

**JUVENILE DEFENSE  
POLICY AND  
PRACTICE  
CAREER RESOURCE  
GUIDE**

*December 2020*

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## Juvenile Defense Policy and Practice Career Resource Guide

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### I. Introduction

Every young person facing charges in juvenile court or who is otherwise at risk of losing their liberty has a constitutional right to meaningful access to counsel throughout the juvenile delinquency process. The juvenile defender is central to the fulfillment of that right. Juvenile defense is a highly specialized practice that requires a unique skill set and knowledge base that is considerably different from and broader than what is needed for adult criminal defense. The National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC) prepared this guide to provide students and others with valuable resources to jumpstart a career in juvenile defense.

#### The Role of Juvenile Defense Counsel

In a series of cases starting in 1966, the United States Supreme Court extended bedrock elements of due process and fair treatment to youth charged in delinquency proceedings. Arguably the most important of these cases, *In re Gault*,<sup>1</sup> held that youth have the right to counsel in delinquency proceedings. The Court noted that juvenile defense counsel was imperative to rectify the dilemma facing youth in juvenile courts, where they experienced “the worst of both worlds;”<sup>2</sup> receiving neither the protections afforded to adult defendants nor the individualized care and treatment reserved for youth. The Court clearly observed that juvenile defense counsel’s role in delinquency proceedings is unique and critical.<sup>3</sup> The Court concluded that no matter how many court personnel were charged with looking after the accused child’s interests, any child facing “the awesome prospect of incarceration” needed “the guiding hand of counsel at every step in the proceedings” against them for the same reasons that adults facing criminal charges need counsel.<sup>4</sup>

Court-involved youth need attorneys to help them navigate the complexities of the delinquency system. The juvenile defender zealously advocates on behalf of the young client’s expressed interests to enforce the client’s due process rights and present the legal and social case. The defender also plays an important role in counseling clients through legal and other related processes, promoting accuracy in decision making, providing alternatives for decision makers, and monitoring institutional treatment, aftercare, and re-entry. Effective juvenile defense is client-centered, individualized, holistic, and developmentally appropriate. The juvenile defender must ensure that their clients meaningfully participate in their defense and that clients and their families

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<sup>1</sup> 387 U.S. 1 (1967).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 19 n.23 (internal quotations and citation omitted).

<sup>3</sup> *See id.* at 36 (“The probation officer cannot act as counsel for the child. His role . . . is as arresting officer and witness against the child. Nor can the judge represent the child.”).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

are treated with dignity and respect. Juvenile defenders are a critical buffer against injustice and are at the heart of ensuring that the delinquency system operates fairly, accurately, and humanely.

## **Key Distinctions Between Juvenile Court and Adult Court**

While youth are afforded most of the same due process rights as adults, juvenile court practice is distinct from adult court practice in many ways. The most obvious difference is that juvenile court cases primarily consist of bench trials (where the judge is the trier of fact) compared to adult court where jury trials are more readily available to the criminally accused. Beyond this, however, juvenile defenders must have knowledge of delinquency laws and procedures; be versed in adolescent development and the evolving juvenile-specific jurisprudence; be competent to effectively counsel youth on making critical legal decisions; be able to convey complex legal principles to their young clients and families; engage community partners; and have a clear understanding of the obligations of the educational and other systems impacting the lives of young clients.

While every juvenile court operates differently, this guide contains a flowchart that generally illustrates how a delinquency case proceeds through the juvenile court process from arrest to expungement. This flowchart can be found in the [Overview of the Juvenile Legal Process](#) section of this guide. Likewise, the language in juvenile court is often quite different from the language used in adult criminal court. This guide also contains a glossary in the [Juvenile Court Terminology](#) section that defines some key juvenile court terms to help students familiarize themselves with juvenile court language and gain a better understanding of the juvenile court process.

## **Careers in Juvenile Defense**

A career in juvenile defense is challenging, rewarding, and achievable. The need for passionate advocates to represent children who cannot afford attorneys, the multi-disciplinary nature of the field, and the push to advance practice and policy reforms across the country present a wide range of opportunities for those interested in juvenile defense issues. In this field, one can represent youth as a front-line juvenile defender or an appellate defender, or work in policy advocacy with a law reform organization, juvenile defense or juvenile justice think tank, or other social justice organization. With this broad range of options, juvenile defense is a great place for those interested in fostering innovation and creativity to bring about social, racial, and economic justice.

## **II. Preparing for a Career in Juvenile Defense**

The road to becoming a champion for children starts well before entering the legal workforce. Using your undergrad and law school experience to attain and hone key skills is the perfect way to jumpstart a successful career in juvenile defense. Juvenile defense is a highly specialized practice that requires a unique set of skills and an in-depth understanding of an evolving body of juvenile jurisprudence and adolescent development research. Aside from knowledge of criminal and juvenile law, representing youth in the delinquency context requires familiarity with juvenile court procedure, practice standards, and case law; the ability to communicate complex legal principles to young clients; familiarity with a wide range of appropriate rehabilitative services and programs; an understanding of the growing body of research in adolescent development; and the

ability to monitor progress and provide legal services after disposition. Juvenile defenders must have superior interpersonal skills and compassion; possess strong analytical, oral advocacy, and practical writing skills; and be courageous and willing to go against the status quo to zealously advocate on the behalf of their clients' expressed interests. Students interested in juvenile defense can begin to acquire these skills, experiences, and personal attributes through their coursework and by taking advantage of experiential learning opportunities.

## Coursework

Students can begin building the foundational knowledge required for a career in juvenile defense early on in their academic careers. General coursework in adolescent development, child psychology, and the like will help students better understand the evolving body of scientific and social research that drives juvenile defense. Legal coursework in criminal law, criminal procedure, advanced criminal procedure, evidence, legal ethics, legal writing, and trial advocacy is essential to help students understand the doctrinal and practical concepts that underscore juvenile defense work. Interested students can also explore electives that touch on special education law and disability law given their strong intersection with juvenile defense practice. Some schools may offer courses that contextualize juvenile delinquency within the realm of criminal law as part of a broader discussion about juvenile justice and child advocacy. These courses may also touch on policy reform and legislative efforts to address systemic issues that arise in child-serving systems.

## Experiential Learning

Experiential learning provides students with a unique opportunity to apply what they have learned in the classroom to a real-world setting. Employers in the juvenile defense field look to hire individuals who have a demonstrated interest in the work. Internships and externships are an excellent way for undergraduate, graduate, and law students to gain exposure to the juvenile defense field, develop key skills, and build their resumes. Internships and externships allow students to explore a variety of areas within the juvenile defense field to find their niche. While most internships and externships are unpaid, employers are often willing to work with the student's school to award academic credit. Students who are not receiving academic credit may also qualify to receive funding for summer positions through various grant programs. Information on these programs can be found in the [Debt Management and Summer Funding Opportunities](#) section of this guide. Students should begin actively looking and applying for summer positions as early as possible, sometimes a full academic year in advance and no later than early spring semester.

In addition to internships and externships, law students should take advantage of clinical education during their 2L or 3L/4LE year, where available, to prepare for a career in juvenile defense. This hands-on learning experience with real clients, extensive training, and supervision provides students with an invaluable opportunity to *be* the lawyer. Some law schools have specific juvenile defense and/or child advocacy programs. A list of these law schools is available in the [List of Juvenile Defense Policy and Practice Clinical Programs](#) section of this guide. For students that are attending institutions where a juvenile-specific clinical program is not available, participating in a criminal defense clinic or other clinics that require direct representation of clients facing similar systemic barriers or involve policy advocacy will equip students with transferrable skills that are useful in the juvenile defense field. Students should also feel empowered to request

juvenile defense clinical programs and/or related course offerings and form student groups/committees to develop an implementation plan and strategy to make such programs and courses available to students. We encourage interested students and institutions to reach out to NJDC for support in advocating for and starting juvenile defense specific clinics, courses, and student groups, at [inquiries@njdc.info](mailto:inquiries@njdc.info).

### **III. Securing a Job in Juvenile Defense**

There is a broad array of juvenile defense delivery systems across the country. Defense services in some states are coordinated at a state level, while in others they are managed at the county level. Within these systems, juvenile defense attorneys may work for public defender offices, non-profit law centers, appointed or contract counsel panels, boutique law firms, or law school clinical programs. Given the varied nature of systems across the country, navigating the job search in the juvenile defense field can be very daunting without the proper guidance and direction. It is necessary for interested students to take advantage of resources at their schools, within their communities, and at organizations like NJDC to get a head start. It is best to think about the geographic locations that you are open to practicing in and explore the types of juvenile defense opportunities available in those areas to guide your overall job search. A list of juvenile defense organizations can be found in the [List of Selected Juvenile Defense Policy and Practice Organizations](#) section of this guide.

#### ***The Power of Informational Interviews***

Setting up informational interviews with alumni or other contacts in the juvenile defense field is a powerful networking tool. Informational interviews are distinct from job interviews. Unlike a job interview, the purpose of an informational interview is not to solicit a job (in the immediate sense); rather, the purpose is to build a rapport with contacts and learn more about the practice and organization, hiring methods, and future employment opportunities. To prepare for an informational interview, students should thoroughly research the individual and the organization and draft three to five well-informed questions. Topics for questions include the organization and its mission, practice areas of interest, skills and background required, entry-level opportunities, career mobility, career trajectory, etc. There are two important rules to keep in mind about informational interviews: (1) the requester should not attach or offer a resume without being asked for it; and (2) the requester should not ask the contact for a job before or during the interview. Students can find a link to a step-by-step guide on informational interviews and other networking tools in the [Other Helpful Career Links and Resources](#) section of this guide.

#### **Entry-Level Front-Line Juvenile Defender Opportunities**

The availability of entry-level opportunities varies by jurisdiction and office. Some jurisdictions and offices allow entry level candidates to apply directly for juvenile defender positions during the traditional law school fall and winter recruitment processes, while others require candidates to apply outside of this process as positions become available. For example, in New York City, the Juvenile Rights Practice of the Legal Aid Society accepts applications for positions within the Division starting in August of the year prior to entry. In contrast, the Maryland Office of the Public

Defender specifically advertises for juvenile positions as they become available, and offers are contingent on passing the Maryland Bar.

### ***Factors to Consider in Evaluating Juvenile Defender Opportunities***

The daily practice of juvenile defenders is influenced by the jurisdiction, type of delivery system, and culture of the organization in which the defender practices. Since juvenile defense is a highly specialized practice, it is important to get a sense of the training opportunities that are available for new hires. It is also necessary for applicants to ascertain the caseload, office environment, level of supervision, mentorship opportunities, and nature of juvenile defense practice (e.g. whether the office provides “holistic” representation) in offices of particular interest. Outside of firsthand experience from internships/externships, alumni networks and law school faculty are a great resource to get this insight.

### ***The Application, Interview, and Hiring Process***

Applicants are typically required to submit a cover letter, resume, a short writing sample (e.g. motion or legal research memo), transcripts, references, and sometimes responses to a questionnaire relating to the applicant’s background, interests, and desire to work in the field. The interview process ordinarily consists of multiple stages, with the first interview being a screening interview and the subsequent interviews being conducted by a panel of attorneys and possibly executives of the hiring organization. During the interview process, applicants should be prepared to answer questions related to the applicant’s interest in juvenile defense, reply to hypothetical questions, and engage in simulations such as delivering opening and/or closing statements and facilitating a mock client interview. While the hiring timeline varies between agencies, students should begin actively putting together materials and requesting references no later than October of their final year of study. Students should expect to interview in the fall, over winter break, and throughout the first half of the spring semester, and anticipate employers to make hiring decisions between late spring and early summer. Because some organizations do not accept applications until the applicant has passed that state’s bar exam, it is important to research the particular hiring process for each organization for which you apply.

### ***Tips for Interviews and Simulations***

For the screening interview, applicants should be prepared to clearly and succinctly articulate why they want to be a juvenile defender and why they are applying to a particular office. Applicants should cite to specific experiences that led them to pursue a career in juvenile defense and be prepared to discuss their clinical experience. If an applicant did not participate in a clinic, that applicant should be prepared to explain why and describe what measures they have taken to gain other practical legal experience. Applicants should be prepared to demonstrate their willingness and ability to work with lower-income and diverse populations. Candidates will likely encounter questions regarding their comfort level and philosophy on defending clients charged with serious crimes (e.g. child molestation, murder, or rape). Applicants should always keep a lawyer’s ethical obligations in mind when responding to questions about past clients or cases. The Public Defender Handbook published by the Public Interest Law Center at NYU School of Law is a great resource to help applicants prepare for juvenile defense interviews. A link to this handbook can be found in

the [Other Helpful Career Links and Resources](#) section. Note that, in contrast to this guide, the Public Defender Handbook discusses securing a job in the public defense sector more generally (*i.e.* in the adult criminal context).

The hypotheticals that applicants may encounter during the interview process are most likely going to test the applicant's ability to communicate an attorney's ethical obligations to their client; awareness of the difference between expressed or stated interest representation (attorney's representation is guided by what the client wants) and best interest representation (attorney determines what is best for the client); and how the applicant balances the tension between being a zealous advocate and adhering to other ethical duties as a lawyer.

## **Policy Advocacy, Fellowships, and Other Juvenile Defense Opportunities**

### ***Policy Advocacy***

In addition to litigation opportunities, those interested in policy reform can seek opportunities within law reform organizations, juvenile defense or juvenile justice think tanks, and other social justice organizations to engage in policy advocacy. Since many of these organizations may not have annual recruitment, it is important for interested candidates to proactively reach out to organizations of interest to set up informational interviews and learn about current or future employment opportunities. Many of these organizations host fellowship projects funded by outside organizations and some of these organizations also have in-house fellowship opportunities, which are described in more detail below. The Public Service Job Directory ([www.PSJD.org](http://www.PSJD.org)) is a great place to search for organizations and employment opportunities that engage in policy advocacy. More information about the PSJD and other resources can be found in the [Other Helpful Career Links and Resources](#) section of this guide.

### ***Postgraduate Fellowships***

There is an array of postgraduate fellowships available to students to jumpstart a career in juvenile defense including project-based fellowships, organizational fellowships, and teaching fellowships. Project-based fellowships typically fund student-proposed projects that serve unmet legal needs. To apply for these fellowships, candidates usually seek a host organization and collaborate with the host organization to put together a fellowship proposal and apply for funding through various programs. In some cases, candidates may apply for support on their own (*i.e.* without a host organization) to start a new project or organization. The three most well-known fellowships are the Equal Justice Works, Skadden, and Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowships. Information about project-based fellowship opportunities can be found in the [Project-Based Post-Graduate Fellowships](#) section of this guide. Organizational fellowships are opportunities within existing organizations for a one- or two-year term where fellows are hired as staff members for the duration of the fellowship period. Graduates apply to organizational fellowships in a similar manner as applying for a typical job. The Gault Fellowships at NJDC are examples of organizational fellowships. Teaching fellowships offer graduates the opportunity to teach law in a clinical setting, supervise law students, manage a small caseload, and earn an advanced degree. The Prettyman Fellowship at Georgetown University Law Center is an example of a teaching fellowship. More information about organizational fellowships and teaching fellowships related to juvenile defense

can be found in the [List of Selected Juvenile Defense Policy and Practice Organizations](#) section of this guide.

### ***Judicial Clerkships***

Judicial clerkships in juvenile court at the state level offer a unique opportunity for interested students to explore juvenile defense practice and gain exposure to the juvenile court process more generally. As a judicial law clerk, one has the opportunity to assess the juvenile delinquency process from all angles: prosecution, defense, and the bench. Serving in this capacity may give students keen insight about juvenile defense practice and systemic issues.

### **Post-Graduate Debt Management**

As the cost of legal education continues to rise, students are concerned about how to manage the student loan debt that they may accumulate. While managing loan debt is a huge financial burden and is no easy feat, the presence of student loan debt should not automatically preclude students from obtaining public interest employment right out of law school. There are a number of programs that assist students with paying back educational debt including Loan Repayment Assistance Programs (LRAP) through schools, employers, bar associations, or local or state governments, in addition to the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. Additional information on these programs and other debt management resources can be found in the [Debt Management and Summer Funding Resources](#) section of this guide.

## **IV. Overview of Resources**

This guide contains the following resources to help interested students and graduates with their career search in the juvenile defense field:

- [Overview of the Juvenile Legal Process](#)
- [Juvenile Court Terminology](#)
- [List of Juvenile Defense Policy and Practice Clinical Programs](#)
- [Public Interest Career Fairs](#)
- [Debt Management and Summer Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Project-Based Post-Graduate Fellowships](#)
- [List of Selected Juvenile Defense Policy and Practice Organizations](#)
- [Other Helpful Career Links and Resources](#)

If you have any questions or comments about the information contained in this guide, please contact NJDC by sending an e-mail to [inquiries@njdc.info](mailto:inquiries@njdc.info).

# Overview of the Juvenile Legal Process

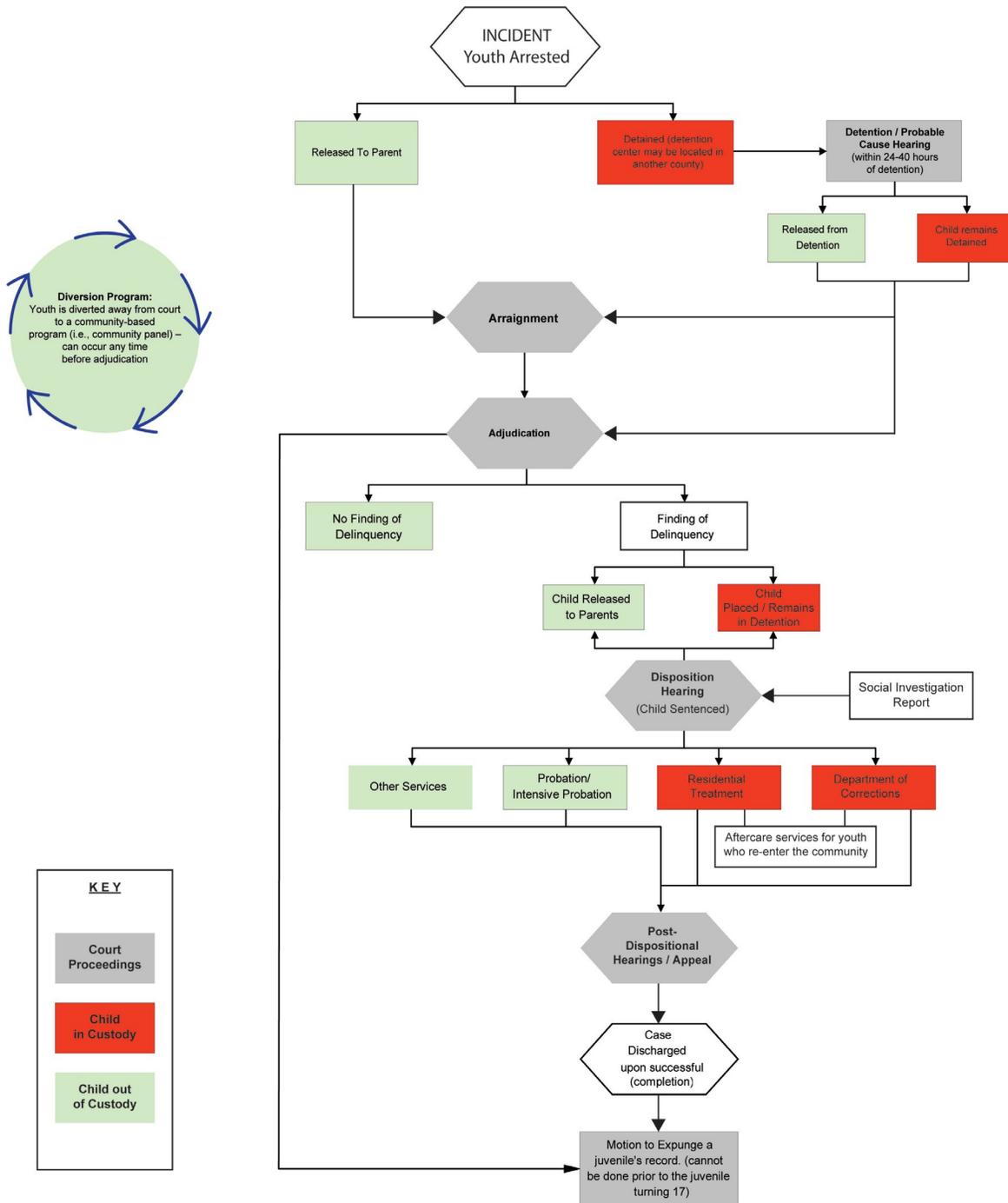


Chart taken from NJDC's Juvenile Training Immersion Program (JTIP). For more information on the practice in a particular state, please visit <http://njdc.info/practice-policy-resources/state-profiles/>.

