa.htm](http://www.utcourts.gov/specproj/galcasa.htm)

100% Children's Law

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Utah Office of Guardian ad Litem was established in 1994 as an arm of the Utah Administrative Office of the Courts, under the authority of the Utah Judicial Council. An Oversight Committee was established by the Judicial Council in 2006 to better ensure the independence and effectiveness of the Office in representing the best interests of the children within the court's jurisdiction. The Office of Guardian ad Litem is appointed by the State District and Juvenile Courts to represent children who are the subject of allegations of abuse, neglect, or dependency in all districts and venues state-wide. Over 40 attorneys are employed by the Office, including the Director, an appeals specialist, and training specialist. The Office also employs one investigator and one clinical psychologist, and assigns volunteer CASAs to assist with cases. Twelve separate offices currently exist within the seven judicial districts.

The office also trains, certifies and assigns private attorneys who may be ordered by the District Courts to represent children in high-conflict divorce cases, involving issues of custody or parent-time. The attorneys involved in this Private Attorney Guardian ad Litem program are either paid directly by the parties to a case (often pursuant to a Court order) or may accept assignment to a case pro bono.

## VERMONT – NO PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED

### VIRGINIA

#### ***CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC***

#### ***UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW***

580 Massie Road

Charlottesville, VA 22903

Telephone: (434) 924-7354

Website: [www.law.virginia.edu/html/academics/practical/childadvocacy.htm](http://www.law.virginia.edu/html/academics/practical/childadvocacy.htm)

100% Children's Law

Law students from the University of Virginia work as volunteers with JustChildren. Students represent low-income children statewide who have problems with the education, foster care and juvenile justice systems. Students are supervised by two full-time and two part-time attorneys for approximately 20 to 30 cases a year. The project works with volunteer psychologists and employs a community education coordinator. Although the project does not currently work with volunteer attorneys, they could use volunteers to assist with research.

JustChildren does accept calls from children and the public seeking legal information. It also has a manual for parents entitled Helping You Help Your Child, which explains the rights of children to a variety of services, and effective advocacy strategies.

#### ***CHILDREN'S LAW CLINICS***

#### ***UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND***

28 Westhampton Way

Richmond, VA 23173

Telephone: (804) 287-6468

Fax: (804) 287-6489

Website: <http://law.richmond.edu/academics/clinical-programs/index.html>

100% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The **Children's Defense Clinic** (formerly the Delinquency Clinic) is a litigation-oriented clinic that focuses on the needs of "at-risk" children and adolescents. Clinic students advocate on behalf of children appearing before area juvenile courts. In the majority of cases, students serve as defense counsel for youth accused of delinquency (criminal) offenses. Students are also occasionally assigned to work as guardians ad litem on other cases which involve children's issues, such as abuse and neglect.

Law students in the **Education Rights Clinic** (formerly the Disability Law Clinic) represent children and parents seeking appropriate special education and community-based services mandated by both federal and state law. Students also represent youth with mental disabilities who are before the juvenile court or are incarcerated or institutionalized. Clinic students may be appointed guardians ad litem for children with mental health needs in the justice system.

The **Jeanette Lipman Family Law Clinic** is an in-house clinic that provides legal assistance to families and children in the City of Richmond. Areas of representation include divorce, custody, visitation, domestic violence, foster care, public benefits and housing.

