

## JUVENILE AND FAMILY LAW PROGRAM

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[www.colorado.edu/programs/  
juvenilefamlaw/index.htm](http://www.colorado.edu/programs/juvenilefamlaw/index.htm)

# JUVENILE AND FAMILY LAW PROGRAM



### The Mission

The mission of the Juvenile and Family Law Program is to advance the well-being of children and families by preparing tomorrow's attorneys to work in the field of juvenile and family law, conducting research into the problems facing children and families, and creating a bridge between the legal academy and policymakers and practitioners.

### Guiding Principles

The Program is guided by three core principles. First, juvenile and family law is a rewarding and exciting field of practice that requires considerable academic preparation. A key aspect of this preparation is gaining practical experience through clinics and externships, which in turn provide legal services to underserved children, families, and schools. Second, innovative research is needed into the problems facing children and families in the United States. Third, policymakers and practitioners can benefit from both the forum for debate and the intellectual resources that are available in the legal academy. This exchange among academics, policymakers, and practitioners leads to better legal policies and practice, and ultimately better lives for children and families.

### The Commitment

The Program is carefully designed to meet the needs of current students, the legal community, and our alumni. For current students, an emphasis on a diverse curriculum, covering the most basic areas affecting families to the most complex, allows students to gain exposure to or specialize in the field of juvenile and family law. For the legal community, the conferences and symposia sponsored by the Program bring cutting-edge issues and speakers to Colorado for discussions of national trends and local practices. For alumni who have made careers of providing much-needed legal services to children and families, the Program provides ongoing career development and other necessary supports.

### Why study at Colorado Law?

The Law School provides the perfect combination of a rigorous program designed to prepare students for a career in this field with the opportunity to engage with the larger world of juvenile and family law through the conferences and symposia held at the Law School. Similarly, Colorado Law School combines a chance to study in an idyllic setting with all the benefits of a nearby urban center that offers multiple opportunities for externships, summer jobs, and mentors.







## Components of the Program

### Preparing tomorrow's attorneys

- Curriculum
  - ◊ Domestic Violence
  - ◊ Education Law
  - ◊ Employment Discrimination
  - ◊ Estate Planning
  - ◊ Family Law
  - ◊ Federal Estate and Gift Tax
  - ◊ Gender, Law & Public Policy
  - ◊ Gender, Work & Family
  - ◊ Health Law (Bioethics)
  - ◊ Juvenile Justice
  - ◊ Parent, Child & the State
  - ◊ Poverty Law
  - ◊ Sexuality & the Law
  - ◊ Spanish for Family Law Practice
  - ◊ Wills & Trusts
- Practical Experience
  - ◊ Juvenile Law Clinic (child welfare/delinquency/education)
  - ◊ Legal Aid & Defender Clinic (divorce and custody; juvenile delinquency)
  - ◊ American Indian Law Clinic (Indian Child Welfare Act)
  - ◊ Externships and internships
- Career Development
  - ◊ Mentoring by alumni and faculty
  - ◊ Annual alumni reunions

### Conducting research

The Juvenile and Family Law Program conducts original research into issues facing children and families in the United States.

- ◊ In collaboration with a principal investigator from the Department of Sociology, the Juvenile Law Clinic is studying the effectiveness of legal counsel for children, a ground-breaking qualitative project.
- ◊ Faculty members regularly publish scholarly works addressing such issues as the role of rights in the child welfare system, the legal history of public responses to intimate homicide, the effect of the False Claims Act on health access for the elderly disabled and rural or inner-city poor, and the effectiveness of truancy reduction programs.

### Creating a bridge between the legal academy and policymakers and practitioners

The Juvenile and Family Law Program sponsors conferences and symposia on pressing issues facing children and families.

- ◊ The Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Parents: Law, Psychology & Ethics
- ◊ Children's Law Office Project National Conference on Best Practice Standards for the Organizational Representation of Children
- ◊ Alternative Dispute Resolution and Family Law
- ◊ Child Sexual Abuse: The Current Legal System and Possibilities for Change

## Faculty

The University of Colorado Law School has a dynamic, diverse, and exceptionally well-qualified faculty teaching and writing in the field of juvenile and family law.

### Program Coordinators:

[Associate Professor Clare Huntington](#) practiced as an attorney advisor in the Office of Legal Counsel in the U.S. Department of Justice and served as a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justices Harry A. Blackmun and Stephen Breyer. Before law school, she worked as a case worker for a foster care agency and as an administrator in a youth services program. She also served as a long-time board member of the Women's Prison Association.

[Clinical Professor Colene Robinson](#) has represented children and parents in child abuse and neglect and delinquency cases. She was recognized as one of ten national Civitas Childlaw Scholars and completed her law school education in a specialized program for child advocates at Loyola University School of Law in Chicago. Professor Robinson clerked for the Connecticut Supreme Court and then worked in the New York City Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Division. She also worked as the Program Director of the National Association of Counsel for Children.

### Additional faculty:

[Clinical Professor Norman Aaronson](#) is the director of the Civil Legal Aid Clinic. He is a former teacher in the U.S. Peace Corps and attorney with Colorado Rural Legal Services.

[Clinical Professor Ann England](#), a former public defender, oversees juvenile delinquency cases.

[Professor Wayne Gazur](#) specializes in taxation, including estate planning. Prof. Gazur recently completed a textbook on estate planning.

[Associate Professor Melissa Hart](#) specializes in employment discrimination and issues of work and family. Prof. Hart served as a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

[Associate Dean Dayna Matthew](#) specializes in health and bioethics law and, with a joint appointment to the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, brings an interdisciplinary approach to health law.

[Associate Professor Miranda Perry](#) has practiced estate planning and exempt organization law. She specializes in taxation, focusing on estate and gift tax and taxation of the family.

[Associate Professor Carolyn Ramsey](#) specializes in legal history, criminal law and procedure, and gender issues. She holds a graduate degree in history, in addition to a law degree.

[Clinical Professor Jill Tompkins](#) directs the American Indian Law Clinic. Prof. Tompkins is the former Chief Judge of the Mashantucket Pequot and Passamaquoddy Tribal Courts.

[Assistant Dean Lorenzo Trujillo](#), a former family law practitioner and school district in-house counsel, has a strong interest in truancy programs and earned a Ph.D. in education.

abuse

neglect

divorce

isolation

violence

truancy

poverty

instability

delinquency