## Juvenile Court Terminology

### **Adjudication** [of Delinquency]

Analogous to an adult “conviction,” it is a formal finding by the juvenile court, after an adjudicatory hearing or the entering of a guilty plea/admission, that the youth has committed the act of which they are charged.

### **Adjudicatory Hearing**

The fact-finding phase (*i.e.* the trial) of a juvenile case. At this hearing the judge—or in a limited number of jurisdictions, the jury—receives and weighs the evidence to determine whether the facts prove the charges alleged in the delinquency petition beyond a reasonable doubt. If the youth is found guilty (or involved) at the adjudicatory hearing, this finding is called an “adjudication.”

### **Adolescent Development**

The process through which “biological, cognitive, emotional and social development unfolds and interacts during the second decade of life.”<sup>5</sup> The study of adolescent development is primarily dominated by psychology, although other disciplines such as biology and neuroscience help inform our understanding of adolescence. Increasingly, researchers study the impact of context (*i.e.* families, peers, schools, neighborhoods, culture) on adolescents’ development, and how such contexts contribute to both positive and negative outcomes, such as a child’s inability to appreciate consequences. Counsel should be knowledgeable about the key aspects of adolescent development that inform specific legal questions regarding competence in legal proceedings, culpability, mitigation, and amenability to treatment and rehabilitation.

### **Adult Prosecution**

Where the juvenile court either loses or gives up jurisdiction over a child alleged to have committed a crime and that child is tried as an adult in a criminal court. The processes allowing for adult prosecution vary by jurisdiction and may include statutes that require children of a certain age or children alleged to have committed a specified crime to be automatically tried as adults (sometimes known as “direct file” case) or may require a hearing in which the court—either adult or juvenile—decides which court should have jurisdiction over a child (often referred to as “transfer” or “waiver”). *See also* Transfer/Waiver of Jurisdiction.

### **Aftercare**

Also known as “parole” in some jurisdictions, it is supervision of a youth who has been returned to the community on conditional release following a commitment or incarceration. The youth must comply with certain conditions of release and is monitored by a caseworker or parole officer. Parole can be revoked if the youth does not comply with these conditions.

### **Arraignment**

A portion of the “initial hearing,” interchangeable with the term “presentment,” in which the youth is brought to court and read the formal charges against them that are alleged in the petition. This

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<sup>5</sup> Richard Lerner & Laurence D. Steinberg, *Handbook of Adolescent Psychology* (2nd ed. 2004).

is the stage at which a youth must admit or deny the charges. Court-appointed or private counsel for the youth must be present at this proceeding. *See also* Initial Hearing.

### **Blended Sentencing**

A sentencing or disposition option that allows either the juvenile court to impose tougher punitive adult sentencing measures on a child (juvenile blended sentencing), or allows an adult criminal court to impose juvenile dispositional options (criminal blended sentencing) on a child tried as an adult. Only certain jurisdictions allow these types of sentencing options.

### **Collateral Consequences**

Involvement in the juvenile system may have consequences for youth beyond the immediate court case. These secondary consequences may include, but are not limited to, fines, the requirement to register as a sex offender, the loss or restriction of a professional license, eviction from public housing, denial of secondary education or college admission, prohibitions against owning a firearm, and immigration consequences.

### **Commitment** (also known as Placement or Incarceration)

At disposition, commitment is one of the options available to the court as a possible disposition. It is the transfer of legal responsibility over the child to the state and often includes placement in a private or state-run facility. In many jurisdictions, the court will impose an indeterminate sentence upon transferring custody of the respondent to a state agency, allowing the agency to determine when the youth may be released from incarceration based on good behavior, noted rehabilitation, and the youth's prior juvenile record. A youth may also be subject to commitment as a sanction resulting from a probation revocation hearing. Commitment occurs only after adjudication, as opposed to "detention," where a youth may be placed pending an adjudicatory or disposition hearing.

### **Competence to Stand Trial**

Competence, or fitness, to stand trial requires that the client have both "sufficient present ability to consult with his lawyer with a reasonable degree of rational understanding" and a "rational as well as factual understanding of the proceedings against him."<sup>6</sup> Counsel must be able to recognize when a young client's ability to participate in their own defense or to understand the nature and purpose of proceedings may be compromised due to developmental immaturity, mental health challenges, or disabilities.

### **Culpability**

Literally, culpability is defined as guilt or blameworthiness. Research in adolescent development points out that youth have diminished capacity to, among other things, understand or process mistakes, learn from experience, engage in logical reasoning, control their impulses, and understand the reactions of others. These limitations in development diminish a youth's personal culpability.

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<sup>6</sup> *Dusky v. United States*, 362 U.S. 402, 402 (1960).

### **Deferred Adjudication**

This arises when a judge decides not to adjudicate the youth and instead imposes conditions that, if met, will result in dismissal of the charges. This is technically not “diversion,” given that the youth is court-involved and the client is petitioned and subject to the court’s jurisdiction. However, if the client meets the court’s requirements, a deferred adjudication results in a non-adjudicatory resolution and the eventual dismissal of the petition. A variation on this is when the court decides to grant a “stay of adjudication,” which suspends the adjudication in situations where the court determines that the circumstances of the case warrant the child being given a “second chance.” If the child satisfies all conditions set forth by the court, the court can dismiss the charge and there will be no record of the adjudication. *See also* Diversion.

### **Delinquent Act**

An offense committed by a youth that would be classified as a crime if committed by an adult.

### **Detention**

Youth charged with delinquent acts may be detained by court order pending an adjudicatory and/or disposition hearing. A youth may be placed in a detention center at different points throughout the juvenile case. At times, an adjudicated youth may be held in detention during a period of their commitment. There are different levels of detention for youth. “Secure detention” involves holding the child at a locked detention facility. “Shelter homes,” sometimes referred to as “non-secure detention,” are also a level of detention where the child may only leave the premises for school or other pre-approved appointments. “Home detention,” where the child may only leave home for school or appointments, is an option in some jurisdictions. In jurisdictions where there is no juvenile detention facility, children may be detained pre-trial in adult facilities. *See also* Commitment.

### **Detention Hearing**

A hearing in which the judge decides whether to detain the child pending an adjudicatory hearing in a delinquency matter. Most jurisdictions require a detention hearing to be held within forty-eight (48) to seventy-two (72) hours after the detention commences to determine whether continued detention is necessary. There must be a finding of probable cause that the child committed the alleged delinquent act before pre-adjudicatory detention is permitted. If probable cause is found, in most jurisdictions there must also be a showing that the child is a flight risk or that the child is a danger to themselves or others such that continued detention is required pending an adjudicatory hearing.

### **Developmental Immaturity**

Within the study of adolescent development, developmental immaturity is a term used to refer to deficits in adolescents’ thinking, reasoning, and/or decision-making that are a result of normative developmental processes. As adolescents mature, their thinking, reasoning, and decision-making begin to resemble that of adults.

### **Developmentally Appropriate Language**

An approach for communication with children and adolescents that takes into account the cognitive differences particular to developmental stages. While adolescents may demonstrate the ability to understand and reason better than younger children, adolescents’ abilities to understand and reason

do not generally resemble adults until the mid to late 20s. As a result, juvenile court practitioners should carefully consider the language used and the structure of questions asked when communicating with adolescents.

### **Disposition**

The juvenile equivalent of an adult sentence, disposition is a final decision as to how a youth's case is handled after an adjudication. Because juvenile courts expressly focus on rehabilitating children who are adjudicated as delinquent, dispositions typically include a treatment plan aimed at addressing perceived deficiencies in the child's current living environment and behavior. To determine an appropriate disposition, the judge should consider evidence about the youth's strengths, needs, available resources, and other relevant factors so as to design a rehabilitation plan that meets the interests of the state and the child. Disposition requirements vary and may include, but are not limited to, fines, restitution, community service, probation, substance abuse treatment, mental health therapy, participation in other community activities or programs, in-home placement under supervision or probation, and out-of-home placement in commitment facilities. *See also* Disposition Hearing; Dispositional Order; Disposition Plan/Report.

### **Disposition Hearing**

Akin to a sentencing hearing in criminal court, this hearing is held after a youth has been adjudicated. At the hearing, the judge decides the appropriate sanctions and treatment for an adjudicated youth after hearing recommendations from the prosecution, probation staff, defense, child's parents, and/or other potential stakeholders. After considering the disposition plans and recommendations, the judge will give the court's official disposition order (*e.g.* probation, commitment, community-based sanctions, etc.). *See also* Disposition; Disposition Order; Disposition Plan/Report.

### **Disposition Order**

A written, signed document handed down by the court that states the disposition chosen for the youth and any conditions of that disposition. *See also* Disposition; Disposition Hearing; Disposition Plan/Report.

### **Disposition Plan/Report**

In preparation for a disposition hearing, various stakeholders will prepare plans or reports outlining the care and types of rehabilitative services the party believes the child needs as a result of the adjudication. These proposed plans are most typically prepared by the probation department and the defense, while other stakeholders, such as the prosecution or service providers, may also present reports or recommendations. In preparation of anticipated plans, the court may order psychological evaluations, diagnostic tests, or a period of confinement in a diagnostic facility to aid in the determination of an appropriate disposition. *See also* Disposition; Disposition Hearing; Disposition Order; Pre-disposition Report.

### **Diversion**

Refers to any program that is an alternative to the filing of a court petition and which keeps the youth from entering the juvenile court system by referring the child to counseling or other social services. Diversion is designed to enable youth to avoid a formal charge through the filing of a petition, which could result in adverse collateral consequences and, ultimately, a juvenile

delinquency record. By successfully completing the requirements of a diversion program run by the police department, court, prosecutor's office, or an outside agency, the youth can avoid prosecution. While true diversion programs are those that divert the child from any formal charge in the juvenile system, many practitioners and jurisdictions use the term "diversion" to include programs that are initiated after the after a petition has been filed against the child, but which result in a non-adjudicatory resolution and the eventual dismissal of the petition. Informal adjustment is a form of diversion. In some jurisdictions, diversion is also called "Informal Adjustment." *See also* Deferred Adjudication.

### **Guardian *ad litem* (GAL)**

An attorney or advocate appointed by a court to represent the best interests of a child in court proceedings, including juvenile delinquency cases. The role of GAL is different from the defense attorney's role, which is to represent the expressed interests of the child-client in delinquency cases.

### **Initial Hearing**

This is the first hearing a child accused of a delinquent act will have in front of a judge. The structure of this hearing varies by jurisdiction, but typically includes assignment of counsel, arraignment, a detention determination, and the scheduling of further hearing dates. *See also* Arraignment.

### **Intake**

This is the screening and assessment process children who are arrested undergo prior to seeing a judge. Intake procedures vary between jurisdictions but are typically conducted by intake officers, probation staff, case and social workers, or police. At the intake screening, each youth is evaluated to determine their appropriateness for release or referral to a diversionary program, or whether the matter should be referred for prosecution.

### **Petition**

This is the charging document filed in juvenile court by the State. The petition formally initiates a juvenile proceeding alleging that a youth is delinquent and describing the alleged offenses committed by that child. The petition may ask that the court assume jurisdiction over the youth or ask that the youth be transferred to criminal court for prosecution as an adult. It is similar to a complaint in adult court.

### **Post-disposition**

Post-disposition refers to the period following the court's entry of a disposition order and lasting until the youth is no longer under the supervision of the juvenile court or any state agency to which they were transferred as a result of a commitment. During post-disposition, a variety of procedures or hearings regarding the client can require the assistance of counsel. These include, but are not limited to, conducting an appeal or helping the client obtain new appellate counsel; representing the youth in probation and parole violation hearings, at commitment review hearings, or at extension of incarceration hearings; challenging conditions of confinement that violate the client's state and constitutional rights or circumvent services ordered by the court; and any other legal counseling required until the youth is no longer supervised in the case.

### **Pre-disposition Report**

Sometimes called a “social history” or “social study,” it is a report to the court, prepared by probation staff, that outlines the child’s background and recommends a disposition plan. It is a compilation of information on the circumstances of the current offense, the youth’s past offense(s), family history, educational progress, and community involvement. Based on these factors, the agency will often make recommendations for disposition. *See also* Disposition Plan/Report; Social History.

### **Probation**

A disposition option available to the court as an alternative to commitment, in which an adjudicated youth may be released back into the community under certain conditions and/or under the supervision of a probation officer for a specified period of time.

### **Probation Officer**

An employee of the probation department who works closely with the court and is involved with a youth’s case at various stages of the proceedings. Preliminarily, a probation officer may perform the initial intake interview to determine if a case can be diverted from the juvenile court. Subsequently, if a petition is filed, a probation officer may be responsible for supervising youth not held in detention. Probation officers often prepare a predisposition report for the court after a child has been adjudicated and make recommendations for disposition. If a youth is placed on probation at disposition, the probation officer provides supervision of the youth.

### **Revocation Hearings/Violation Hearings**

A review hearing at which the state or supervisory agency is alleging that the youth has not fulfilled their conditions of parole, probation, or pre-trial release. If the court revokes the child’s pre-trial release, probation, or parole, it may move the youth to some form of out-of-home placement.

### **Risk Assessment Instrument**

A tool used to assess a youth’s likelihood (or risk) of future re-offending. Items on these instruments can reflect both life circumstances (*e.g.* history of child abuse) and personal characteristics (*e.g.* attitudes and past behaviors) that have been found to predict future problem behavior. Within the context of the juvenile justice system, risk assessment instruments can be used at different decision-making points (*e.g.* diversion, detention, or disposition). The briefer screening instruments, such as those often used to determine whether or not to detain a youth, generally consider more basic characteristics that are unchanging, such as the current alleged offense or prior arrest history. More comprehensive risk assessment instruments generally consider a broader range of risk factors and can be used to guide treatment planning.

### **Social History**

A collection of records regarding the youth’s familial, occupational, educational, and community background—the various aspects of the youth’s life that may be relevant to an evaluation of the youth and to determine the appropriate level of services needed. In some jurisdictions, social history is a general term for any collection of such records, while in others, it is the term used for a pre-disposition report compiled by probation. *See* Pre-disposition Report.

### **Status Offense**

An offense that would not be a crime if it were committed by an adult. Examples of these non-criminal offenses that are only applicable to children include: truancy, curfew violations, running away from home, incorrigibility, and ungovernability.

### **Transfer/Waiver of Jurisdiction**

The legal procedure for determining whether the juvenile court will retain jurisdiction over a juvenile case or whether the matter will be sent to adult criminal court. A reverse waiver occurs where a child is originally charged in adult court, but is sent back to juvenile court for trial or disposition. Please see the introduction to part VI of the [National Juvenile Defense Standards](#) for a more detailed description of the various forms of transfer available in the United States. *See* Adult Prosecution.

## **List of Juvenile Defense Policy and Practice Clinical Programs**

The following list of clinical programs features law schools that offer a standalone juvenile defense clinic or a criminal or child advocacy clinic where juvenile defense is a component. This list does not include child advocacy clinics that focus solely on dependency, family law, education, or other related areas of child advocacy.

### **American University Washington College of Law | Washington, DC**

Criminal Justice Clinic

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

Binny Miller | [bmiller@wcl.american.edu](mailto:bmiller@wcl.american.edu) | 202-274-4223

### **Barry University | Orlando, FL**

Juvenile Defense Clinic

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

Kathrine Puzone | [kpuzone@barry.edu](mailto:kpuzone@barry.edu) | 407-681-5403

### **Boston University School of Law | Boston, MA**

Criminal Law Clinical Program – Public Defender Program (Juvenile)

<https://www.bu.edu/law/current-students/jd-student-resources/experiential-learning/clinics/criminal-law-clinical-program/>

David Rossman | [drossman@bu.edu](mailto:drossman@bu.edu) | 617-353-5011

### **Brooklyn Law School | Brooklyn, NY**

Youth Reentry and Legal Services Clinic

<https://www.brooklaw.edu/Courses/Clinic--Youth-Defense--Reentry-Legal-Services>

Laurie Parsie | [laurie.parise@brooklaw.edu](mailto:laurie.parise@brooklaw.edu) | 718-625-2200

### **Catholic University of America | Washington, DC**

D.C. Law Students in Court: Criminal/Juvenile Division Clinic

<https://www.law.edu/academics/legal-externships-and-clinics/clinics/dc-law-students-in-court-criminal-juvenile-division-clinic/index.html>

Bryan McDermott | [mcdermottb@law.edu](mailto:mcdermottb@law.edu) | 202-319-5151

**Cornell Law School | Ithaca, NY**

Child Advocacy Clinic

[www.lawschool.cornell.edu/Clinical-Programs/child-advocacy-clinic/index.cfm](http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/Clinical-Programs/child-advocacy-clinic/index.cfm)

Beth Lyon | Mbl235@cornell.edu | 607-255-4196

**Drake University Law School | Des Moines, IA**

Juvenile Delinquency Clinic

<http://www.drake.edu/law/clinics-centers/clinic/childrens-rights/>

Jami Hagemeyer | jerry.anderson@drake.edu | 515-271-2073

**Duquesne University School of Law | Pittsburgh, PA**

Youth Advocacy Clinic

<https://www.duq.edu/academics/schools/law/clinics-and-externships/tribone-center-for-clinical-legal-education/youth-advocacy-clinic>

Tiffany Sizemore | sizemoret@dug.edu | 412-396-5694

**Emory University School of Law | Atlanta, GA**

Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic, Barton Child Law and Policy Center

<http://law.emory.edu/academics/clinics/barton-juvenile-defender-clinic.html>

Randee Waldman | Jdc.emory@gmail.com | 404-712-8399

**Florida State University College of Law | Tallahassee, FL**

Children's Advocacy Clinic

<http://www.law.fsu.edu/academics/clinical-programs/public-interest-law-center/childrens-advocacy-clinic>

Paolo Pannino | pannino@law.fsu.edu | 850.644.9928

**Georgetown University Law Center | Washington, DC**

Juvenile Justice Clinic

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/experiential-learning/clinics/juvenile-justice-clinic/>