### ***JUSTCHILDREN PROGRAM***

LEGAL AID JUSTICE CENTER

1000 Preston Ave.

Charlottesville, VA 22903

Telephone: (434) 977-0553

Fax: (434) 977-0558

Website: <https://www.justice4all.org/justchildren/justchildren-program/>

100% Children's Law

This project began in January of 1998 through a Soros Justice Fellowship at the Legal Aid Justice Center. Presently, the program has seven attorneys and two community organizers and has offices in Charlottesville, Richmond and Petersburg. The JustChildren Program, which has staff in the Legal Aid Justice Center offices in Charlottesville, Richmond and Petersburg, works to improve Virginia's public education, juvenile justice, and foster care systems. JustChildren believes that whenever the government assumes responsibility for the care of a child - whether in the educational system, the foster care system or the juvenile justice system - the result should be that the child's chances for success in life are improved. Cases are referred from juvenile court, social service agencies, the clients themselves, health care professionals, CASA volunteers and other attorneys or community members. The office also supervises law students from the University of Virginia School of Law Child Advocacy Clinic (listed in this Directory), and works with volunteer psychologists. Although the project does not currently work with volunteer attorneys, they could use volunteers to assist with research (interested attorneys should call the legal director).

The project does accept calls from children and the public seeking legal information. It also has a manual for parents entitled *Helping You Help Your Child*, which explains the rights of children to a variety of services, and effective advocacy strategies.

### ***LAW CENTER FOR CHILDREN***

***LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA***

6066 Leesburg Pike, Ste. 500

Falls Church, VA 22041



Telephone: (703) 778-6800  
Fax: (703) 778-4790  
Website: <http://www.lsnv.org/what-we-do/child-advocacy/>

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Law Center for Children is a division of Legal Services of Northern Virginia. The Center's staff handle a variety of legal areas: school disciplinary and special education cases; adoptions, generally for children adopted by family members; guardianships for young people who are disabled and reaching age of maturity; public benefits, particularly SSI appeals for children with disabilities; emancipation of minors; and name changes and correction of birth certificates. Volunteer attorneys are utilized to represent or provide legal counsel, and also write brochures and other outreach materials. Volunteers are assigned a mentor and are given training materials.

The Law Center does accept calls from the public and from children seeking legal information. Clients are referred from social service agencies, schools, or they refer themselves.

### ***NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN***

699 Prince St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3175  
Telephone: (703) 224-2150  
(800) 843-5678  
Fax: (703) 224-2122  
Website: [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) was established in 1984 as a private, nonprofit organization which operates under a Congressional mandate and works in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice in coordinating the efforts of law enforcement, social service agencies, elected officials, judges, prosecutors, educators, and the public and private sectors to break the cycle of violence that historically has perpetuated crimes against children. NCMEC does not provide legal representation, but does provide technical assistance and training in the prosecution and treatment of cases involving missing and exploited children. NCMEC spearheads national efforts to locate and recover missing children, and raises public awareness about ways to prevent child abduction, molestation, and sexual exploitation.

In 1990 NCMEC merged with the Adam Walsh Child Resource Centers to become "a strong, loud voice for children." This merger has made NCMEC truly a national organization with its headquarters in Virginia. The Adam Walsh Children's Fund (AWC), based in Florida, focuses on special projects to reach millions of children and families with positive, nonfearful child safety programs. Branch offices operate in California, Florida, New York, and South Carolina, and Kansas City, Missouri, providing hands-on assistance to families of missing children, advocating legislative changes to better protect children, conducting an array of prevention and awareness programs, and motivating citizens to become personally involved in child protection issues.

NCMEC has a number of books, brochures and publication packages available either for free, or a nominal charge depending on the number of copies desired.

***IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S LEGAL PROGRAM***

U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

2231 Crystal Dr., Ste. 350

Arlington, VA 22202-3711

Telephone: (703) 310-1130

Fax: (703) 769-4241

Website: <http://www.refugees.org/our-work/child-migrants/about-ncric.html>

Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

The number of unaccompanied immigrant children crossing the border into the U.S. is a growing humanitarian crisis. The countries of Central America are experiencing increased community violence, organized crime and cartel violence which create the forced migration of individuals and families. Children fleeing alone are in desperate need of protection from community and family violence, organized crime and trafficking. Their migration includes treacherous journeys to the US leaving them vulnerable to many types of risk.