Kris Henning | hennink@georgetown.edu | (202) 662-9592

**Harvard Law School | Cambridge, MA**

Child Advocacy Program Clinic & Criminal Justice Institute

<http://cap.law.harvard.edu/cap-clinic/>

<https://clinics.law.harvard.edu/cji/>

Chrisann Hazen | chazen@law.harvard.edu | 617-496 1684

**Hofstra Law | Hempstead, NY**

Youth Advocacy Clinic

<https://law.hofstra.edu/clinics/youthadvocacyclinic/index.html>

Theodor S. Liebmann | Theodor.s.liebmann@hofstra.edu | 516-463-4736

**Louisiana State University Law Center | Baton Rouge, LA**

Juvenile Defense Clinic

<https://www.law.lsu.edu/experiential/clinics/juvenile-defense/>

Madalyn Wasilczuk | Mwasilczuk.lsu.edu | 225-578-8701

**Loyola Law School | Chicago, IL**

Civitas ChildLaw Clinic

<https://www.luc.edu/law/academics/clinical-programs/civitaschildlawclinic/index.cfm>

Bruce Boyer | Childlaw-center@luc.edu | 312-915-6481

**Loyola Law School | Los Angeles, CA**

The Juvenile Justice Clinic & The Juvenile Innocence and Fair Sentencing Clinic

<https://www.lls.edu/academics/experientiallearning/clinics/thejuvenilejusticeclinic/>

<https://www.lls.edu/academics/experientiallearning/clinics/juvenileinnocenceandfairsentencingclinic/>

Samantha Buckingham | Cjlp@lls.edu | 213-252-7441

**New York University School of Law | New York, NY**

Juvenile Defender Clinic

[www.law.nyu.edu/academics/clinics/year/juveniledefender](http://www.law.nyu.edu/academics/clinics/year/juveniledefender)

Randy Hertz | leomaris.sanchez@nyu.edu | 212-998-6477

**North Carolina Central School of Law | Durham, NC**

Juvenile Law Clinic

[law.nccu.edu/clinics/juvenile-law/](http://law.nccu.edu/clinics/juvenile-law/)

Dorothy Hairston Mitchell | dhairston@nccu.edu | 919-530-5484

**Northern Kentucky Salmon P. Chase College of Law | Highland Heights, KY**

Children's Law Center Clinic

<https://chaselaw.nku.edu/experiences/clinics.html>

Amy Halbrook | halbrookal@nku.edu | 859-572-6405

**Northwestern University Law School | Chicago, IL**

Children and Family Justice Center & Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth

<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/cfjc/studentopps/index.html>

<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/wrongfulconvictionsyouth/studentopps/index.html>

Laura Buttitta | laura.buttitta@law.northwestern.edu | 312-503-8676

**Ohio State University Moritz College of Law | Columbus, OH**

Justice for Children Clinic

[moritzlaw.osu.edu/clinics/justice-for-children-clinic/](http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/clinics/justice-for-children-clinic/)

Kimberly Jordan | jordan.723@osu.edu | 614-688-3657

**Rutgers School of Law - Camden | Camden, NJ**

Children's Justice Clinic

<https://law.rutgers.edu/childrens-justice-clinic>

Sandra Simkins | ssimkins@camden.rutgers.edu | 856-225-6646

**Rutgers School of Law - Newark | Newark, NJ**

Criminal and Youth Justice Clinic

<https://law.rutgers.edu/criminal-youth-justice-clinic>

Laura Cohen | laurco@law.rutgers.edu | 973-353-3187

**St. Mary's University School of Law | San Antonio, TX**

Criminal Justice Clinic

<https://law.stmarytx.edu/academics/special-programs/center-legal-social-justice/clinical-program/#criminaljustice>

Stephanie Stevens | sstevens@stmarytx.edu | 210-431-5710

**St. Thomas University School of Law | Miami Gardens, FL**

Criminal Practice Externship

<https://www.stu.edu/law/academics/clinics/criminal-practice-externship/>

Kenneth F. Noto | Knoto@stu.edu | 305-623-2310

**Seattle University School of Law | Seattle, WA**

Youth Advocacy Clinic

[www.law.seattleu.edu/academics/skills-programs/law-clinic/clinic-courses](http://www.law.seattleu.edu/academics/skills-programs/law-clinic/clinic-courses)

Paul Holland | hollandp@seattleu.edu | 206-398-4135

**Southern University Law Center | Baton Rouge, LA**

Juvenile Law Clinic

<http://www.sulc.edu/page/clinical-education-juvenile-law-clinic>

Jacqueline Nash Grant | jnash@sulc.edu | 225-771-2552

**Southwestern Law School | Los Angeles, CA**

Youth Offender Parole Hearing Clinic

<http://www.swlaw.edu/experiential-learning/clinical-programs/youth-offender-parole-clinic>

Beth Caldwell | bcaldwell@swlaw.edu | 213-738-6788

**Suffolk University Law School | Boston, MA**

Juvenile Defenders Clinic

[www.suffolk.edu/law/academics/clinics/21862.php](http://www.suffolk.edu/law/academics/clinics/21862.php)

Kim McLaurin | kmclaurin@suffolk.edu | 617-305-1642

**Stetson University | Gulfport, FL**

Child Advocacy Clinic

<https://www.stetson.edu/law/academics/clinical-education/child-advocacy-clinic.php>

Christine Cerniglia | ccernigl@law.stetson.edu | 727-562-7621

**Texas Tech University School of Law | Lubbock, TX**

Criminal Defense Clinic

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics/crim/index.php>

Patrick Metze | patrick.metze@ttu.edu | 806-834-2395

**Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law | Houston, TX**

Criminal Misdemeanor Clinic

[http://www.tsulaw.edu/legal\\_clinic/criminal\\_law.html](http://www.tsulaw.edu/legal_clinic/criminal_law.html)

Lydia Johnson | Lydia.johnson@tmslaw.tsu.edu | 713-313-7004

**Tulane University Law School | New Orleans, LA**  
Juvenile Litigation Clinic  
<https://law.tulane.edu/courses/clinic-juvenile-litigation>  
David Katner | Dkatner@tulane.edu | 504-865-5156

**University of Akron School of Law | Akron, OH**  
Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program  
<http://www.uakron.edu/law/curriculum/jrap>  
Joann Sahl | jrap@uakron.edu | 330-376-9699

**University of Baltimore School of Law | Baltimore, MD**  
Criminal Practice Clinic & Juvenile Justice Project  
<http://law.ubalt.edu/clinics/criminal.cfm>  
<http://law.ubalt.edu/clinics/juvenilejustice.cfm>  
Dan Shemer | dan@shemerbar.com | 410-873-4459

**University of California – Berkeley | Berkeley, CA**  
East Bay Community Law Center, Youth Defender Clinic & Clean Slate Clinic  
<https://ebclc.org/students/academic-year-clinical-program/clinic-information/>  
Kara Acevedo | info@ebclc.org | 510-548-4040

**University of Chicago Law School | Chicago, IL**  
Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project  
[www.law.uchicago.edu/clinics/mandel/juvenile](http://www.law.uchicago.edu/clinics/mandel/juvenile)  
Herschella Conyers | hconyers@uchicago.edu | 773-702-9611

**University of Colorado - Boulder Law | Boulder, CO**  
Juvenile and Family Law Clinic  
<https://www.colorado.edu/law/academics/clinics/juvenile-and-family-law-clinic>  
Colene Robinson | colene.robinson@colorado.edu | 303-492-0166

**University of Connecticut School of Law | Hartford, CT**  
Center for Children's Advocacy  
[www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/center-childrens-advocacy](http://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/center-childrens-advocacy)  
Ann Tremont | atremont@cca-ct.org | 860-570-5236

**University of the District of Columbia School of Law | Washington, DC**  
Juvenile Law Clinic <https://www.law.udc.edu/page/JuvenileClinic> Mae Quinn | mae.quinn@udc.edu | 202-274-7438

**University of Florida Levin College of Law | Gainesville, FL**  
Gator TeamChild Juvenile Law Clinic  
<https://www.law.ufl.edu/areas-of-study/experiential-learning/clinics/civil/gator-team-child>  
Stacey Steinburg | steinberg@law.ufl.edu | 352-273-2796

**University of Georgia School of Law | Athens, GA**

Criminal Defense Practicum

<http://www.law.uga.edu/criminal-defense-practicum>

Russell C. Gabriel | [gabrielr@uga.edu](mailto:gabrielr@uga.edu) | 706-542-7878

**University of Kansas School of Law | Lawrence, KS**

Legal Aid Clinic

[law.ku.edu/legalaidclinic](http://law.ku.edu/legalaidclinic)

Melanie DeRousse | [melanie.derousse@ku.edu](mailto:melanie.derousse@ku.edu) | 785-864-5302

**University of Maine School of Law | Portland, ME**

Juvenile Justice Clinic

<http://mainelaw.maine.edu/academics/clinics-and-centers/clac/juvenile-justice/>

Christopher Northrop | [christopher.northrop@maine.edu](mailto:christopher.northrop@maine.edu) | 207-780-4341

**University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law | Baltimore, MD**

Youth, Education and Justice: Legal Theory and Practice

<http://www.law.umaryland.edu/Faculty-and-Staff/Course-Catalog/course.asp?coursenum=589Q>

Michael Pinard | [mpinard@law.umaryland.edu](mailto:mpinard@law.umaryland.edu) | 410-706-4121

**University of Michigan Law School | Ann Arbor, MI**

Juvenile Justice Clinic

<https://www.law.umich.edu/clinical/juvenilejustice/Pages/default.aspx>

Kimberly Thomas | [kithomas@umich.edu](mailto:kithomas@umich.edu) | 734-647-4054

**University of Minnesota Law School | Minneapolis, MN**

Child Advocacy and Juvenile Justice Clinic

<https://www.law.umn.edu/course/7675/child-advocacy-and-juvenile-justice-clinic>

Jean Sanderson | [jsanders@umn.edu](mailto:jsanders@umn.edu) | 612-625-5515

**University of Mississippi | University, MS**

MacArthur Justice Clinic

<https://law.olemiss.edu/academics-programs/clinics/macarthur-justice-clinic/>

Cliff Johnson | [cjohnson@macarthurjustice.org](mailto:cjohnson@macarthurjustice.org) | 662-915-6863

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas - School of Law | Las Vegas, NV**

Juvenile Justice Clinic

[https://catalog.unlv.edu/preview\\_course\\_nopop.php?catoid=20&coid=98111](https://catalog.unlv.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=20&coid=98111)

Mary Berkheiser | [mary.berkheiser@unlv.edu](mailto:mary.berkheiser@unlv.edu) | 702-895-3671

**University of North Carolina School of Law | Chapel Hill, NC**

Youth Justice Clinic

<https://law.unc.edu/experiential-learning/clinics/youth-justice-clinic/>

Barbara Fedders | [fedders@email.unc.edu](mailto:fedders@email.unc.edu) | 919-962-2623

**University of Richmond School of Law | Richmond, VA**

Children's Defense Clinic

<https://law.richmond.edu/academics/clinics-skills/in-house/childrens-defense/index.html>

Julie McConnell | jmconne@richmond.edu | 804-289-8205

**University of San Diego School of Law | San Diego, CA**

Child Advocacy Clinic

<http://www.sandiego.edu/law/academics/clinics-externships/clinical-education/child-advocacy.php>

Elisa Weichel | eweichel@sandiego.edu | 619-260-7470

**University of San Francisco School of Law | San Francisco, CA**

Criminal and Juvenile Justice Law Clinic

<https://www.usfca.edu/law/professional-skills/law-clinics/criminal-juvenile-justice>

Lara Bazelon | lbazelon@usfca.edu | 415-422-6202

**University of South Carolina School of Law | Columbia, SC**

Juvenile Justice Clinic

[https://sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/law/academics/experiential\\_learning/clinics/juvenile\\_justice/](https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/law/academics/experiential_learning/clinics/juvenile_justice/)

Josh Gupta-Kagan | jgkagan@law.sc.edu | 803-777-3393

**University of St. Thomas School of Law | St. Paul, Minnesota**

Criminal and Juvenile Defense Clinic

<https://www.stthomas.edu/law/practicaltraining/clinics/>

Rachel Moran | rmoran@stthomas.edu | 651-962-4810

**University of Tennessee College of Law | Knoxville, TN**

Advocacy Clinic

<https://law.utk.edu/clinics/>

Joy Raydice | law@utk.edu | 865-974-2331

**University of Texas School of Law | Austin, TX**

Juvenile Justice Clinic

[www.utexas.edu/law/clinics/juvenile/](http://www.utexas.edu/law/clinics/juvenile/)

Pamela J. Sigma | emailpsigman@law.utexas.edu | 512-451-3222

**University of Virginia School of Law | Charlottesville, VA**

Child Advocacy Clinic

[www.law.virginia.edu/html/academics/practical/childadvocacy.htm](http://www.law.virginia.edu/html/academics/practical/childadvocacy.htm)

Rob Poggenklass | rob@justice4all.org | 434-924-7354

**University of Washington School of Law | Seattle, WA**

Tools for Social Change: Race and Justice Clinic

<https://www.law.washington.edu/Clinics/RaceJustice/Default.aspx>

Kimberly Ambrose | kambrose@uw.edu | 206-685-6808

**University of Wisconsin Law School | Madison, WI**

Public Defender Project

<http://law.wisc.edu/fjr/prosecutionproject/>

John Gross | jpgross3@wisc.edu | 608-262-9859

**University of Wyoming | Laramie, WY**

Family and Child Legal Advocacy Clinic

<http://www.uwyo.edu/law/experiential/clinics/family-child-adv-clinic.html>

Dona Playton | dplayton@uwyo.edu | 307-766-3666

**Vanderbilt Law School | Nashville, Tennessee**

Youth Opportunity Clinic

<https://law.vanderbilt.edu/courses/427>

Cara Suvall | cara.suvall@vanderbilt.edu | 615-343-2659

**Washington University School of Law | St. Louis, MO**

Children's Rights Clinic

<https://law.wustl.edu/academics/clinical-education-program/childrens-rights-clinic/>

Kathryn Banks | kpbanks@wulaw.wustl.edu | 314-935-2767

**Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School | Lansing, MI**

Public Defender Clinic

<https://www.cooley.edu/academics/experiential-learning/public-defender>

Terry Cavanaugh | cavanaut@cooley.edu | 517-371-5140

## Public Interest Career Fairs

**\*Note:** Several of the following opportunities will be hosted remotely. Please visit the link provided for more information to confirm.

### NATIONWIDE

**Equal Justice Works Public Service Conference and Career Fair**

Date: Fall Semester (Middle/End of October)

Sponsor: Equal Justice Works

The Annual Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair is the largest public interest legal career fair in the country, hosting more than 1,400 public interest-minded students from over 150

law schools across the country, and providing the opportunity for students to explore career options with more than 175 public interest employers. The Conference and Career Fair provides access to job opportunities for law students; connects employers with talented attorneys and law students; and offers a multitude of skill-building and career advising sessions with experts from around the country. Students and recent graduates can apply for interviews through mid-September and may register to attend informal table talk networking and workshop sessions through late October. For more information, visit the Equal Justice Works website at <https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/conference-and-career-fair/about/>

## REGION-SPECIFIC

### **Annual Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference**

Date: Spring Semester (Late January/Early February)

Sponsor: Chicago Area Law School Consortium

The Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference (MPILCC) enables employers from public interest and government organizations and J.D. students to gather for a day of interviews and informal networking. The fair is held in Chicago, IL at Northwestern University School of Law, and is open to students from law schools in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The conference is free to employers and students. For more information, visit: <http://www.mpilcc.org/>.

### **Annual Public Interest Legal Career Reception**

Date: Fall Semester (Mid- September)

Sponsor: New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut law schools

The Annual Public Interest Legal Career Reception introduces attendees to public service organizations, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and private public interest law firms. Employers are on-site to answer questions about becoming a public interest lawyer, exploring a public interest career path, and obtaining internship or pro bono opportunities at their organizations. The reception is co-sponsored by 20 law schools from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut and is open to students and alumni from the sponsoring schools. For more information, visit: <https://go.activecalendar.com/FordhamUniversity/site/law/event/30th-annual-public-interest-legal-career-reception-1/>

### **Annual Southern California Public Interest / Public Sector Career Day**

Date: Spring Semester (Mid-February)

Sponsors: California Western, Chapman, La Verne, Loyola, Pepperdine, Southwestern, Thomas Jefferson, UC Irvine, UCLA, University of San Diego, University of Southern California, Western State, and Whittier

Career Day takes place at UCLA Law and includes prescheduled, formal interviews, informal table talks, a series of informal lunchtime discussions on substantive practice areas, and an afternoon panel discussion. The interviews are open only to students from sponsoring law schools, but the other activities are open to law students and alumni throughout the country. For more information, visit: <https://law.ucla.edu/careers/office-of-public-interest-programs/annual-career-day/>.

### **Georgetown/George Washington Law Public Sector Recruiting Program**

Date: Spring Semester (Late January)

Sponsors: George Washington University Law School and Georgetown University Law Center

The Public Sector Recruiting Program is a daylong job fair for Georgetown and George Washington law students to interview for summer internships and permanent positions with non-profit organizations, government agencies and public interest law firms. The Program consists of prescheduled interviews, table talks, and a resume collection option for employers that cannot interview at the fair. For more information, visit:

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/your-life-career/career-exploration-professional-development/for-employers/hire-jd-students-and-graduates/public-sector-recruitment-programs/gw-georgetown-law-public-sector-recruitment-program-psrp/>.

### **Government & Public Interest Interview Program**

Date: Spring Semester (Mid-February)

Sponsors: William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law, and University of Richmond School of Law

The Government & Public Interest Interview Program is open to government and public interest employers and law students from sponsoring schools. For more information, visit:

<http://www.vaclsc.org/government--public-interest-interview-program.html>

### **Greater Washington, DC/Baltimore Public Service Recruitment Fair**

Date: Spring Semester (Late January/ Early February)

Sponsors: Federal Bar Association, American University Washington College of Law, Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University, Howard University School of Law, University of Baltimore School of Law, University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, and University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

The Annual Washington, DC/Baltimore Public Recruitment Fair allows students of sponsoring schools to participate in formal interviews, resume collection, and informal table talks with over 100 public interest employers. For more information, visit:

[https://www.law.gmu.edu/career/employerservices/job\\_fair](https://www.law.gmu.edu/career/employerservices/job_fair)

### **Massachusetts Law School Consortium Government/Public Interest Interview Program**

Date: Fall Semester (Early October) and Spring Semester (Late January)

Sponsors: Boston College Law School, Boston University School of Law, Harvard Law School, New England Law – Boston, Northeastern University School of Law, Suffolk University Law School, University of Massachusetts School of Law, and Western New England University School of Law

The program allows students from sponsoring Massachusetts law schools to participate in resume collection and in formal, pre-scheduled interviews for summer and permanent positions with various public interest employers. The program is held twice a year at Suffolk University Law School. For more information, visit: <http://www.maconsortium.org/programs.html>.

### **Northern California Public Interest/Public Sector Legal Careers Day**

Date: Spring Semester (Late January/Early February)

Sponsors: Stanford Law School, UC Berkeley School of Law, UC Hastings College of the Law, UC Davis School of Law, John F. Kennedy University College of Law, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, Golden Gate University School of Law, University of San Francisco School of Law, Santa Clara University School of Law, and OneJustice.

Students of sponsoring schools can participate in formal, pre-scheduled interviews on the day of the program. Students and alumni from any law school are invited to participate in the employer table talk portion of the day. For more information, visit:

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/event/public-interest-public-sector-pips-day-2/>

### **Northwest Public Service Career Fair**

Date: Spring Semester (Late January/Early February)

Sponsors: Willamette University College of Law, University of Washington School of Law, University of Utah School of Law, University of Oregon School of Law, University of Idaho College of Law, Seattle University School of Law, Lewis & Clark Law School, Gonzaga University School of Law, Brigham Young University Law School, and Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

The Northwest Public Service Career Fair welcomes all law students and graduates to participate in table talk with public interest employers, but only students and graduates of the sponsoring schools may participate in scheduled interviews. The fair is held in both Seattle, WA and Portland, OR. Student registration usually opens mid-October and students may request interviews through mid-January. For more information, visit: <http://www.law2.byu.edu/northwestconsortium/career-fair/>.

### **Public Interest Legal Career Fair**

Date: Spring Semester (Early February)

Sponsor: Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Brooklyn Law School, Columbia Law School, Cornell Law School, CUNY School of Law, Fordham University School of Law, Hofstra University School of Law, New York Law School, New York University School of Law, Pace University School of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law, Roger Williams University School of Law, Rutgers Law School, Seton Hall University School of Law, St. John's University School of Law, Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse University College of Law, Touro Law Center, University at Buffalo School of Law, University of Connecticut School of Law, and Yale Law School

The Public Interest Legal Career Fair, held at New York University School of Law, gives public interest employers the opportunity to meet with students and allows students to interview with employers for internships and permanent jobs, as well as to talk with employers at information tables. For more information, please visit: <https://pilcfair.law.nyu.edu/>

### **Public Interest / Public Service (PI/PS) Fair**

Date: Spring Semester (Late January / Early February)

Sponsors: Temple University School of Law, Villanova University School of Law, Rutgers Law School – Camden, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Pennsylvania State University – The Dickinson School of Law, Drexel School of Law, and Widener University School of Law

The PI/PS Fair, held at Temple University’s Center City Campus, allows students from any of Philadelphia’s seven area law schools to meet and interview with public interest employers for summer and permanent positions. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.law.temple.edu/resources/career-services/public-interest-careers/pips-fair/>.

### **Public Sector Career Fair**

Date: Spring Semester (Late February)

Sponsor: Georgia State University College of Law, University of Georgia School of Law, Emory University School of Law, John Marshall School of Law – Atlanta, and Mercer University School of Law

The fair is only open to students of sponsoring law schools. More than 50 government and public interest employers conduct pre-selected and walk-up interviews with 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls for summer internships and permanent positions. The fair is held late February at Georgia State University School of Law in Atlanta. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.law.uga.edu/events/51705>

### **Texas Public Service Career Fair**

Date: Spring Semester (Late January/Early February)

Sponsor: Consortium of Texas Law Schools

The Texas Public Service Career Fair, hosted at the University of Texas School of Law, is the largest public service job fair for law students in Texas. During the two-day fair, public interest and government employers will conduct interviews for paid and unpaid summer and permanent positions. Employers may request to interview 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls, domestic and foreign-trained L.L.M.s, and recent graduates (up to one year after graduation) from all nine participating Texas law schools. Also, employers may choose to host informational tables. For more information, visit:

<https://law.utexas.edu/career/interview-programs/public-service-career-fair/>.

## **Debt Management and Summer Funding Opportunities**

### **Debt Management**

The high cost of education and the burden of student loan debt may deter many graduates from pursuing and remaining in public interest careers. Although postgraduate debt management can seem overwhelming, there are a number of programs and resources to help students and graduates manage their debt effectively.

**Equal Justice Works Student Debt Resources** | [https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/law-students/student-debt-resources/resources/?debt\\_category=student-debt-resources](https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/law-students/student-debt-resources/resources/?debt_category=student-debt-resources)

Equal Justice Works Student Debt Resources provides information to students on how to manage their debt.

**Public Service Loan Forgiveness** | <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, graduates may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on their William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan Program) loans after they have made 120 qualifying payments on those loans while employed full-time by certain public service employers. The information on this website describes the PSLF Program. It includes the eligibility requirements and the process for tracking your progress toward qualifying for PSLF. This information can also be found in the PSLF Fact Sheet and the Dear Borrower Letter, which can be downloaded and printed from the website.

**Income-Driven Repayment Plans** | <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/plans/income-driven>

Income-driven repayment plans are designed to make student loan debt more manageable by reducing the monthly payment amount. If you are seeking Public Service Loan Forgiveness, you should repay your federal loans under an income-driven repayment plan. The following income driven repayment plans are available to borrowers: the Income-Based Repayment Plan, the Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan, the Revised Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan, and the Income-Contingent Repayment Plan. This website outlines the eligibility requirements, terms and conditions, and how to apply for income-driven repayment plans. It also features a repayment calculator for graduates to use when determining which plan best suits their needs.

## **Summer Funding Opportunities**

Although most juvenile defense internships are unpaid, there are a number of programs and scholarships, aside from earning academic credit, that are available to students who commit to working at a public interest placement for the summer. The following list contains nationwide and regional specific summer funding opportunities. Since this list is non-exhaustive, interested students should also visit PSJD and school career centers to learn more about other summer funding opportunities that are available to students.

### **Nationwide**

**Equal Justice America** | <http://equaljusticeamerica.org/applyforfellowship.htm>

Equal Justice America provides funding for law students working full-time (35-40 hours per week) for organizations providing direct civil legal assistance for the poor. Fellowships for Summer 2019 were up to \$4,000. This fellowship can be combined with other funding so long as the total amount

does not exceed \$7,500.

**Equal Justice Works: AmeriCorps JD** | <https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/become-a-fellow/fellowship-program/vista-affordable-housing-preservation-project/>

AmeriCorps JD is an AmeriCorps-funded program that provides 350 law students with the opportunity to earn a \$1,000 education award voucher for spending the summer in a qualifying internship at a non-profit, public interest organization. Students must complete 300 service hours to receive the education award voucher, which can be used to pay current educational expenses or qualified student loans. Additionally, county, state, and non-profit public defender offices now qualify for Summer Corps funding. Applications are usually due at the beginning of May and interested students should apply online. Fellowships are offered on a rolling basis.

**Goodwin Public Interest Fellowships for Law Students of Color for 1Ls** | <http://www.goodwinlaw.com/careers/diversity-fellowships>

This fellowship program offers awards of \$10,000 to students of color who work in public interest positions the summer after their first year of law school. This program allows Goodwin Procter to connect with a wide array of talented students early in their legal careers who are committed to giving back to their communities. In addition to the monetary fellowship award, selected fellows are guaranteed a callback interview with the Goodwin Procter office of their choice in the fall interviewing season during their second year of law school. Fellows will also be invited to participate in some of Goodwin Procter's summer associate program events during their summer at the public interest organization. The application is typically due in mid-March. For more information about how to apply please visit the website.

**Ms. JD Public Interest Scholarship** | <https://ms-jd.org/programs/scholarships/>

Ms. JD annually supports women pursuing public interest careers by offering scholarships for law students working in public interest law over the summer. Unpaid judicial externs also qualify for these scholarships. Students need not have a placement at the time of their application, but must send an offer letter to Ms. JD by the beginning of the summer. For more details and instructions on how to apply please visit the website. The application is typically due in March.

**National Lawyers Guild Haywood Burns Fellowships** | <http://www.nlg.org/law-students/fellowships/>

The Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowship for Social and Economic Justice has its roots in the National Lawyers Guild's (NLG) established tradition of providing legal, political, and educational support to the important progressive movements of the day. This fellowship awards \$2,000 for students to complete a 10-week placement through the Summer Projects Committee. The Haywood Burns Fellowships are designed to encourage students to work in the NLG's tradition of "people's lawyering." The program exists to help students apply their talents and skills to find creative ways to use the law to advance justice. Burns Fellowships provoke law students to question traditional notions of how one must practice law and provide a summer experience that will enrich and challenge them. Fellowships may be completed with any existing organization whose mission addresses the needs of underserved individuals and groups. We encourage

applicants to identify grassroots and non-traditional work opportunities for which there is a serious current societal need. This could be a small non-profit, a short-staffed community law firm, or an organizing campaign that needs legal assistance. The Haywood Burns Fellowships usually provide a rigorous legal experience as well as a political one. The application is typically due in mid-January. For more information about how to apply please visit the website.

**Law Firms Sponsoring Split Public Interest Summers** | <https://law.yale.edu/student-life/career-development/students/career-guides-advice/firms-sponsoring-split-public-interest-summer>

Several law firms have instituted summer programs that enable law students to work part of the summer with the firm and part of the summer with a public interest organization, with the firm paying the students' salaries for the entire summer.

### ***Region Specific***

**Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund (AEF) - Washington, DC** | <https://www.aefdc.org/fellowship-and-grants>.

AEF awards summer fellowships and grants each year to law students from around the nation. The primary purpose of the fellowships is to fund a student's internship within the public interest sector that benefits either metropolitan Washington, D.C. community-at-large and/or the Asian Pacific American community. Eligible internship placements include federal, state, and local governmental organizations, nonprofit organizations, district attorney and public defender offices, and judicial internships. For all fellowship recipients, AEF requires that the internship be unpaid (except for nominal payment for items such as transportation), be arranged by the student, and extend at least ten weeks or a total of 400 hours. For more information about how to apply, please visit the website.

**Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia** | <https://www.hbadc.org/page/foundation>

The HBA-DC funds one or more fellowships of up to \$5,000 for first- and second-year law students enrolled in a law school in the District of Columbia or its immediate suburbs to work in a non-profit legal services agency in Washington, D.C. Students must secure sponsorship on their own—with a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization that provides advocacy or direct legal services to persons in the D.C. metro area—then apply to the HBA-DC for funding. Students are required to work full-time for a minimum of eight weeks. The application is typically due in the beginning of April. For more information about how to apply, please visit the website.

**Public Interest Law Initiative** | <https://pili.org/internships/>

The Public Interest Law Initiative funds law students from across the country to work with legal service agencies in Illinois (primarily in Chicago). Interns receive \$6,000 for working 400 hours full-time during the summer, and \$3,000 for working 200 hours over a semester with the Public Interest Law Initiative, which ensures quality supervision by experienced agency attorneys, and provides extra educational, networking, and mentoring opportunities. Funds are awarded directly to the host agency which then pays the intern. Applications are due in mid-October for 2Ls, and

early December for 1Ls for Summer funding consideration; early August for Fall funding consideration; and mid-October for Spring funding consideration. For more information about how to apply, please visit the website.

**The Sarasota County Bar Association (SCBA) Diversity Scholarship Fund |**  
<https://www.sarasotabar.com/page/diversityscholarship>

The SCBA/Richard Garland Diversity Scholarship Program is intended to provide internship opportunities for first- through third-year law students of under-represented minority backgrounds, with an interest in practicing law in Sarasota County upon graduation. The scholarship application is open to law students enrolled in Florida law schools and those enrolled in out-of-state law schools, but who have or had family, school, or community ties to Sarasota County. The student will receive a tuition assistance scholarship in an amount of up to \$5,000, which is payable directly to the student's law school. Diversity interns can also earn wages from their employer. The application is typically due in the late January. For more information about how to apply, please visit the website.

**Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA) Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant**  
<https://www.wlala.org/>

The WLALA Foundation will provide grants of up to \$5,000 to law students for projects that make governmental and social services agencies more accessible and responsive to individuals or groups whose needs are not adequately met. Through its activities, the Foundation seeks to achieve three specific goals: 1. Provide help to the disadvantaged by funding project that will directly benefit the under-represented in the greater Los Angeles area; 2. Educate and expose law students to legal concerns affecting the disadvantaged in areas outside of traditional legal practices; and 3. Encourage the legal community's involvement in public interest law by funding students who show the capability of and commitment to assisting those in need. The WLALA Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant program enables law students to devote time to public interest projects and exposes them to legal and social concerns of disadvantaged citizens that are not ordinarily experienced in traditional law practices. Rather than purely academic research, the fellowship is designed to fund a particular project with a tangible outcome. Historically, the Foundation has funded proposals such as information booklets, brochures, educational curricula, and videos. The application is typically due in mid-March. For more information about how to apply, please visit the website.

## **Project-Based Post-Graduate Fellowships**

Project-based fellowships help fund projects that serve unmet legal needs. Applicants for project-based fellowships usually propose their own projects in conjunction with an existing organization. In some cases, fellowships may support start-up funds to establish a new organization or project without a host organization.

**Equal Justice Works Fellowships** | <https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/become-a-fellow/>

Equal Justice Works (EJW) Fellowships provide the opportunity for lawyers to positively impact vulnerable communities around the country. Each year EJW selects qualified and passionate lawyers who have developed new and innovative legal projects that can impact lives and serve communities in desperate need of legal assistance. Depending on funding, EJW provides between 45-55 two-year fellowships annually. Fellows receive a competitive salary, generous loan repayment assistance, connections to their prominent sponsors, participation in trainings, and additional support during their two-year tenure. The EJW fellow selection process is highly competitive and the application deadline is mid-September. The application process for an EJW Fellowship involves four key requirements:

1. You must be a third-year law student, a recent law school graduate, or an experienced private sector attorney who demonstrates a commitment to public interest law. Your law school must be an Equal Justice Works member law school. If your school is not on this list, please email [Fellowships@equaljusticeworks.org](mailto:Fellowships@equaljusticeworks.org).
2. You must identify a qualifying non-profit host organization that will provide you with a full-time position upon receiving a fellowship. Candidates and organizations can partner in any number of ways—a candidate may approach an organization with a proposed project idea or an organization may recruit an applicant. Candidates may have interned with a host organization, but cannot be a current full-time employee with the same organization.
3. The host organization must be willing to be your employer during the term of the two-year fellowship as well as provide you with supervision, a work space, employee health and fringe benefits, and the materials (computer, internet access, phone, etc.) that you will need to successfully complete your project.
4. Together with your host organization, you must design a new project that focuses on legal advocacy on behalf of disenfranchised individuals, groups, or issues not adequately represented in our legal system. Legal advocacy includes direct legal representation, legal education, legal training, community organizing, transactional work, policy work, and administrative representation. Visit EJW's [fellow profiles](#) to learn more about current projects. Your project proposal should clearly state how the project will address a specific legal matter, how it will positively impact the targeted population, and how the host organization will support your efforts.

EJW reviews the applications and selects projects that can be matched with potential sponsors. Fellowships are sponsored by private law firms, foundations, individual donors, corporations, and bar associations. Almost all sponsors have specific issues and geographic focuses that they prefer, and applicants can learn more about sponsors on [EJW's website](#). Sponsors determine whom they would like to interview and schedule the interview on a rolling basis during the fall and winter. Offers are also made by the sponsors on a rolling basis from November through April.

**Skadden Fellowships** | [www.skaddenfellowships.org](http://www.skaddenfellowships.org)

The Skadden Fellowship Program, described as "a legal Peace Corps" by *The Los Angeles Times*,

was established in 1988 to commemorate the firm's 40th anniversary, in recognition of the dire need for greater funding for graduating law students who wish to devote their professional lives to providing legal services that encourage economic independence for the poor. Fellows can also work on projects related to the elderly, the homeless and the disabled, as well as those deprived of their civil or human rights. The aim of the foundation is to give Fellows the freedom to pursue public interest work; thus, the Fellows create their own projects at public interest organizations with at least two lawyers on staff before they apply.

Fellowships are awarded for two years to graduating 3Ls and outgoing judicial law clerks who want to work in the public interest field. Fellowship sponsors must be a 501(c)(3) organization that provides civil legal services to the poor, including the working poor, the elderly, the disabled or those deprived of their civil or human rights. Skadden provides each Fellow with a salary and pays all fringe benefits to which an employee of the sponsoring organization would be entitled. For those Fellows not covered by a law school low-income protection plan, the firm will pay a Fellow's law school debt service for the tuition part of the loan for the duration of the Fellowship.

The application deadline is mid-September. The application contains three essay questions that ask about the applicant's proposed project, past involvement in public interest law, and commitment to public interest law. Applicants must submit the following supporting documents to supplement their application: 1. Signed fellowship application including three essays; 2. Commitment letter from potential sponsoring organization; 3. Two letters of recommendation from a law school professor and a former employer; 4. Official law school transcript; 5. Resume.

Susan Butler Plum, director of the foundation, works closely with an Advisory Committee comprised of a dozen partners from all of Skadden's U.S. offices to administer the program and select each year's Fellows. Each year, the firm receives a large number of applicants from which the approximately 100 semifinalists are identified based upon each applicant's qualifications (competency, academic performance, character and demonstrated commitment to the public interests), demonstrated effectiveness of the sponsoring organization, and the quality of their proposed project. Each applicant is interviewed by one or more members of the Advisory Committee and by the foundation director. From this group, 56 finalists are chosen to be presented to the trustees, composed of seven individuals from outside the firm, Skadden's executive partner, two of counsel at the firm and one second-year Fellow. Those applicants receiving a Fellowship will be notified in mid-November.

**Soros Justice Fellowship Program** | [www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/soros-justice-fellowships](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/soros-justice-fellowships)

The Soros Justice Fellowships fund outstanding individuals to undertake projects that advance reform, spur debate, and catalyze change on a range of issues facing the U.S. criminal justice system. The fellowships are part of a larger effort within the Open Society Foundations to reduce the destructive impact of current criminal justice policies on the lives of individuals, families, and communities in the United States by challenging the overreliance on incarceration and extreme punishment, and ensuring a fair and accountable system of justice.

1. **Advocacy Fellowships:** The Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowships fund lawyers, advocates, grassroots organizers, researchers, and others with unique perspectives to undertake full-time criminal justice reform projects at the local, state, and national levels.

Projects may range from litigation to public education to coalition building to grassroots mobilization to policy-driven research. Advocacy Fellowships are 18 months in duration, may be undertaken in conjunction with a host organization, and can begin anytime between July and November. Advocacy Fellowships come with an award of either \$87,000 or \$120,000 (depending on level of experience), plus project-related expenses, for 18 months.

2. **Media Fellowships:** The Soros Justice Media Fellowships support writers, print and broadcast journalists, bloggers, filmmakers, and other individuals with distinctive voices proposing to complete media projects that engage and inform, spur debate and conversation, and catalyze change on important U.S. criminal justice issues. The Media Fellowships aim to mitigate the time, space, and market constraints that often discourage individuals from pursuing vital but marginalized, controversial, or unpopular topics in comprehensive and creative ways. Media Fellowships are 12 months in duration, and fellows are expected to make their projects their full-time work during the term of the fellowship. Projects can begin anytime between July and November. Media Fellowships come with an award of either \$58,000 or \$80,000 (depending on level of experience), plus project-related expenses, for the 12 months.

All projects must, at a minimum, relate to one or more of the Justice Fund’s broad U.S. criminal justice reform goals: reducing the number of people who are incarcerated or under correctional control, challenging extreme punishment, and promoting justice system accountability in our systems of justice. Please carefully review the complete guidelines on the website for more details on the specific requirements for each category of fellowships.

Open Society Foundations strongly encourages applications for projects that demonstrate a clear understanding of the intersection of criminal justice issues with the particular needs of low-income communities, communities of color, immigrants, LGBTQ people, women and children, and those otherwise disproportionately affected by harsh criminal justice policies; as well as applications for projects that cut across various criminal justice fields and related sectors, such as education, health and mental health, housing, and employment. Also, Open Society Foundations particularly welcomes applications from individuals directly affected by, or with significant direct personal experience with, the policies, practices, and systems their projects seek to address.