USCRI's Immigrant Children's Legal Program (formerly the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children) works with over 275 law firms and thousands of attorneys throughout the U.S. to provide these children with pro bono legal representation in their immigration proceedings. Without adequate representation, children are unable to make claims for asylum, trafficking protection or other special status to which they may be eligible. In addition to mentoring individual pro bono attorneys, the Immigrant Children's Legal Program (ICLP) conducts trainings and maintains updated materials on immigration law at USCRI's online [resource library](#). ICLP has conducted migration awareness workshops in Mexico and Central America and hosted international conferences on child immigration issues. To date, ICLP has made a difference in the immigration cases of nearly 5,000 children.

***VIRGINIA POVERTY LAW CENTER***

700 East Main Street, Suite 1410

Richmond, VA 23219

Telephone: (804) 782-9430

Fax: (804) 649-0974

Website: [www.vplc.org](http://www.vplc.org)

The Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC) is a non-profit organization that serves Virginia's legal aid system by providing advocacy, training, and litigation support on civil justice issues that affect low-income Virginians. The Law Center offers a variety of services to the Commonwealth's low-income children on issues including juvenile justice, health care, special education, public benefits, and domestic violence.

The Law Center conducts annual training workshops for attorneys that are new to the legal aid network, and for attorneys in private law firms who do pro bono work for legal aid clients. The Center also conducts an annual conference for legal aid attorneys and others who serve VPLC clients. The conference features workshops dealing with the various areas covered by case handlers. Most of the workshops provide CLE credits.

## **WASHINGTON**

### ***CENTER FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH JUSTICE LAWYERS FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE (LFI)***

615 2nd Avenue, Suite 275

Seattle, WA 98104

Telephone: 206-696-7503

Website: [www.ccyj.org](http://www.ccyj.org)

#### **Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys**

Since 2008, LFI has served the civil legal needs of youth and young adults aged 17-25, and is focused on serving youth who have experience in foster, group, or kinship care or who are or are at risk of being homeless. LFI currently operates out of King County (greater Seattle Area), Washington, but it is in the process of expanding throughout the state.

LFI serves to address a multitude of civil legal barriers affecting its clients' ability to obtain housing, employment and education (e.g., juvenile records, identity theft, public benefits, family law, credit/debt, landlord-tenant disputes). Prospective clients access LFI through one of its four monthly drop-in legal clinics held at local social service centers – e.g., homeless youth and youth service providers – or by calling to do intake by phone. Clients may also be referred to LFI through our extensive set of partnerships with service providers and/or governmental agencies. Clients' issues will either be resolved by working directly with one of LFI's two staff attorneys, one of our many volunteer attorneys, or they will be referred to one of LFI's to another resource better suited to serve their needs.

In addition to direct service, LFI provides know-your-rights presentations for young people participating with its social service partners. And LFI provides substantive training for its current and prospective volunteer attorneys, which includes training on trauma-informed representation.

***CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVOCACY CLINIC  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW***

P.O. Box 85110

Seattle, WA 98145-1110

Telephone: (206) 543-3434

Fax: (206) 685-2388

Email: [clinics@u.washington.edu](mailto:clinics@u.washington.edu)

Website: [www.law.washington.edu/Clinics/Child](http://www.law.washington.edu/Clinics/Child)

100% Children's Law

Could Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Child Advocacy Clinic began in 1996 as a multidisciplinary program of the University of Washington schools of law, social work and medicine. The Clinic's primary focus is child advocacy and the development of a holistic legal program for children and youth. Twelve students take the class "Child Advocacy" in order to participate in the clinic, and with the supervision of one staff attorney and the assistance of students from other disciplines, they handle approximately 19 cases a year as both attorneys and guardians ad litem. The Clinic receives cases from juvenile court and from the CASA program. Although the Clinic does not currently utilize volunteer lawyers, they may be able to in the future and interested attorneys should contact the director. The Clinic does not accept calls from the public seeking legal information, however they do accept calls from children. The clinic has handled some impact litigation.

The Clinic also provides a home for a Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA), beginning in 2008. CITA provides interdisciplinary training for judges, lawyers and other key players in the child welfare system, using an innovative, grassroots approach to local leadership known as the Tables of Ten.

***CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROJECT  
COLUMBIA LEGAL SERVICES***

101 Yesler Way, Ste 300

Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 464-1122

Website: <http://www.columbialegal.org/advocacy/children-and-youth-project>

The Children and Youth Project (CYP) works to improve opportunities for Washington's children and youth to have safe and stable families and homes, quality education, health care, and economic security. CYP is prioritizing its advocacy and focusing its resources in four main areas that affect thousands of children and youth in Washington state: Foster Care Conditions, Youth Homelessness, Access to Education, and Juvenile Records.

***NATIONAL COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION***

100 W. Harrison St.  
North Tower, Ste. 500  
Seattle, WA 98119  
Telephone: (800) 628-3233  
Website: [www.nationalcasa.org](http://www.nationalcasa.org)

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program began in 1977, when a Seattle Superior Court Judge named David Soukup was concerned about trying to make decisions on behalf of abused and neglected children without enough information. He conceived the idea of appointing community volunteers to speak up for the best interests of these children in court. He made a request for volunteers; 50 citizens responded, and that was the start of the CASA movement.

The National CASA Association supports the growing number of CASA programs who are serving abused and neglected children in 50 states. CASA volunteers interview the child, parents, teachers, doctors and relatives to find the information necessary to help judges make more appropriate placement decisions – taking into account the special needs of each individual child.

### ***STREET YOUTH LEGAL ADVOCATES OF WASHINGTON***

PO Box 95956  
Seattle, WA 98145  
Telephone: (206) 384-6378  
Fax: (206) 382-3386  
Website: [www.sylaw.org](http://www.sylaw.org)

95% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

Street Youth Legal Advocates of Washington (SYLAW) began in 1996 through University of Washington law school and then became a non-profit organization. SYLAW primarily serves youth under 21 who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. SYLAW's mission is to eradicate the civil legal barriers that homeless youth and youth at-risk of homelessness face which prevent them from becoming self-sufficient.

SYLAW provides information and education to homeless and at-risk youth in the areas housing, education, employment, family law, consumer law, and public entitlements. SYLAW has several drop in clinics. SYLAW is currently without paid staff and is a volunteer-run program.

### ***TEAMCHILD***

1225 S. Weller St., Ste. 420  
Seattle, WA 98144  
Telephone: (206) 322-2444  
Fax: (206) 381-1742  
Email: [questions@teamchild.org](mailto:questions@teamchild.org)  
Website: [www.teamchild.org](http://www.teamchild.org)

100% Children's Law  
Does Use Volunteer Attorneys

TeamChild began in 1995 as a collaboration between the public defender and civil legal services. TeamChild addresses the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency by advocating for education, mental and medical health services, safe living situations and other supports. Attorneys and social workers in five different counties handle cases for children in the juvenile justice system in order to help them receive their basic rights to education, health care and other social services. The office utilizes volunteer attorneys, law students and other professionals. Trainings are provided as needed for mandatory CLE credit. Volunteer lawyers handle cases, assist with research, writing, trainings and fundraising. Volunteers handling cases are assigned a mentor to provide support and check in regarding cases. Lawyers who would like to volunteer should send a letter or an email to the director.

### ***WASHINGTON MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN***

4800 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98105

Telephone: (206) 987-5942

Email: [mlpc@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:mlpc@seattlechildrens.org)

Website: <http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Washington-MLP-2013-Seattle-WA.pdf>

The Washington Medical-Legal Partnership for Children was launched in 2008 through a partnership between Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, Harborview Children and Teens Clinic, and the Northwest Justice Project, with the support of Seattle Children's Hospital.

Legal aid lawyers and pro bono lawyers address health related legal issues, the most prevalent of which are Education and Child Care; Family Law; Healthcare Insurance Issues; Immigration; Public Benefits; Other Income Supports Issues.