## **List of Selected Juvenile Defense Policy and Practice Organizations**

\*Note: The following list of organizations is non-exhaustive, and NJDC does not intend to endorse the organizations or the opportunities listed.

### **Alabama**

**Legal Aid Society of Birmingham**  
**2021 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North**  
**Birmingham, AL 35203**  
**(205) 251-3516**

[www.legalaidbirmingham.com](http://www.legalaidbirmingham.com)

The Legal Aid Society of Birmingham, a non-profit service organization affiliated with the Birmingham Bar Association, provides free court-appointed legal representation for children and low-income adults. Legal Aid exists to help those who cannot afford a lawyer. Legal Aid's staff of 20 lawyers represents only indigent persons, as determined by the courts where they work. At the Family Court of Jefferson County, both Birmingham and Bessemer Divisions, Legal Aid represents children accused of delinquency offenses. Legal Aid also serves as guardians ad litem for children who are the subject of abuse and neglect. Legal Aid has internship/externship opportunities available for law students. Students are encouraged to visit Legal Aid's website and/or contact Legal Aid for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Alaska**

**Public Defender Agency**  
**900 W. 5th Ave., Suite 200**  
**Anchorage, AK 99501**  
**(907) 334-4400**  
[doa.alaska.gov/pda/home.html](http://doa.alaska.gov/pda/home.html)

The mission of the Public Defender Agency is to provide constitutionally mandated legal representation to indigent clients appointed by the court. The Civil Division handles Child In Need of Aid cases, and represents minors in juvenile delinquency cases and individuals subject to civil commitment proceedings. The Agency has internship/externship opportunities available for law students. Students are encouraged to visit the Agency's website and/or contact the Agency for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Arizona**

**Maricopa County Office of the Public Advocate**  
**Durango Juvenile Court**  
**3131 W. Durango**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85009**  
**(602) 372-2815**  
[www.maricopa.gov/opa/](http://www.maricopa.gov/opa/)

The Maricopa County Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) protects the fundamental rights of juveniles, parents, and adults by providing effective legal representation for indigent people facing delinquency petitions, dependency/severance proceedings, and court evaluation and court-ordered mental health treatment, when appointed by the Maricopa County Superior Court. OPA provides legal representation for individuals who are not able to afford the services of private lawyers. OPA has internship/externship opportunities available for undergraduate students, graduate students, law students and recent graduates. Interested individuals are encouraged to visit the OPA's website and/or contact OPA for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Coconino Public Defender's Office****Juvenile Division****110 East Cherry Avenue****Flagstaff, AZ 86001****(928) 679-7700****[www.coconino.az.gov/index.aspx?nid=287](http://www.coconino.az.gov/index.aspx?nid=287)**

Following appointment by the courts of Coconino County, the Coconino Public Defender's Office provides, pursuant to ethical and constitutional obligations, quality and cost-efficient legal representation to indigent persons who are: criminal defendants; minors accused of delinquency; parties involved in termination of parental rights litigation; parties to child dependency actions; and subjects of mental health commitment proceedings. The office has internship/externship opportunities available for undergraduate students, graduate students, law students, and recent graduates. Interested individuals are encouraged to visit the office's website and/or contact the office for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Yavapai County Public Defender****Juvenile Division****595 White Spar Road****Prescott, AZ 86303****(928) 771-3588****[www.yavapai.us/pdo/](http://www.yavapai.us/pdo/)**

The Juvenile Division of the Yavapai County Public Defender represents and protects the rights of children (and/or parents) in both delinquency and dependency petitions in the Superior Court, when appointed by the Court. The office has internship/externship opportunities available for students. Students are encouraged to visit the office's website and/or contact the office for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Pima County Public Defender****Juvenile Division****2337 East Ajo Way****Tucson, AZ 85713****(520) 724-2994****[webcms.pima.gov/government/public\\_defender/](http://webcms.pima.gov/government/public_defender/)**

The Pima County Public Defender represents indigent individuals upon appointment by the Courts in felony cases, juvenile delinquency matters, appeals, and extradition hearings under the jurisdiction of the Pima County Superior Court, Juvenile Court, or Arizona Appellate Courts. The mission of the office is to provide highly skilled and vigorous representation of indigent people charged with crimes in Pima County, by tirelessly defending and seeking to expand the constitutional rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Arizona State Constitution. The office has internship/externship opportunities available for law students and recent graduates. Interested individuals are encouraged to visit the office's website and/or contact the office for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Mohave County Legal Advocate's Office**

**316 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**Kingman, AZ 86402**

**(928) 753-0782**

**[www.mohavecounty.us/ContentPage.aspx?id=278](http://www.mohavecounty.us/ContentPage.aspx?id=278)**

The Mohave County Legal Advocate's Office provides legal representation to indigent juveniles and adults, when appointed by the Mohave County Superior Court. Their attorneys provide legal representation to juveniles facing delinquency petitions (criminal charges for minors), juveniles involved in dependency cases (child welfare abuse/neglect cases), adults facing criminal felony charges, and juveniles and adults in appellate cases. The office practices before both criminal and juvenile divisions of Mohave County Superior Court, Kingman, Bullhead City and Lake Havasu City Justice Courts, Arizona Court of Appeals, and the Arizona Supreme Court. The office has internship/externship opportunities available for students. Interested individuals are encouraged to visit the office's website and/or contact the office for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Children's Action Alliance**

**3030 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Suite 650**

**Phoenix, AZ 85012**

**(602) 266-0707**

**<https://azchildren.org/>**

Through research, publications, media campaigns, and advocacy, CAA seeks to influence policies and decisions affecting the lives of Arizona children and their families on issues related to health, child abuse and neglect, early care and education, budget and taxes, juvenile justice, children and immigration, and working families. CAA works toward a future in which all children have health insurance, no child is raised in poverty and hunger, every child enters school ready to learn and succeed, no child endures the ravages of abuse and neglect, every child has a place to call home, and struggling teens have the support they need to become responsible adults. Information about current employment opportunities is available on the website.

**The National Center for Youth Law – Phoenix**

**300 W Clarendon Ave, Suite 480**

**Phoenix, AZ 85013**

**(602) 264-4681**

**<https://youthlaw.org/>**

The National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) is a public interest law firm that uses the law to improve the lives of poor children nationwide. NCYL works to ensure that low-income children have the resources, support, and opportunities they need for a healthy and productive future. It does so by engaging in class action litigation, administrative and legislative advocacy, and other activities intended to benefit large numbers of low-income children and adolescents. The Center also engages in a limited number of cases which benefit individual children. The Center focuses its work in foster care, juvenile justice, adolescent health care, mental health, education, and governmental benefit programs. NCYL has internship/externship opportunities for law students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Students are encouraged to visit NCYL's website and/or contact NCYL for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Arkansas**

Please contact the [Central Juvenile Defender Center](#) for information about academic and postgraduate opportunities at organizations in Arkansas.

### **Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families**

**Union Station**

**1400 West Markham, Suite 306**

**Little Rock, AR 72201**

**(501) 371-9678**

<http://www.aradvocates.org/>

The mission of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families is to ensure that all children and their families have the resources and opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives and to realize their full potential. AACF serves as a voice for children at the Arkansas State Capitol and in Washington D.C., gathers and analyzes data to support public policy that serves all children and families, and organizes coalitions of diverse groups to drive change. Information about current employment opportunities is available on the website.

### **Arkansas Public Defender Commission**

**Trial Public Defender Division**

**20th Judicial District Office**

**515 Oak Street, Suite E**

**Conway, AR 72032**

**(501) 450-4975**

<https://www.faulknercounty.org/government/departments-2/public-defender>

The Arkansas Public Defender Commission is an independent agency of the State of Arkansas which was created and exists to provide legal defense and services to persons who have been found to be financially indigent by a Court and who are charged with offenses or accused of conduct which may result in loss of liberty in the event that the defendant is found guilty. The Public Defender also provides juvenile representation in cases involving allegations of delinquency and families in need of services. Information about current employment opportunities is available on the website.

## **California**

### **Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice**

**424 Guerrero Street, Suite A**

**San Francisco, CA 94110**

**(415) 621-5661**

<http://www.cjci.org/>

The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCI) is a nonprofit nonpartisan organization whose mission is to reduce society's reliance on incarceration as a solution to social problems. In pursuit of this mission, CJCI provides direct services, technical assistance, and policy analysis that work in unison to promote a

balanced and humane criminal justice system designed to reduce incarceration and enhance long-term public safety. CJJ has internship/externship opportunities available for students. Interested individuals are encouraged to visit the office's website and/or contact the office for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Children's Defense Fund-California**

**634 S. Spring Street, Suite 500C**

**Los Angeles, CA 90014**

**(213) 355-8787**

<http://www.cdfca.org/>

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Leave No Child Behind mission is to ensure every child a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start, and a moral start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. CDF aligns its work in order to provide viable opportunities for children and dismantle the Cradle to Prison Pipeline. CDF develops innovative research, public policy, and best practices that empower lawmakers and communities to expand effective community based alternatives to juvenile incarceration. They also work closely with systems leaders to ensure that youth in the state's juvenile justice facilities receive fair, positive, and developmentally appropriate treatment. CDF has internship/externship opportunities for students. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit CDF's website and/or contact CDF for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Law Offices of the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office**

**Juvenile Division**

**210 West Temple Street, Suite 590**

**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**(213) 974-2811**

<https://pubdef.lacounty.gov/>

The Juvenile Division of the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office represents youth who cannot afford an attorney in 20 courtrooms in 8 different courthouses throughout Los Angeles County. The office has a summer, fall, and spring law clerk program, and hires entry level attorneys. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit the office's website and/or contact the office for more details.

**Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender**

**210 West Temple St., Suite 18-709**

**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**(213) 974-6626**

<http://apd.lacounty.gov/>

The County of Los Angeles Alternate Public Defender provides high quality and caring legal representation to youth charged with a crime who cannot afford an attorney, where the Public Defender is unable to represent (due to a conflict of interest or unavailability) in court proceedings in the Superior Courts and in appeals to higher courts. The office has four locations throughout Los Angeles. Information about current employment opportunities is available on the website.

**National Center for Youth Law**  
**405 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Oakland, CA 94612**  
**(510) 835-8098**  
[www.youthlaw.org](http://www.youthlaw.org)

The National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) is a public interest law firm that uses the law to improve the lives of poor children nationwide. NCYL works to ensure that low-income children have the resources, support, and opportunities they need for a healthy and productive future. It does so by engaging in class action litigation, administrative and legislative advocacy, and other activities intended to benefit large numbers of low-income children and adolescents. The Center also engages in a limited number of cases which benefit individual children. The Center focuses its work in foster care, juvenile justice, adolescent health care, mental health, education, and governmental benefit programs. NCYL has internship/externship opportunities for law students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Students are encouraged to visit NCYL's website and/or contact NCYL for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**San Francisco Public Defender**  
**Juvenile Unit**  
**375 Woodside Avenue, Room 118**  
**San Francisco, CA 94127**  
**(415) 753-7601**  
[sfpublicdefender.org/](http://sfpublicdefender.org/)

The San Francisco Public Defender's mission is to protect and defend the rights of indigent clients through effective, vigorous, compassionate, and creative legal advocacy. They strive to provide the highest level of legal advocacy for each of their clients and to be a nationwide model for the delivery of indigent defense services. Their Juvenile Unit is a national model for holistic representation, and works to meet the legal and collateral needs of youth and their families. The office offers internship/externship opportunities to law students and graduates throughout the year. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit the office's website and/or contact the office for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Youth Law Center**  
**200 Pine Street, Suite 300**  
**San Francisco, CA 94104**  
**(415) 543-3379**  
[www.ylc.org](http://www.ylc.org)

The Youth Law Center (YLC) is a public interest law firm that works to protect children in the nation's foster care and justice systems from abuse and neglect, and to ensure that they receive the necessary support and services to become healthy and productive adults. YLC has internship/externship opportunities for law students throughout the academic year and during the summer. YLC has also hosted project-based postgraduate law fellows. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit YLC's website and/or contact YLC for more details on how to apply.

## Colorado

### **Colorado Criminal Defense Institute**

**955 Bannock Street, Suite 200**

**Denver, Colorado 80204**

**(303) 758-2454**

<https://ccdoinstitute.org/>

The Colorado Criminal Defense Institute (CCDI) is a non-profit organization operating in conjunction with the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar for the purpose of promoting justice and best practices in all matters relating to the Colorado criminal justice system. The organization concentrates on the education of criminal justice practitioners and the development of policy that is based on evidence and research while respecting the constitutional rights and dignity of all persons. An area of focus for CCDI is Juvenile Justice as CCDI opposes housing juveniles in adult jails or prisons, and believes that juveniles should not be transferred to adult court or subjected to direct file except in very limited circumstances. Students and graduates may contact CCDI to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

### **Colorado Juvenile Defender Center**

**1245 E. Colfax Avenue, Suite 204**

**Denver, CO 80218**

**(303) 435-7232**

[www.cjdc.org](http://www.cjdc.org)

The Colorado Juvenile Defender Center (CJDC) is a Denver-based organization that works with youth, families, and lawyers to advocate for the rights and treatment of children and youth in the juvenile justice system through public advocacy, community organizing, non-partisan research, and policy development. Information about current employment opportunities is available on the website.

### **Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel**

**1300 Broadway Street, Suite 330**

**Denver, CO 80203**

<https://www.coloradoadc.org/>

The mission of the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel is to provide indigent individuals (adults and children) charged with crimes with the best legal representation possible. This representation must uphold the federal and state constitutional and statutory mandates, ethical rules and nationwide standards of practice for defense lawyers. As a state agency, the OADC strives to achieve this mission by balancing the obligation to the criminally accused and the taxpayers of the State of Colorado. The OADC is committed to insuring that indigent defendants receive the best legal services available.

### **Office of the Colorado State Public Defender**

**1300 Broadway Street, Suite 400**

**Denver, CO 80203**

<http://www.coloradodefenders.us/>

The mission of the Office of the Colorado State Public Defender is to defend and protect the rights, liberties,

and dignity of those accused of crimes who cannot afford to retain counsel. They do so by providing constitutionally and statutorily mandated representation that is effective, zealous, inspired and compassionate. The Office of the Colorado State Public Defender offers internship/externship opportunities to law, undergraduate, and graduate students. Interested students are encouraged to visit their website and/or contact the Office of the Colorado State Public Defender for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Connecticut**

### **Center for Children's Advocacy**

**2074 Park Street**

**Hartford, CT 06106**

**(860) 570-5327**

[www.kidscounsel.org](http://www.kidscounsel.org)

Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA) is a non-profit organization affiliated with the University of Connecticut School of Law whose mission is to promote and protect the legal rights and interests of poor children dependent upon the judicial, child welfare, health, mental health, education, and juvenile justice systems for their care. CCA employs a number of methods to achieve its purposes including individual representation, class action advocacy, training, and administrative and legislative advocacy. Because of its recognition that interdisciplinary approaches contribute immensely to understanding children's issues, CCA is committed to working in partnership with experts and policy analysts to develop appropriate solutions to meet the complex challenges of these interlocking systems. CCA has internship/externship opportunities for law and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. CCA also seeks candidates to sponsor for project-based postgraduate law fellowships. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit CCA's website and/or contact CCA for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

### **Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance**

**2470 Fairfield Avenue**

**Bridgeport, CT 06605**

**(203) 579-2727**

<http://www.ctjja.org/>

The mission of the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance is to stop the criminalization of Connecticut's children and youth. The organization's goals are to bring about these outcomes: fewer children will enter the system, the justice system will treat all children fairly and effectively, and CTJJA will be sustainable. The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance accomplishes its mission by serving as a catalyst for systems reform. The Alliance employs the following strategies in pursuit of its mission: legislative education and advocacy, strategic communications, community organizing, and national, state, and local partnerships.

### **Connecticut Public Defenders**

**Juvenile Matters Offices**

<https://www.ct.gov/ocpd/>

The Connecticut Public Defender represents children in delinquency matters throughout Connecticut at thirty-eight (38) field offices and six (6) specialized units of the Office of Chief Public Defender.

**Bridgeport Juvenile Matters**  
60 Housatonic Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
(203) 579-6599

**Hartford Juvenile Matters**  
920 Broad Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 566-7566

**Middletown Juvenile Matters**  
1 Court Street  
Middletown, CT 06457  
(860) 343-6378

**New Britain Juvenile Matters**  
20 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
(860) 515-5222

**New Haven Juvenile Matters**  
239 Whalley Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 786-0330

**Rockville Juvenile Matters**  
25 School Street  
Rockville, CT 06066  
(860) 870-2120

**Stamford Juvenile Matters**  
115 Hoyt Street  
Stamford, CT 06905  
(203) 579-6599

**Torrington Juvenile Matters**  
50 Field Street  
Torrington, CT 06790  
(860) 626-2120

**Waterbury Juvenile Matters**  
7 Kendrick Avenue  
Waterbury, CT 06702  
(203) 596-4179

**Waterford Juvenile Matters**

**81 Columbia Avenue  
Willimantic, CT 06226  
(860) 440-5870**

**Willimantic Juvenile Matters  
Suite No. 5  
81 Columbia Avenue  
Willimantic, CT 06226  
(860) 456-5730**

## **Delaware**

**Office of Defense Services  
820 North French Street, 3rd Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
(302) 577-5200  
<http://ods.delaware.gov/>**

The Office of Defense Services provides state-wide representation of all juveniles charged with delinquency and criminal matters. Attorneys in the Family Court unit are assigned to these cases. These attorneys also handle adult domestic violence matters that are prosecuted in Family Court. The office has internship/externship opportunities for law and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Interested students are encouraged to visit the office's website and/or contact their office for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Delaware Center for Justice  
111 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
(302) 658-7174  
<http://www.dcjustice.org>**

What began as a Prisoner's Aid Society in 1920 has evolved into an organization that currently serves both adults and youth who are justice involved—transforming the delivery of justice in Delaware and implementing programs that facilitate fresh starts for victims of crime, youth at risk, and the incarcerated. The Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ) is the leading non-profit organization in Delaware committed to transforming the quality of justice through advocacy, policy, and practice. DCJ has a strong focus on youth/juvenile justice. DCJ has internship/externship opportunities for students. Interested students are encouraged to visit DCJ's website and/or contact their office for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available opportunities.

## **District of Columbia**

**Campaign for Youth Justice**  
**1220 L Street NW, Suite 605**  
**Washington, DC 20005**  
**(202) 558-3580**  
[www.cfyj.org](http://www.cfyj.org)

The Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ) is dedicated to ending the practice of prosecuting, sentencing, and incarcerating youth under 18 in the adult criminal justice system. CFYJ advocates for juvenile justice reform through providing support to federal, state, and local campaigns; coordinating outreach to parents, youth, and families; fostering national coalition-building; encouraging media relations; conducting research; and publishing reports and advocacy materials. CFYJ offers internships/externships for law, graduate, and undergraduate students throughout the academic semester and during the summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit CFYJ's website and/or contact CFYJ for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Center for Children's Law & Policy**  
**1701 K Street, NW, Suite 1100**  
**Washington, DC 20006**  
**(202) 637-0377**  
<http://www.cclp.org/>

The Center for Children's Law and Policy is currently focused on three main areas: eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system, reducing the unnecessary and inappropriate incarceration of children, and eliminating dangerous and inhumane practices for youth in custody. Their staff members pursue a range of different activities to achieve these goals, including training, technical assistance, administrative and legislative advocacy, research, writing, media outreach, and public education. The Center for Children's Law and Policy welcomes applications for internships from law students and graduate students. They accept applications from students pursuing full-time placements of 10 weeks or more during the summer, as well as academic year internships and externships. Interested students are encouraged to visit the office's website and/or contact their office for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Coalition for Juvenile Justice**  
**1319 F Street NW, Suite 402**  
**Washington, DC 20004**  
**(202) 467-0864**  
<http://www.juvjustice.org/>

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) is a nationwide coalition of State Advisory Groups (SAGs), organizations, individuals, youth, and allies dedicated to preventing children and youth from becoming involved in the courts and upholding the highest standards of care when youth are charged with wrongdoing and enter the justice system. CJJ envisions a nation where fewer children are at risk of delinquency; and if they are at risk or involved with the justice system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. The Coalition for Juvenile Justice has internship/externship opportunities available for law, undergraduate, and graduate students. Interested individuals are encouraged

to visit the office's website and/or contact the office for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Rising for Justice (Formerly DC Law Students in Court)**

**4340 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 214**

**Washington, DC 20008**

**(202) 638.4798**

<https://risingforjustice.org/>

Rising for Justice teaches law students while serving low-income DC residents with civil, criminal, and juvenile delinquency cases. Rising for Justice offers internships/externships for undergraduate, law, and graduate students throughout the academic semester and during the summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit Rising for Justice's website and/or contact Rising for Justice for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**National Center for Youth Law**

**1235 G Street NW**

**Washington, DC 20005**

**(202) 637-0377**

<https://youthlaw.org/>

The National Center for Youth Law is a non-profit law firm that helps low income children achieve their potential by transforming the public agencies that serve them. NCYL leads high impact campaigns that wave together litigation, research public awareness, policy development, and technical assistance. The Center's goal is not to reform one particular system, but to transform the multiple public systems serving vulnerable children—including education, child welfare, public health, behavioral health, juvenile justice, and workforce development- such that they receive the supports they need to advance and thrive. There are internship opportunities at NCYL for law, graduate, and undergraduate students. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit NCYL's website and/or contact the office for more details on how to apply.

**National Juvenile Defender Center**

**1350 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 304**

**Washington, DC 20036**

**(202) 452-0010**

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

The National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to promoting justice for all children by ensuring excellence in juvenile defense. NJDC was created in 1999 to respond to the critical need to build the capacity of the juvenile defense bar and to improve access to counsel and quality of representation for children in the justice system. NJDC gives juvenile defense attorneys a permanent and enhanced capacity to address practice issues, improve advocacy skills, build partnerships, exchange information, and participate in the national debate over juvenile crime. NJDC provides support to public defenders, appointed counsel, law school clinical programs, and non-profit law centers to ensure quality representation in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal areas. NJDC offers a wide range of integrated services to juvenile defenders, including training, technical assistance, advocacy, networking, collaboration, capacity building, and coordination. NJDC has internship/externship opportunities for law students and

occasionally undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. NJDC hosts two law graduates for its Gault Fellowship—an internally funded two-year juvenile indigent defense postgraduate organizational fellowship. NJDC also seeks candidates to host for project-based postgraduate law fellowships. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit NJDC’s website and/or contact NJDC for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**National Juvenile Justice Network**

**1424 K Street NW, STE 403**

**Washington, DC 20005**

**(202) 878-6655**

**<http://www.njjn.org/>**

The National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) leads a movement of state-based juvenile justice reform organizations to fight for a fairer youth justice system that’s appropriate for youth and their families. NJJN advocates for policies and practices that treat youth in trouble with the law with dignity and humanity and strengthen them, their families, and their communities. NJJN recognizes that its work for state level policy reform must take place in partnership with the larger movement for racial justice. As a part of this approach, NJJN purposefully looks to elevate and learn from those individuals and groups that are most negatively affected by put justice systems policies and to analyze all reforms in light of the larger systemic barriers to justice. There are internship/externship opportunities at NJJN available for students. NJJN also has a Youth Justice Leadership Institute fellowship. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit NJJN’s website and/or contact the office for more details on how to apply.

**Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia**

**Community Defender Division**

**1442 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE**

**Washington, DC 20003**

**(202) 824-2801**

**[www.pdsdc.org](http://www.pdsdc.org)**

As part of the Public Defender Service’s (PDS) holistic approach to public defense, the Community Defender Division (CDD) provides services to adults and children, primarily clients who are impacted by their criminal or juvenile records. PDS’s newly structured programs provide comprehensive legal services to clients who are impacted by their criminal or juvenile records. PDS has internship/externship opportunities for law students throughout the academic year and during the summer. PDS also hosts law graduates applying for project-based postgraduate fellowships. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit PDS’s website and/or contact PDS for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Juvenile Justice Clinic**

**Georgetown University Law Center**

**600 New Jersey Avenue NW, Room 127**

**Washington, DC 20001**

**(202) 662-9000**

**<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/experiential-learning/clinics/juvenile-justice-clinic/>**

As one of the first legal clinics of its kind, the Georgetown Law Juvenile Justice Clinic continues to be one of the premier law school clinics in the country. The Clinic represents youth charged with delinquency in DC, and provides an experiential and classroom learning opportunity for law students as well as resources and support for juvenile defenders practicing locally and nationally. The Juvenile Justice Clinic's mission is: 1) to provide highly effective representation to clinic clients; 2) to improve an adolescent's chance of becoming a productive citizen; 3) to protect the rights and interests of children; 4) to teach law students how to think independently, synthesize facts and legal principles, and plan litigation strategies; 5) to develop a law student's ability to analyze the substantive law and to determine its appropriateness; and 6) to help law students understand the impact of legal systems on a community. The Juvenile Justice Clinic offers a graduate two-year fellowship each year through the E. Barrett Prettyman/Stuart Stiller Fellowship Program at Georgetown and a Juvenile Defense and Policy Fellowship. There is also internship opportunities for law, graduate, undergraduate students, and recent grads in the Clinic's Investigative Internship Program. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit the Clinic's website and/or contact the Clinic for more details on how to apply.

## **Florida**

### **Miami Dade Public Defender, Eleventh Judicial Circuit**

#### **Juvenile Division**

**155 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 7000**

**Miami, FL 33128**

**(305) 545-1600**

**[www.pdmiami.com/](http://www.pdmiami.com/)**

The assistant public defenders in the Juvenile Division represent children under 18 years of age who are charged with committing a delinquent act. The division works to ensure that each child's rights are protected and that the government meets the child's needs in a system intended to be "child-centered." To that end, the assistant public defenders, disposition specialists, and investigators not only prepare the defense of the case, but also collaborate to identify and address each child's unique needs. In response to the large number of juveniles being transferred to adult court, over 1000 each year in Miami-Dade, the Public Defender has established the Juvenile Sentencing Advocacy Project (JSAP) as part of his Anti-Violence Initiative. JSAP attempts to identify alternatives to sentencing children as adults and improve programming. Miami Dade Public Defender (MDPD) has internship/externship opportunities for law, graduate, and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit MDPD's website and/or contact MDPD for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Georgia**

The following public defender offices all have Juvenile divisions. These divisions provide legal representation to youth accused of delinquency and status offenses in Juvenile Court who cannot afford an attorney. Representation commences at the preliminary hearing and continues through trials and appeals. Students and graduates may contact the offices individually to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Alcoy Judicial District Public Defender**  
1132 Usher Street, Room 119  
Covington, GA 30014  
(770) 784-2060

**Chatham County Public Defender**  
197 Carl Griffin Drive  
Savannah, GA 31405  
(912) 447-4901

**Dekalb County Juvenile Court Public Defender**  
4309 Memorial Drive  
Decatur, GA 30033  
(404) 294-2763

**Douglas County Public Defender**  
8700 Hospital Drive  
Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 920-7429

**Fulton County Public Defender**  
395 Pryor Street SW  
Atlanta, GA 30312  
(404) 224-4449

**Gilmer County Public Defender**  
1 Broad Street, Suite 001  
Ellijay, GA 30540  
(706) 698-7322

**Gwinnett County Public Defender**  
75 Langley Drive  
Administrative Office of the Court  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
(770) 822-8523

**Houston County Public Defender**  
201 Perry Parkway  
Perry, GA 31069  
(478) 218-4870

**Western Judicial Circuit Public Defender**  
440 College Avenue, Suite 220  
Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 369-6440

**Wilkinson County Public Defender  
Wilkinson Juvenile Court  
P O Box 1429  
Milledgeville, Georgia 31059  
(478) 445-8100**

## **Hawaii**

Please contact the [Western Juvenile Defender Center](#) for information about academic and postgraduate opportunities at organizations in Hawaii.

## **Idaho**

**Ada County Public Defender  
Juvenile Unit  
6300 West Denton Street  
Boise, Idaho 83704  
(208) 577-4800  
<https://adacounty.id.gov/Public-Defender>**

Ada County Public Defender's Office provides legal representation to indigent juveniles accused of delinquency offenses in Juvenile Court. Representation may include arguing preliminary motions in court, conducting investigations, interviewing witnesses and clients, preparing cases for trial, negotiating disposition agreements, trying cases, and arguing post-trial motions. Students and graduates may contact the office to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Illinois**

**Cook County Public Defender  
Juvenile Justice Division  
2245 West Ogden  
Chicago, IL 60612  
(312) 433-7046  
<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/public-defender-1>**

The Juvenile Justice Division represents youths accused of crimes ranging from first-degree murder to graffiti. By law, these clients are younger than 17 years old when their cases begin. Their lawyers also represent children in situations in which the State is seeking to have the case transferred to adult court. This division also assigns attorneys to three suburban locations where juvenile cases are heard once a week. Those suburbs are Skokie, Rolling Meadows, and Bridgeview. Cook County Public Defender (CCPD) has internship/externship opportunities for law, graduate, and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit CCPD's website and/or contact CCPD for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Juvenile Justice Initiative**  
**518 Davis Street**  
**Evanston, IL 60201**  
**(847) 864-1567**  
[jjustice.org](http://jjustice.org)

The Juvenile Justice Initiative (JJI) is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide advocacy organization working to transform the juvenile justice system in Illinois by reducing reliance on confinement, enhancing fairness for all youth, and developing a comprehensive continuum of community based resources throughout the state. JJI has successfully advocated for numerous reforms in Illinois that have positively impacted children in conflict with the law. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit JJI's website and/or contact JJI to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Indiana**

**Marion County Public Defender Agency**  
**Juvenile Division**  
**2605 E. 25th Street, Suite 100**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46218**  
**(317) 327-8212**  
[www.indy.gov/eGov/County/PubDef/Pages/home.aspx](http://www.indy.gov/eGov/County/PubDef/Pages/home.aspx)

The Juvenile Division represents children accused of committing delinquent acts and parents of children where the State believes a child's physical or mental well-being is being impaired or endangered by acts or omissions of the child's parent or guardian. The attorney assigned to a client may be a full-time attorney with the agency, or may be an attorney who contracts with the agency on a part-time basis. Marion County Public Defender agency has internship/externship opportunities for law, graduate, and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit the agency's website and/or contact the agency for more details on how to apply to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana**  
**333 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 500**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**  
**(317) 916-0786**  
[youthlawteam.org/lawteam.html](http://youthlawteam.org/lawteam.html)

The Youth Law T.E.A.M.'s goal is to influence positive systemic change in youth's legal issues in the juvenile justice, education, and child welfare systems within Indiana by providing technical assistance, education and training, advocacy of "Best Practice and Policy Recommendations," and monitoring for compliance. Through a knowledgeable and trained core of youth service professionals, youth will be afforded the rights and privileges provided in the United States Constitution, the Indiana Constitution, and the laws of the United States and the state of Indiana. Additionally, youth will know and understand these laws and will know their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States and Indiana. Students and graduates may visit the Youth Law T.E.A.M.'s website and contact the organization to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## Iowa

**Office of the State Public Defender**  
**Lucas State Office Building, Fourth Floor**  
**321 E. 12th Street**  
**Des Moines, IA 50319**  
**(515) 242-6158**  
[spd.iowa.gov/](http://spd.iowa.gov/)

The Office of the State Public Defender is responsible for coordinating Iowa's Indigent Defense System. Its mission is to ensure that all indigent persons in Iowa are provided high quality legal representation in criminal, juvenile, and other eligible proceedings in the most efficient and fiscally responsible manner. The office is led by the State Public Defender, who is appointed by the Governor. More than two hundred employees in eighteen Local Public Defender Offices and the Appellate Defender's Office provide representation for indigent persons primarily in criminal and juvenile cases at the trial and appellate levels in all of Iowa's 99 counties. The State Public Defender also contracts with more than one thousand private attorneys and several non-profit organizations throughout Iowa to provide court-appointed representation in cases that public defender offices are unable to handle. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit the Office of the State Public Defender's website and to contact the organization to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## Kansas

**Kansas Legal Services**  
**712 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 200**  
**Topeka, KS 66603**  
**(785) 233-2068**  
[www.kansaslegalservices.org](http://www.kansaslegalservices.org)

Kansas Legal Services (KLS), a statewide non-profit corporation, is dedicated to helping low income Kansans meet their basic needs through the provision of important legal and mediation services. KLS handles cases in these areas of law: insurance disputes, special education, employment discrimination, public accommodations, juvenile dependency, and domestic matters such as custody and visitation. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit the KLS website and to contact the organization to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## Kentucky

**Children's Law Center, Inc.**  
**1002 Russell Street**  
**Covington, KY 41011**  
**(859) 431-3313**  
[www.childrenslawky.org](http://www.childrenslawky.org)

The Children's Law Center, Inc. (CLC KY) is a legal service center protecting the rights of children and youth to help them overcome barriers and transition into adulthood, better advocate for their needs, and successfully contribute to society. It provides individual legal advocacy to children and youth, and through public policy work, training and education, impact litigation, and juvenile defender support services, seeks

to improve the systems that serve them. CLC offers services in both Kentucky and Ohio, and collaborates with other organizations within the region and nationally on a variety of topics. The Center's priority issues are around juvenile justice, children in need of protection, and education rights. Students are encouraged to contact CLC KY and/or visit their website to learn more and apply to available internship/externship and postgraduate opportunities.

**Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy**  
**5 Mill Creek Park**  
**Frankfort, KY 40601**  
**(502) 564-8006**  
[dpa.ky.gov](http://dpa.ky.gov)

The Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy's (DPA) mission is to provide high quality, client-centered legal representation to indigent persons of all ages, accused of crimes or facing a deprivation of liberty throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Their fulfillment of this mission is essential to the defense and protection of fundamental constitutional rights and the preservation of a fair and just criminal system. DPA has juvenile units within its Protection and Advocacy and Post Trial Divisions. DPA has internship/externship opportunities for law, graduate, and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit DPA's website and/or contact DPA for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Louisiana**

**Louisiana Center for Children's Rights**  
**1100-B Milton Street**  
**New Orleans, LA 70122**  
**(504) 658-6860**  
[www.laccr.org/](http://www.laccr.org/)

The Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR) is a non-profit, specialized juvenile defense law office. LCCR defends young people in New Orleans' justice system through both direct representation and public advocacy. Their holistic defense helps young people achieve their legal and life goals. LCCR advocates and litigates for a transformed juvenile justice system that is fair, compassionate, and promotes positive youth development. Their leadership and partnerships strengthen communities and expand opportunities for all children. LCCR has internship/externship opportunities for law, graduate, and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. LCCR also seeks candidates to host for project-based postgraduate law fellowships. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit LCCR's website and/or contact LCCR for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Maine**

Juvenile delinquency cases in Maine are exclusively handled by private contractors. Students and graduates interested in juvenile defense policy and practice opportunities in this state are encouraged to reach out to the [New England Juvenile Defender Center](#) or University of Maine School of Law's [Juvenile Justice Clinic](#) for more information.

## Maryland

### **Maryland Office of the Public Defender**

**6 Saint Paul Place, Suite 1400**

**Baltimore, MD 21202**

**(410) 767-8460**

<http://www.opd.state.md.us/>

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) has one statewide office that is divided into twelve operational districts, some with juvenile defense opportunities. OPD offers a hands-on experience for students to assist in the client-centered and team-based representation of OPD clients. OPD has internship and externship opportunities for law, graduate, and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. OPD has also hosted graduates for project-based post-graduate law fellowships. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit OPD's website and/or contact OPD for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and post-graduate opportunities.

### **Maryland Office of the Public Defender**

#### **Juvenile Court Division**

**300 North Gay Street**

**Baltimore, MD 21202**

**(443) 263-6360**

<http://www.opd.state.md.us/baltimore-city>

The Juvenile Court Division (JCD) is comprised of a group of lawyers, social workers, and staff members from the Juvenile Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in Baltimore City who have chosen to dedicate their careers to working with children in the Juvenile Court System. JCD believes that every child is deserving of zealous advocacy, and JCD fights each day to protect and defend clients and their due process rights. JCD's representation continues even when the court case ends and they encourage their clients to stay in touch. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit JCD's website and/or contact JCD for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

### **Maryland Office of the Public Defender**

#### **Juvenile Protection Division**

**One South Calvert Plaza, 8th Floor**

**201 East Baltimore Street**

**Baltimore, MD 21202**

**(410) 223-3783**

<http://www.opd.state.md.us/juvenile-protection>

In January 2007, the Public Defender created the Juvenile Protection Division (JPD) to serve as a specialized statewide division to monitor the conditions of confinement of all OPD juvenile clients committed to the care and custody of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). JPD is also responsible for protecting the individual rights of juveniles who are committed to DJS facilities, ensuring the safety and appropriateness of their placements, and assuring the timely implementation of juvenile court orders. JPD is comprised of three attorneys, one social worker, and one paralegal, who work collaboratively with the

trial attorneys who represent the individual juveniles ensuring that the commitment orders for those clients are fully complied with and ensuring the health and safety of the juveniles while detained. JPD's responsibility for this oversight and advocacy for committed juveniles is consistent with the mission of the Office of the Public Defender and the legal services that are provided to adult clients. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit JPD's website and/or contact JPD for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

### **Maryland Office of the Public Defender**

#### **Youthful Defendant Unit**

**217 E. Redwood Street, Suite 1000**

**Baltimore, MD 21202**

**(410) 209-8676**

<http://www.opd.state.md.us/baltimore-city>

The Youthful Defendant Unit (YDU) is a group of attorneys, social workers, and staff from the Maryland Office of the Public Defender who represent children charged as adults in Baltimore City. YDU works as a team to achieve the best possible results for their clients. YDU takes pride in zealously and comprehensively representing clients and recognizes that an important part of the work takes place outside the courtroom. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit YDU's website and/or contact YDU for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

### **Massachusetts**

#### **Children's Law Center of Massachusetts**

**298 Union Street**

**Lynn, MA 01901**

**(781) 581-1977**

[www.clcm.org/](http://www.clcm.org/)

Founded in 1977, the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts (CLCM) is a private, non-profit legal services agency that provides direct representation and appellate advocacy for indigent children in juvenile justice, child welfare, and education matters. The mission of the CLCM is to promote and secure equal justice and to maximize opportunity for low-income children and youth by providing quality advocacy and legal services. CLCM has internship/externship opportunities for law students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit CLCM's website and/or contact CLCM for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

#### **Youth Advocacy Division, Committee for Public Counsel Services**

**44 Bromfield Street, 2nd Floor**

**Boston, MA 02108**

**(617) 482-6212**

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

The Youth Advocacy Division (YAD) ensures that every child from an indigent family in Massachusetts has access to zealous legal representation that incorporates a Youth Development Approach, resulting in fair treatment in court. YAD works with each client to achieve both legal and life success. Accordingly,

YAD provides leadership, training, support, and oversight to a diverse and collaborative juvenile defense bar across the state. Through individual representation and systemic advocacy, YAD partners with other state agencies, as well as community organizations and local agencies, to work toward creating safer and healthier communities. YAD has internship/externship opportunities throughout the state for law students, graduate social work students, and occasionally undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Interested students and graduates may visit YAD's website and/or contact YAD for more details on how to apply and to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Michigan**

Juvenile delinquency cases in Michigan are mostly handled by private contractors. Students and graduates interested in juvenile defense policy and practice opportunities in this state are encouraged to reach out to the [Midwest Juvenile Defender Center](#) for more information

## **Minnesota**

**Hennepin County Public Defender**  
**701 4th Ave. S., Suite 1400**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55415**  
**(612) 348-7530**  
<http://www.hennepinpublicdefender.org/>

Hennepin County Public Defender (HCPD) represents adults and juveniles accused of criminal offenses. HCPD advises their clients, empowers them to make decisions, and advocates on their behalf in court. Each client will have access to a team of professionals, including lawyers, investigators, mitigation specialists, paralegals, administrative assistants, and law clerks, all of whom will work together to provide excellent client centered representation. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit HCPD's website and/or contact HCPD for more details on how to apply.