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

### ***CHILDLAW SERVICES, INC.***

1505 Princeton Ave.

Princeton, WV 24740

Telephone: (304) 425-9973

Fax: (304) 487-5733

Email: childlaw@citlink.net  
Website: <http://www.childlawservices.org/about-us>

100% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

Childlaw Services, Inc. began in 2000 as a separate non-profit organization. The mission of ChildLaw Services, Inc. is to advocate for the well-being of children by giving them a stronger voice through legal representation, policy development, and coordinated planning. Legal services are provided to children in abuse and neglect cases; child custody cases; child victims of crime (domestic violence, sexual abuse, etc); adoption (contested and uncontested); juvenile delinquency; and truancy cases.

ChildLaw Services also houses the Teen Court, a legally binding alternative system of justice that offers first-time offenders an opportunity to make restitution for their offenses through community service, educational classes, and jury service. Defense and prosecuting attorneys and the jury are comprised of teenagers.

### ***THE CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY CLINIC***

West Virginia University College of Law  
101 Law School Drive  
P.O. Box 6130  
Morgantown, WV 26506  
Telephone: (304) 293-5301  
Website: <http://law.wvu.edu/clinics/child-family>

100% Children's Law  
Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Child & Family Advocacy Clinic, which operates a Medical-Legal Partnership with the West Virginia University School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics, provides legal services to children and families of limited income to promote their health, security, and future success.

The Medical-Legal Partnership is a collaborative effort with healthcare providers from all specialties from West Virginia University Children's Hospital. During medical visits, clinicians identify potential legal issues involving education, child custody, guardianship, domestic relations, domestic violence or inadequate housing. If a legal problem is identified, the families are given the opportunity to consult with West Virginia University Clinical law students, supervising attorneys and faculty.

The Child and Family Advocacy Clinic can assist children and families with limited income who need free legal assistance in civil matters, including family law, education, housing, government benefits, health care and end of life planning.

## WISCONSIN

### ***GUARDIAN AD LITEM DIVISION LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE***

10201 Watertown Plank Rd.

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Telephone: (414) 257-7159

Fax: (414) 257-7742

Website: <http://lasmilwaukee.com/services/court-appointed-services/childrens-court/>

100% Children's Law

Since 1980, the Legal Aid Society has provided guardian ad litem ("GAL") representation primarily for abused or neglected children. Children's Court attorneys represent children in guardianship cases, children in need of protection or services ("CHIPS") and children in termination of parental rights ("TPR") matters. A GAL represents the interest of children in these cases, not the interest of either parent.

The Guardian ad Litem Division represents about 5000 children annually in Children's Court and Family Court matters. Legal Aid Society attorneys are appointed by the court to represent the best interests of the children, not those of the parents or custodians.

### ***KIDS MATTER INC.***

1850 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Ste. 202

Milwaukee WI 53208

Telephone: (414) 344-1220

Fax: (414) 344-1230

Website: [www.kidsmatterinc.org](http://www.kidsmatterinc.org)

Kids Matter Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving life opportunities and outcomes for children in foster and kinship care. There are more than 2,500 Milwaukee children in foster care. According to the recent census, more than 20,000 additional children are being raised by someone who is not the child's parent - typically a grandparent, relative or family friend. These caregivers often need brief legal help so that they can obtain medical care, special education or counseling services for the children in their care. Kids Matter provides opportunities for volunteer attorneys and law students through several initiatives.

**Fostering Healing:** This program provides assistance to children who have been victims of crime or violence. A wide range of legal issues can come up for children under these circumstances: From child abuse restraining orders, estate issues, retirement questions from grandparents raising grandchildren to children who do not have first names on their birth certificates or need a name changed, each child and family has their own set of needs that may require legal expertise.