**Legal Rights Center**  
**1611 Park Avenue South**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55404**  
**(612) 337-0030**  
<http://www.legalrightscenter.org/>

The Legal Rights Center (LRC) is a community-driven non-profit law firm, specializing in adult and juvenile criminal defense, and restorative justice practices and advocacy. The Legal Rights Center runs two programs: Legal Defense and Education, and Family and Youth Restorative Services. While each program has distinct goals and methods, collectively they point to the overall vision of improving the experience of the justice system for communities of color, if not proactively solving problems that prevent involvement in the justice system in the first place. LRC has internship/externship opportunities for law students and occasionally undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. LRC also hosts volunteer attorneys who are looking to gain experience in juvenile defense practice. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit LRC's website and/or contact LRC for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## Mississippi

**Southern Poverty Law Center**  
**111 E. Capitol Street, Suite 280**  
**Jackson, MS 39201**  
**(601) 948-8882**

[www.splcenter.org/what-we-do/children-at-risk/mississippi](http://www.splcenter.org/what-we-do/children-at-risk/mississippi)

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education, and other forms of advocacy, SPLC works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality. They are headquartered in Montgomery, AL, but have offices in Atlanta, New Orleans, Miami, and Jackson, MS. Their Jackson office is dedicated to reforming Mississippi's broken schools and its abusive juvenile justice system. Through grassroots campaigns and litigation, SPLC targets school discipline policies that criminalize students. They have also done litigation on conditions of confinement for juveniles. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit SPLC's website and/or contact SPLC to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## Missouri

**Missouri State Public Defender System**  
**Woodrail Centre**  
**1000 West Nifong, Building 7, Suite 100**  
**Columbia, MO 65203**  
**(573) 777-9977**

[www.publicdefender.mo.gov/](http://www.publicdefender.mo.gov/)

The Missouri State Public Defender System (MSPD) provides legal representation to all indigent citizens accused of or convicted of crimes in Missouri at the levels of the State Trial Court, Appellate Court, Missouri Supreme Court, and United States Supreme Court. MSPD has internship/externship opportunities for students. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit MSPD's website and/or contact MSPD for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Missouri Youth Services Institute**  
**1906 Hayselton Dr.**  
**Jefferson City, MO 65109**  
**(573) 556-6155**

<http://www.mysiconsulting.org/>

Missouri Youth Services Institute (MYSI) is a movement for the reform and transformation of juvenile justice systems nationwide in which all the systems are empowered (youth, families, staff, and community) to create and provide humane systems and programs and quality services to youth and their families. MYSI's vision is to be passionate advocates and system change agents to support and develop the best juvenile justice system that is sustainable and based on promising and effective practices. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit MYSI's website and/or contact MYSI to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Montana**

### **Office of the State Public Defender**

**Central Office**

**44 W. Park Street**

**Butte, MT 59701**

**(406) 496-6385**

**[publicdefender.mt.gov/](http://publicdefender.mt.gov/)**

The primary mission of the statewide public defender system is to provide effective professional legal services with equal access to quality client-centered representation. As trained legal professionals they strive to represent their clients in an effective and efficient manner to ensure a more fair and balanced justice system. They are dedicated and committed to improving overall outcomes for their clients and addressing the conditions that led to their involvement with the justice system. Students and graduates are encouraged to contact the office and/or visit their website to learn more about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Nebraska**

### **Douglas County Public Defender**

**1819 Farnam Street**

**Omaha, NE 68183**

**(402) 444-6457**

**[www.douglascounty-ne.gov/publicdefender/](http://www.douglascounty-ne.gov/publicdefender/)**

The Douglas County Public Defender's Office is responsible for representing individuals whom the Court has determined cannot afford to hire an attorney and who are involved in a variety of legal matters. They represent all indigent persons who are charged with a felony or misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment. In addition to these statutory duties, the Douglas County Public Defender's Office also represents parents and juveniles in the Douglas County Juvenile Court and individuals appearing before a Child Support Referee on a child support or paternity action. Students and graduates are encouraged to contact the office and/or visit their website to learn more about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

### **Lancaster County Public Defender**

**Courthouse Plaza**

**633 S. 9th Street**

**Lincoln, NE 68508**

**(402) 441-6062**

**[lancaster.ne.gov/pdefen/](http://lancaster.ne.gov/pdefen/)**

The mission of the Lancaster County Public Defender's Office is to provide high quality legal services for indigents and to advocate zealously on behalf of each individual client. Students and graduates are encouraged to contact the office and/or visit their website to learn more about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Nebraska Youth Advocates**  
**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**  
**Center on Children, Families, and the Law**  
**206 S. 13th St., Suite 1000**  
**Lincoln, NE 68588-0227**  
**(402) 472-3479**  
<http://nebraskayouthadvocates.org/>

Nebraska Youth Advocates (NYA) serves as a resource center for juvenile defense attorneys in Nebraska, promoting best practices in the juvenile justice system.

**Sarpy County Public Defender**  
**1208 Golden Gate Drive**  
**Papillion, NE 68046**  
**(402) 593-5933**  
<http://www.sarpy.com/justice-public-safety/public-defender>

These public defender offices are responsible for providing high-quality legal services to indigent individuals charged with felonies, misdemeanors that may lead to jail time, as well as representing parents and juveniles before the counties' respective Juvenile Courts. All three offices hire interns or clerks from law schools. Students and graduates may contact these offices for details on how to apply and learn about other available academic or postgraduate opportunities.

## **Nevada**

**Clark County Public Defender's Office**  
**Juvenile Division**  
**601 N. Pecos Road**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89101**  
**(702) 455-5475**  
[www.clarkcountynv.gov/depts/publicdefender/pages/default.aspx](http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/depts/publicdefender/pages/default.aspx)

The Office of the Clark County Public Defender provides zealous representation for clients accused of crimes. The Office recognizes juvenile defense as a specialty. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to contact the Clark County Public Defender's Office for details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic or postgraduate opportunities.

**Washoe County Public Defender's Office**  
**1001 E. Ninth Street**  
**Reno, NV 89512**  
**(775) 328-2003**  
[www.washoecounty.us/defender](http://www.washoecounty.us/defender)

The mission of the Washoe County Public Defender's Office is to protect and defend the rights of indigent people in Washoe County by providing them access to justice through professional legal representation. The Office recognizes juvenile defense as a specialty area, and offers internships/externships for current law students under court rules allowing student attorneys to practice under supervision. Interested students

and graduates are encouraged to visit Washoe County Public Defender Office's website or contact the Office for details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic or postgraduate opportunities.

## **New Hampshire**

### **New Hampshire Public Defender**

**10 Ferry Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
(800) 464-0652  
[www.nhpd.org/](http://www.nhpd.org/)**

New Hampshire Public Defender (NHPD) is a private, non-profit corporation created in 1972 to give New Hampshire a cost-effective means of providing high-quality, reliable representation to indigent defendants. The Program's attorneys serve clients facing criminal and delinquency prosecution who cannot afford to retain private counsel. NHPD has internship/externship opportunities for law students and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit NHPD's website and/or contact NHPD for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **New Jersey**

### **Advocates for the Children of New Jersey**

**35 Halsey Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 643-3876  
<https://acnj.org/>**

The Advocates for the Children of New Jersey's (ACNJ) mission is to identify children's needs through research, policy, and legal analysis, to raise awareness of those needs through strategic communications, and to work with elected officials and other decision-makers to enact effective responses. ACNJ's goal is to help all children grow up safe, healthy, and educated, so they can become productive adults, contributing to New Jersey's communities, securing our future and making the state a better place to live. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit ACNJ's website and/or contact ACNJ to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

### **New Jersey State Office of the Public Defender**

#### **Office of Juvenile Defense Services**

**25 Market Street  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
(609) 292-7087**

**[www.state.nj.us/defender/structure/ojds/](http://www.state.nj.us/defender/structure/ojds/)**

The New Jersey State Office of the Public Defender (NJSOPD) is committed to providing first-class legal representation to citizens who cannot afford attorneys at both the trial and appellate levels. The Office of Juvenile Defense Services (OJDS) specializes in juvenile defense, and its director leads a variety of initiatives such as: developing specialized training for public defender attorneys who represent juvenile clients; disseminating information on relevant developing case law, resources and research; and creating opportunities for juvenile defenders to exchange information and ideas. Students and graduates are

encouraged to visit NJSOPD and OJDS's websites, and/or to contact NJSOPD and OJDS for details on how to apply or to learn about available academic or postgraduate opportunities.

## **New Mexico**

**Law Offices of the Public Defender  
Juvenile Division  
505 Marquette NW, Suite 120  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
(505) 835-1526  
<http://www.lopdnm.us>**

The Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD) strives for the pursuit of justice and the protection of our constitutional rights. Its mission is to provide exemplary, caring, and professional legal services to people charged with crimes in New Mexico. They stand for equal access to quality legal representation for all which improves their lives, reduces recidivism, and makes the community safer. The 2nd Judicial District office in Albuquerque has a dedicated Juvenile Division, though all district offices represent juveniles accused of crimes. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit LOPD's website, and/or to contact LOPD for details on how to apply or to learn about available academic or postgraduate opportunities.

## **New York**

**Legal Aid Society  
Juvenile Rights Division  
40 Worth Street  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 577-3300  
<https://www.legalaidnyc.org/juvenile-rights-practice>**

The Juvenile Rights Practice (JRP) 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.

The role of Juvenile Rights attorneys acting as "law guardians" is to provide legal representation, express clients' wishes to the court, and safeguard the interests and legal rights of these clients. They are assigned by Family Court judges, and remain active through the original case and any supplemental proceedings, which frequently take place over a period of years.

To enhance the quality and expand the scope of its advocacy, the Practice has developed several specialized units. The Juvenile Services Unit, the social work component, was formed as a result of the pioneering work of Juvenile Rights in teaming social workers with lawyers in order to adequately address the educational, social, and psychological issues that arise in Family Court proceedings. The Kathryn A. McDonald Education Advocacy Project provides specialized legal and social work assistance in domestic violence cases and those requiring educational advocacy. The Appeals Unit, which represents clients throughout the appeals process, has literally "made the law" that governs juvenile court proceedings in New York. The Special Litigation Unit has initiated class action lawsuits and other litigation aimed at system-wide abuses within the juvenile justice, child welfare, and educational systems. JRP has internship/externship opportunities for law, graduate, and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the

summer. JRP also seeks candidates to apply for project-based postgraduate law fellowships and recruits annually for entry-level positions. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit JRP's website and/or contact JRP for more details on how to apply.

**Youth Represent**  
**11 Park Place, Suite 1512**  
**New York, NY 10007**  
**(646) 759-8080**  
[www.youthrepresent.org/](http://www.youthrepresent.org/)

Youth Represent (YR) is a youth defense and advocacy non-profit organization. YR's mission is to ensure that young people affected by the criminal or juvenile justice system are afforded every opportunity to reclaim lives of dignity, self-fulfillment, and engagement in their communities. YR provides comprehensive legal representation, community support, education, and policy advocacy. YR has internship/externship opportunities for law students and hosts candidates for project-based postgraduate law fellowships. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit YR's website and/ contact YR for details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **North Carolina**

**Council for Children's Rights**  
**601 East Fifth Street, Suite 510**  
**Charlotte, NC 28202**  
**(704) 372-7961**  
[www.cfrights.org](http://www.cfrights.org)

The Council for Children's Rights (CCR) is comprised of 30 highly trusted attorneys, advocates, and professional staff who are dedicated to serving children and connecting them to vital services. CCR serves children in every major child-serving system, including those with histories of abuse and neglect, special education issues, and mental and physical health issues. These children are involved in custody disputes, come from homes with domestic violence, and/or become involved with the juvenile justice system. The systems charged with serving them are complex, overburdened, and unresponsive. These children have no voice, no champion to ensure their ability to thrive. CCR is that voice. CCR has a Children's Defense Team and a Student Defense Project among a number of child-centered programs. Students and graduates may visit CCR's website and contact CCR to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **North Dakota**

Please contact the [Midwest Juvenile Defender Center](#) for information about academic and postgraduate opportunities at organizations in North Dakota.

## Ohio

### **Office of the Ohio Public Defender, Juvenile Division**

**250 East Broad Street, Suite 1400**

**Columbus, OH 43215**

**(614) 466-5394**

**<http://opd.ohio.gov/Appellate-Services/Juvenile-Department>**

The Ohio Public Defender (OPD) Juvenile Division is a leader in effective advocacy for juveniles in Ohio's justice system. The Juvenile Division is a team of talented professionals focused primarily on post-disposition advocacy and ensuring that the constitutional rights of children are fully realized and protected. The Division steadily works toward a holistic approach to helping youth in the justice system and believes that the value of our advocacy extends beyond a juvenile's duration of confinement. The Division strives to remain at the forefront of the struggle for systemic improvement in juvenile justice through statewide and national collaboration and involvement in policy, education, professional development, and reform initiatives. The Division's commitment to these efforts protects juveniles' right to be represented by counsel, raises the quality of representation, and promotes the just and humane treatment of juveniles in the legal system. The Division has volunteer opportunities for law, graduate, and undergraduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit the Division's website and contact OPD for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## Oklahoma

### **Oklahoma County Public Defender's Office – Juvenile Division**

**5905 N. Classen Court, Suite 204**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73118**

**(405) 713-6770**

**<https://ariisp1.oklahomacounty.org/departments/publicdefender/juv.asp>**

The Juvenile Division of the Oklahoma County Public Defender's Office is responsible for representing individuals under the age of 18. The office represents indigent juvenile delinquents and abused, neglected, deprived, or abandoned children. Students and graduates may contact OCPDO's Juvenile Division to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

### **Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs**

**3812 N. Santa Fe Suite 400**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73118**

**(405) 530-2800**

**<https://www.ok.gov/oja/>**

In 1994, the Oklahoma Legislature passed the Juvenile Reform Act (H.B. 2640) creating the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) as the state juvenile justice agency, effective July 1, 1995. OJA was given the responsibility and authority to manage the state's juvenile affairs, and on April 5, 1996, OJA was able to meet the Federal Court requirements for dismissal of the Terry D. lawsuit. A new era of innovative programs, increased community involvement, and an enhanced, open relationship with the judiciary had begun. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit OJA's website and/or contact OJA to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Tulsa County Public Defender's Office – Juvenile Division**

**315 South Gilcrease Museum Road**

**Tulsa, OK 74127**

**(918) 596-8465**

**<http://tulsapublicdefender.net/tulsa-county-public-defender/juvenile-defense/>**

The Tulsa County Public Defender's office provides legal representation to indigent clients in Tulsa County. The Juvenile Division focuses on different types of cases that involve children under the age of 18. Juvenile Deprives matters involve cases related to the abuse and/or neglect of a minor, while Juvenile Delinquency matters involve violations of criminal laws by a minor. Students and graduates may contact Tulsa County Public Defender's Juvenile Division to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities

## **Oregon**

### **Youth, Rights & Justice Attorneys at Law**

**401 NE 19th Avenue, Suite 200**

**Portland, OR 97232**

**(503) 232-2540**

**[www.youthrightsjustice.org](http://www.youthrightsjustice.org)**

Youth, Rights & Justice's (YRJ) mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families through legal representation and advocacy in the courts, legislature, schools, and community. YRJ serves children and youth—primarily those in foster care—who are abused, neglected, or in trouble; students who face challenges at school; and parents who need help keeping their families intact. Their SchoolWorks program serves children and youth who are involved in the juvenile court system and advocates for their educational rights and needs. YRJ advocates for policies to improve the lives of children and families throughout Oregon by: drafting and advocating for legislation in Salem; influencing Oregon Administrative Rules created by the Department of Human Services and other state agencies; and disseminating research and other information to other attorneys and advocates for children, youth, and families around the state of Oregon. YRJ has internship/externship opportunities for law students during the summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit YRJ's website and/or contact YRJ for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Pennsylvania**

### **Defender Association of Philadelphia**

**1441 Sansom Street**

**Philadelphia, PA 19102**

**(215) 568-3190**

**[www.philadefender.org](http://www.philadefender.org)**

The Defender Association of Philadelphia (DAP) represents approximately 70 percent of all persons arrested in Philadelphia. Assistant Defenders rotate their assignments through the various units or divisions within the office. DAP's Juvenile Court Division attorneys represent juveniles in delinquency cases and at certification hearings where the District Attorney petitions to try the juvenile in adult court. DAP has summer internship opportunities for law students. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit

the organization's website and/or contact the organization for more details on how to apply and to learn more about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Juvenile Law Center**  
**1315 Walnut Street, 4th Floor**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19107**  
**(215) 625-0551**  
[jlc.org](http://jlc.org)

Juvenile Law Center (JLC) is the oldest non-profit, public interest law firm for children in the United States. Founded in 1975 by four new graduates of Temple Law School in Philadelphia, Juvenile Law Center has become a national advocate for children's rights, working across the country to enforce and promote the rights and well-being of children who come into contact with the justice, child welfare, and other public systems. JLC has internship/externship opportunities for law and graduate students throughout the academic year and during the summer. JLC occasionally has internship opportunities available for undergraduate students. JLC seeks law graduates for its Zubrow Fellowship—an internally funded two-year postgraduate organizational fellowship. JLC also seeks candidates to host for project-based postgraduate law fellowships. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit JLC's website and/or contact JLC for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Youth Sentencing and Reentry Project**  
**1528 Walnut Street, Suite 515**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19102**  
**(215) 804-9093**  
<https://ysrp.org/>

The Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project (YSRP) uses direct service and policy advocacy to transform the experiences of children prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system, and to ensure fair and thoughtful resentencing and reentry for individuals who were sentenced to life without parole as children ("juvenile lifers"). YSRP partners with court-involved youth and juvenile lifers, their families, and lawyers to develop holistic, humanizing narratives that mitigate the facts of each case; get cases transferred to the juvenile system or resentenced; and make crucial connections to community resources providing education, healthcare, housing, and employment. YSRP also provides training on mitigation, and recruits, trains, and supervises students and other volunteers to assist in this work. YSRP's ultimate goals are to keep children out of adult jails and prisons and to enhance the quality of representation juvenile lifers receive at resentencing, and as they prepare to reenter the community. YSRP hosts fellows through Stoneleigh's Emerging Leader Fellows Program. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit YSRP's website and/or contact YSRP for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Rhode Island**

**Rhode Island Public Defender 160 Pine Street**  
**Providence, RI 02903**  
**(401) 222-3492**

<http://www.ripd.org/>

The Rhode Island Public Defender's (RIPD) goal is to provide client centered advice, holistic representation and zealous advocacy with support from their team of advocates, social workers, investigators, interpreters, and other staff. Their commitment is to treat their clients with dignity, compassion, and fairness. RIPD is a firm of lawyers who defend adults and juveniles accused of committing crimes, and represent parents who are threatened with loss of custody of their children because of neglect or abuse allegations. Supported by professional social workers, investigators, and interpreters, they represent clients in state court proceedings from the first appearance before a judge through trial or hearing, as well as through appeal if necessary. RIPD has internship/externship opportunities for undergraduate, law, and graduate students during the semester and summer. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit the organization's website and/or contact the organization for more details on how to apply and to learn more about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **South Carolina**

South Carolina's Public Defender System is a county-based system. The counties are grouped and divided among 16 judicial circuits within the state. Each judicial circuit has a Circuit Public Defender who is responsible for the administration of public defender services in each of the counties within the circuit. Circuit Public Defenders are appointed to the position for four-year terms by the South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense (SCCID) upon nomination to the position by a Selection Panel, consisting of attorneys representing each of the counties within the circuit. The Richland County, Charleston County, and 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Public Defender Offices have attorneys who specialize in representing juveniles. Interested students and graduates may contact these offices directly to learn more about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

### **Richland County Public Defender**

**1701 Main Street**

**Columbia, SC 29201**

**(803) 765-2592**

<http://www.richlandonline.com/Government/CourtsandJudicialSystem/PublicDefender.aspx>

### **Charleston County Public Defender**

**O.T. Wallace County Office Building**

**101 Meeting Street, 5th Floor**

**Charleston, SC 29401**

**(843) 958-1850**

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/public-defender/index.php>

### **13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Public Defender**

**305 E. North Street, Suite 123**

**Greenville, SC 29601**

**(864) 467-8522**

<http://www.greenvilledefender.com/>

**Children's Law Center**  
**1600 Hampton Street, Suite 502**  
**Columbia, SC 29208**  
**(803) 777-1646**  
[childlaw.sc.edu/](http://childlaw.sc.edu/)

The Children's Law Center (CLC) is a resource center for South Carolina professionals involved in child maltreatment or juvenile justice court proceedings and child advocates working to improve the safety and well-being of children. The mission of the CLC is to advance children's law by strengthening public policy, increasing knowledge, and improving practice. CLC has internship/externship opportunities for MSW students. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit the organization's website and/or contact the organization for more details on how to apply and to learn more about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **South Dakota**

Please contact the [Midwest Juvenile Defender Center](#) for information about academic and postgraduate opportunities at organizations in South Dakota.

## **Tennessee**

**Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office**  
**1101 Liberty Street**  
**Knoxville, TN 37919**  
**(865) 594-6120**  
[www.pdknox.org/](http://www.pdknox.org/)

The Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office (CLO) was created by the State of Tennessee in response to *Gideon's* constitutional mandate to provide representation to poor people accused of crimes. CLO emphasizes a client-centered, holistic approach that reflects their commitment to offering meaningful and dignified assistance to their clients, and to help them get out, and stay out, of the criminal justice system. CLO also focuses on Youth Programs and its work has a strong juvenile focus. They offer internships to law students. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit CLO's website and/or contact CLO to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

**Law Offices of the Shelby County Public Defender**  
**201 Poplar Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Memphis, TN 38103**  
**(901) 222-2800**  
<http://defendshelbyco.org/juvenile-justice/>

The Law Offices of the Shelby County Public Defender is the third-oldest public defender office in the country. They are dedicated to protecting the rights of those who cannot afford a lawyer to represent them in the courtroom. Though juvenile defense was, until recently, handled by private contract attorneys in Shelby County, one of the terms of the 2012 settlement between the Department of Justice and Shelby County requires that juvenile defense cases be handled by the Law Offices of the Shelby County Public Defender. Thus, the Law Offices have a strong focus on juvenile defense. They offer internship/externship opportunities for undergraduate and law students during the spring, summer, and fall. Interested students

and graduates are encouraged to visit the Law Offices of the Shelby County Public Defender's website and/or contact them to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## **Texas**

The following public defender offices provide quality legal representation to those who cannot afford private defense attorneys. The Dallas County Public Defender's Office also has a specialized Juvenile Division. All these offices have internships for law students, and they sometimes have openings for full-time positions, though the Harris County office does not take recent graduates. Students and graduates may contact these offices for details on how to apply and learn about available academic or postgraduate opportunities.

**Dallas County Public Defender's Office  
Juvenile Division  
2600 Lone Star Drive, Suite A-132, LB 2  
Dallas, TX 75212  
(214) 698-4400  
<https://www.dallascounty.org/government/public-defender/>**

**El Paso County Public Defender's Office  
500 E. San Antonio Avenue, Suite 501  
El Paso, TX 79901  
(915) 546-8185  
[www.epcounty.com/pdefender/](http://www.epcounty.com/pdefender/)**

**Harris County Public Defender's Office  
1201 Franklin Street, 13th Floor  
Houston, TX 77002  
(713) 368-0016  
[harriscountypublicdefender.org/](http://harriscountypublicdefender.org/)**

## **Utah**

**Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys  
8 East Broadway Street, Suite 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
(801) 521-5225**

Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys is a private law firm which contracts with Salt Lake County to provide indigent defense services to juveniles within that jurisdiction. It is the only dedicated juvenile public defender office in the state. Students and graduates are encouraged to contact Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys to learn about available academic or postgraduate opportunities.

## **Vermont**

Please contact the [New England Juvenile Defender Center](#) for information about academic and postgraduate opportunities at organizations in Vermont.

## Virginia

### **Legal Aid Justice Center, JustChildren Program**

**1000 Preston Avenue, Suite A**

**Charlottesville, VA 22903**

**(434) 977-0553**

**[www.justice4all.org/justchildren/justchildren-program/](http://www.justice4all.org/justchildren/justchildren-program/)**

The JustChildren Program is Virginia's largest children's law program. JustChildren relies on a range of strategies to make sure the Commonwealth's most vulnerable young people receive the services and support they need to lead successful lives in their communities. Their strategies include individual representation, community education and organizing, and statewide advocacy. From their Charlottesville, Richmond, and Petersburg offices, JustChildren provides free legal representation to low-income children who have unmet needs in the education, foster care, and juvenile justice systems. They produce popular training materials for lawyers, parents, and other service providers to help them become informed and skilled advocates. JustChildren's attorneys and organizers also seek local and statewide reforms to improve the systems that children depend on. Through coalition building, policy advocacy, and litigation, they make lasting improvements for all children in Virginia. JustChildren offers volunteer opportunities for students. Interested students and graduates are encouraged to visit their website and/or contact JustChildren for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## Washington

### **TeamChild**

**1225 S. Weller, Suite 420**

**Seattle, WA 98144**

**(206) 322-2444**

**[www.teamchild.org/](http://www.teamchild.org/)**

Every day, thousands of youth face profound legal and social barriers that increase their chances of dropping out of school, being homeless or ending up in the juvenile justice system. TeamChild uses its legal expertise and community partnerships to break down barriers to community services to overcome the root causes of a youth's involvement in the juvenile justice system. TeamChild believes that it is the paramount duty of our community to help youth overcome the obstacles of poverty, juvenile justice involvement, disability, neglect and abuse, racism and discrimination, to achieve their true potential. TeamChild upholds the rights of youth involved, or at risk of involvement, in the juvenile justice system to help them secure the education, healthcare, housing, and other support they need to achieve positive outcomes. TeamChild offers internship/externship opportunities for students. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit TeamChild's website for more details on how to apply and to learn about other academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## West Virginia

Please contact the [Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center](#) for information about academic and postgraduate opportunities at organizations in West Virginia.

## Wisconsin

### **Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office**

**17 S. Fairchild St**

**Madison, WI 53703**

**(608) 266-9150**

[wispd.org/index.php/legal-resources/specialty-practices/juvenile-practice](http://wispd.org/index.php/legal-resources/specialty-practices/juvenile-practice)

The mission of the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office (SPD) is to promote justice throughout Wisconsin by providing high-quality legal services, protecting individual rights, and advocating as a criminal justice partner for effective defender services and a fair and rational criminal justice system. SPD has specialty practice divisions, including a Juvenile Practice Group, which focuses on helping ensure that all juveniles in Wisconsin receive competent and skilled representation. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit SPD's website for more details and/or contact SPD for more details on how to apply and to learn about other available academic and postgraduate opportunities, as well as useful resources for juvenile practice.

## Wyoming

### **Wyoming Children's Law Center**

**112 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Laramie, WY 82070**

**(307) 632-3614**

<https://www.wvoclc.org/>

Wyoming Children's Law Center (WCLC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2009. WCLC's mission is to help Wyoming children and their families navigate legal issues affecting a child's education, safety, or well-being, and work to improve laws and policies that harm children and vulnerable adults. WCLC focuses on education advocacy, youth crisis and justice system reforms, interdisciplinary approach to family law, and filling a critical gap in low income legal services. WCLC offers internship/externship opportunities for undergraduate, law, and graduate students. Students and graduates are encouraged to visit WCLC's website to learn about available academic and postgraduate opportunities.

## Other Helpful Career Links and Resources

### **National Juvenile Defender Center | [www.njdc.info](http://www.njdc.info)**

The National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to promoting justice for all children by ensuring excellence in juvenile defense. Through community building, training, and policy reform NJDC provides national leadership on juvenile defense issues with a focus on curbing the deprivation of young people's rights in the court system. Their reach extends to urban, suburban, rural, and tribal areas, where they elevate the voice of youth, families, and defenders to ensure that the reform of juvenile courts includes the protection of children's rights—particularly the right to counsel.

### **Regional Juvenile Defender Centers | <http://njdc.info/about-njdc/regional-centers/>**

NJDC collaborates with nine Regional Juvenile Defender Centers that coordinate activities within the regions. The regional centers are an excellent resource for students that are seeking to connect with juvenile defense leaders in their jurisdiction. You can find the contact information for each of the regional centers on the next page of this guide and learn more by visiting NJDC's website.

### **Public Defender Handbook: NYU School of Law, Public Interest Law Center | <https://www.psjd.org/uploads/2014PublicDefenderHandbook--PUBLICVERSION.pdf>**

This handbook is a good complementary guide for those looking to go into juvenile defense practice.

### **PSJD | [www.psjd.org](http://www.psjd.org)**

PSJD is a unique online clearinghouse for law students and lawyers to connect with public interest job listings and career-building resources. The PSJD database includes job listings for internships (fall, spring, and summer), postgraduate fellowships, and a wide variety of permanent positions. Registered users may search the database, flag and store opportunities for later viewing, and receive email alerts with newly posted opportunities. Students may sign up for an account for free on PSJD's website. PSJD also offers an online library of educational and career-building resources for those interested in pursuing a career in public service that is publicly available to all website visitors.

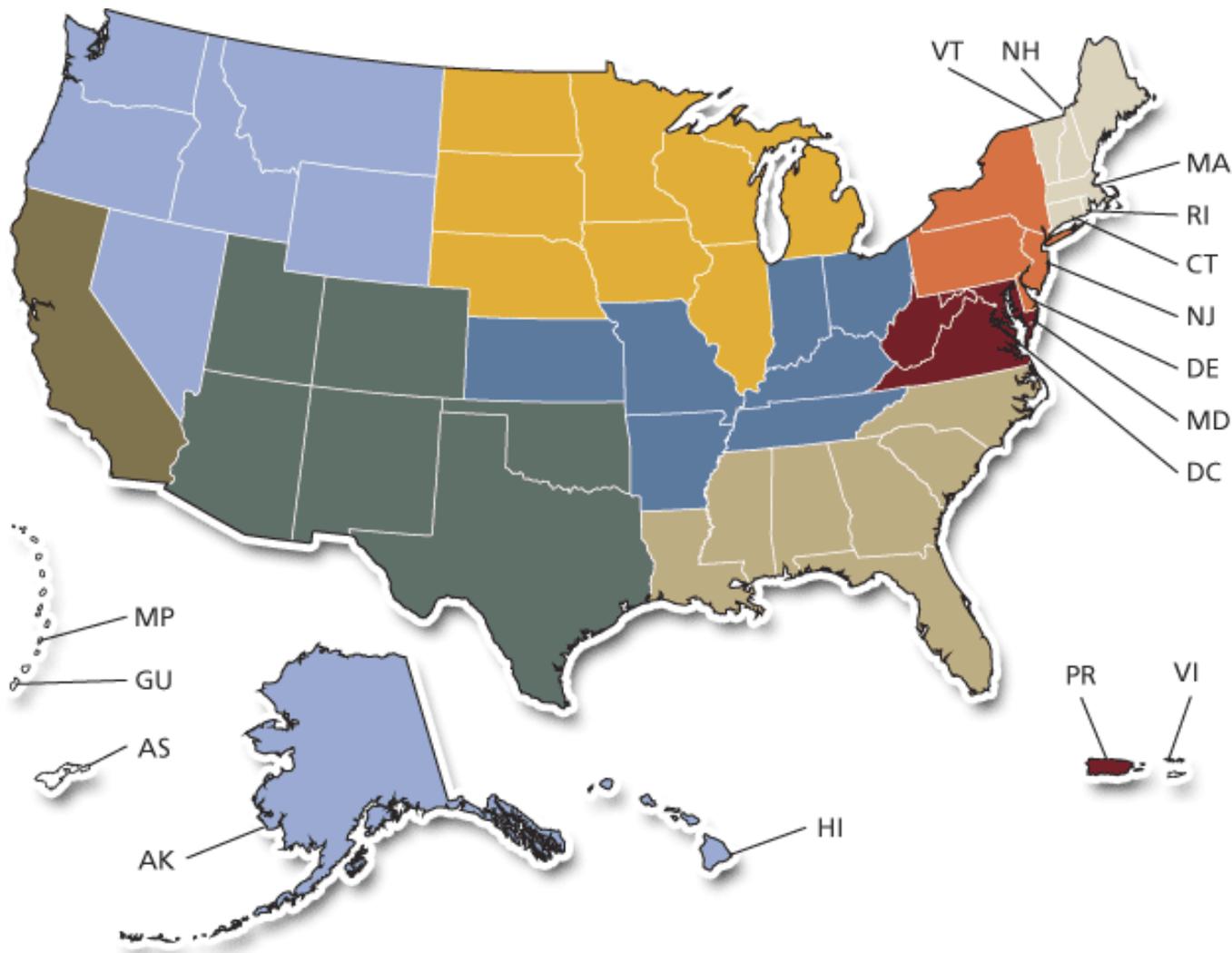
### **Equal Justice Works | [www.equaljusticeworks.org](http://www.equaljusticeworks.org)**

EJW offers a continuum of opportunities and resources that provide students and graduates the training and skills that enable them to provide effective representation to underserved communities.

### **For Project-Based Fellowships | <https://law.vanderbilt.edu/public-interest/pifellowships/3-developing/project-description.php>**

Vanderbilt Law School organized this guide to help law students plan and coordinate their application for a project-based fellowship.

## NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER: REGIONAL CENTERS




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### CENTRAL REGION

Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee

**Amanda Mullins Bear**  
Children's Law Center  
Lexington, KY  
[abear@childrenslawky.org](mailto:abear@childrenslawky.org)

**Christina Kleiser**  
Knox County Public Defender's  
Community Law Office  
Knoxville, TN  
[ckleiser@pdknox.org](mailto:ckleiser@pdknox.org)

### MID-ATLANTIC REGION

District of Columbia, Maryland, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia

**Kristin Henning**  
Georgetown University Law Center  
Washington, DC  
[hennink@georgetown.edu](mailto:hennink@georgetown.edu)

**Debbie St. Jean**  
Maryland Office of the Public Defender  
Baltimore, MD  
[deborah.stjean@maryland.gov](mailto:deborah.stjean@maryland.gov)

**Rebba Omer**  
Georgetown University Law Center  
Washington, DC  
[Rebba.omer@georgetown.edu](mailto:Rebba.omer@georgetown.edu)

### MIDWEST REGION

Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

**Kristen Staley**  
Michigan Indigent Defense Commission  
Lansing, MI  
[staleyk@michigan.gov](mailto:staleyk@michigan.gov)

**Diane Rondini**  
Wisconsin State Public Defender  
Madison, WI  
[rondinid@opd.wi.gov](mailto:rondinid@opd.wi.gov)

**NEW ENGLAND REGION**

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Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

**Pamela Jones**

New Hampshire Public Defender  
Nashua, NH  
[pjones@nhpd.org](mailto:pjones@nhpd.org)

**Wendy Wolf**

Youth Advocacy Division  
Committee for Public Counsel Services  
Boston, MA  
[wwolf@publiccounsel.net](mailto:wwolf@publiccounsel.net)

**SOUTHERN REGION**

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Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina

**Richard Pittman**

Juvenile Defender  
Services  
Baton Rouge, LA  
[rpittman@lpdb.la.gov](mailto:rpittman@lpdb.la.gov)

**Randee Waldman**

Emory Law School  
Atlanta, GA  
[rwaldm2@emory.edu](mailto:rwaldm2@emory.edu)

**NORTHEAST REGION**

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Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania

**Lisa Minutola**

Office of Defense Services  
Wilmington, DE  
[lisa.minutola@state.de.us](mailto:lisa.minutola@state.de.us)

**Kristina Kersey**

New Jersey Office of the  
Public Defender  
Newark, NJ  
[Kristina.kersey@opd.nj.gov](mailto:Kristina.kersey@opd.nj.gov)

**SOUTHWEST REGION**

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Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah

**Cindy Aragon**

New Mexico Legal Aid Native American  
Program  
Bernalillo, NM 87004  
[cindy@nmlegalaid.org](mailto:cindy@nmlegalaid.org)

**Christina Phillis**

Maricopa County Office of  
Public Defense Services  
Phoenix, AZ  
[phillisc@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:phillisc@mail.maricopa.gov)

**Pamela Vickrey**

Utah Juvenile Defender  
Attorneys  
Salt Lake City, UT  
[pvickrey@ujda.org](mailto:pvickrey@ujda.org)

**PACIFIC REGION**

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California

**Ji Seon Song**

Stanford Law School  
Stanford, CA  
[jssong@law.stanford.edu](mailto:jssong@law.stanford.edu)

**Patricia Soung**

Juvenile Justice Consultant  
[psoungconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:psoungconsulting@gmail.com)

**WESTERN REGION**

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Alaska, American Samoa, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

**Jennifer Fraser**

Clark County Public Defender Office  
(ret'd)  
Las Vegas, NV  
[fraserja@clarkcountynv.gov](mailto:fraserja@clarkcountynv.gov)



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202.452.0010 | [www.njdc.info](http://www.njdc.info) | [inquires@njdc.info](mailto:inquires@njdc.info)

Facebook: [NJDC.info](https://www.facebook.com/NJDC.info)  
Instagram: [@NatJuvDefend](https://www.instagram.com/NatJuvDefend)  
Twitter: [@NatJuvDefend](https://twitter.com/NatJuvDefend)  
[#DefendChildren](https://twitter.com/NatJuvDefend)