**Volunteer Lawyer Project:** This program connects volunteer attorneys with caregivers to assist with obtaining guardianships and accessing benefits such as medical care, kinship and special education.

**Second Acts Mediation Project:** Second Acts is a national pilot program designed to support attorneys transitioning into second careers and help them find social justice volunteer work that suits their high-levels of expertise. The Pro Bono Institute at Georgetown University Law Center has selected Kids Matter to take part in this volunteer attorney project designed to make the connection between senior attorneys and challenges that need their leadership. The program is intended to match experienced attorneys with expanded pro bono service opportunities.

**Kids Matter CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate):** Through the CASA program, highly trained community volunteers are court-appointed to be an advocate for an individual child or sibling group in the child welfare system. This program welcomes attorney volunteers who want to assist with volunteer training or providing occasional legal information to volunteers.

## **WYOMING**

### ***UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM***

Dept. 3010

1000 E. University Ave.

Laramie, WY 82071

Telephone: (307) 766-2104

Fax: (307) 766-4823

Website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/law/experiential/clinics/legal-services-dv.html>

50% Children's Law

Does Not Use Volunteer Attorneys

The Legal Services Program of the University of Wyoming (UWLSP) was established in the early 1970's to provide training to law students as part of the law school's curriculum. Approximately seven students each year receive academic credit for their participation in the Clinic. The Clinic handles 70 cases for children every year. UWLSP remains the state's primary pro bono legal provider for juvenile issues, including representation of parents in juvenile court and appointment as guardian ad litem on behalf of children involved in the child welfare system.

Clients are referred from the Juvenile Court, social service agencies, schools, health care professionals and attorneys in the community. The Clinic is staffed by one attorney. The Clinic does not handle impact litigation at this time.

### ***WYOMING CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER***

Cheyenne, WY 82001

Telephone: (307) 632-3614  
Website: <http://www.wyoclc.org/>

Wyoming Children's Law Center (WCLC) was founded in 2009 to advocate for the legal rights of children through policy advocacy, legal representation and education. The Center's Mission is to improve legal outcomes for children. WCLC utilizes a model that includes an attorney/social worker team that provides a holistic approach to problems with emphasis on empowering families and helping them navigate legal issues and the collateral problems these issues create as well as utilizing service systems in proactive ways.

Low income families may qualify for free assistance provided through existing legal aid funding and WCLC also offers a graduated fee based on income to ensure access to all families with the need for specialized help. The Center provides Guardian ad litem services for contested cases across the state, education advocacy to assert special education rights or assist children in expulsion hearings and other urgent assistance when there is an emergency impacting a child's well-being, a need for immediate legal assistance and no other option for legal services. The Center also works on juvenile justice policy reform and provides some legal services in the area of juvenile justice. WCLC also provides training and support to lawyers who represent children in Wyoming.

### ***WYOMING GUARDIANS AD LITEM PROGRAM***

Rogers Building  
316 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Telephone: 307-777-7480  
Website: <http://gal.wyo.gov/>

The Wyoming Guardian *ad Litem* Program is a state and county funded division of the Wyoming Office of the State Public Defender that provides attorney guardian *ad Litem* (GALs) for children in juvenile court. Attorney GAL's appointment is mandatory in all abuse/neglect juvenile court cases and discretionary in child in need of supervision and delinquency juvenile court cases. The GAL Program also provides representation to children in termination of parental rights and appeal cases that arise out of the three types of cases listed before.

The attorney GAL's client is the child. Attorney GALs, in Wyoming, represent children in the hybrid model of representation where they represent both what the child wants and what is in the child's best interests, unless the child in a CHINS or delinquency proceeding has a direct attorney, then the attorney GAL represents only the child's best interests. The attorneys are required to meet with the children and their caregivers, conduct an independent investigation, work cooperatively with the juvenile court team, as well as zealously advocate for their clients. More information on the Program's history, the attorneys we contract with/employ and what is required of each of the attorney GALs can be found on the program's website.