

# Denver Law's Child Advocacy Externship Program – Fall 2025

This program trains law students on the underlying legal issues involving children, youth, and their families so students are prepared to advocate on behalf of children in Colorado's courts. It also develops a robust and supportive community of students and supervisors engaged in children's legal work. It includes an externship and a 2-credit specialty seminar.

**Application deadline: March 21.**

**Interviews: March 26-April 18. Offers Made: April 16-18 (and ongoing as needed)**

## **The following placements are part of the program for Fall 2025:**

- **Colorado Homeless Legal Project:** Nonprofit that provides pro bono legal advice, assistance, and representation to youth on housing, expungement, government benefits, education, municipal court, and more. Rising 2Ls/3Ls. If 60 credits, externs may be eligible for court work.
- **Colorado Office of the Child's Representative:** State agency charged with improving best interest representation for Colorado's children. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Colorado State Public Defender-Juvenile Unit, Brighton Regional Office:** Represents indigent individuals charged with crimes. Assist on detention hearings, research, motions/trials, and appellate writing. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Colorado State Public Defender-Juvenile Unit, Denver Regional Office:** Represents indigent individuals charged with crimes. Assist on detention hearings, research, motions/trials, and appellate writing. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Elie Zwiebel, LLC:** Solo practitioner focused on juvenile civil rights including education Law, juvenile criminal legal system, and the intersection of the two. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Denver Juvenile Court (Judge Clark):** Judicial externship focused solely on juvenile issues. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Jefferson County Juvenile Court (Judge Van Gilder):** Judicial externship focused on juvenile issues. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Jefferson County Public Schools, Office of General Counsel:** Externship in the school district focused on the best interest of children, including special education, student safety, and Title IX work. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **National Association of Counsel for Children:** Nonprofit in which students do legal/policy research. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Office of the Respondent Parents Counsel:** State agency charged with protecting the fundamental right to parent by providing effective legal advocates for indigent parents in child welfare proceedings. Students may be paired with an attorney to work under the Student Practice rule, if eligible. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.
- **Stinson Law Office:** Private juvenile defense firm with direct file or transfer cases where youth may be prosecuted as adults. 95% indigent clients. Research, drafting memos/motions; investigation; and observation. Rising 2Ls/3Ls.

## **Special 2-Credit In-Class Seminar**

If you secure an externship, you also take part in a special seminar taught by children's attorney and policy consultant Betsy Fordyce. The seminar focuses on the substantive law behind legal advocacy for children and youth. Much of the course is rooted in Colorado child welfare law and practice. It also touches on a variety of related topics including juvenile delinquency law, education law, and other intersections of youth and the legal system. This course recognizes that youth need solid legal representation, regardless of the case type. It is taught from a practical perspective, allowing students to both develop their legal skills and engage in theoretical debates.

## **Application/Registration Information**

Submit application packet to [externships@law.du.edu](mailto:externships@law.du.edu) no later than **\*March 21.\*** Include, in a single pdf labeled with your name the following: resume, writing sample, and one cover letter addressed to the child advocacy program. Do not mention different organizations in the letter as this will be sent to all placements you are applying to. In the email, list your top 3 placements as well as other placements you are open to externing. Ultimately you will need to follow the externship registration process and deadlines for Fall 2025 to be published on [www.law.du.edu/externships](http://www.law.du.edu/externships). You should waitlist for the seminar, Child Advocacy Practicum, during class registration. We remove you from the waitlist and register you for field credits once your externship is secured and registered. Enroll in fall courses and then drop if needed, once you secure the externship. **QUESTIONS? Contact Prof. Alexi Freeman – [alex.freeman@du.edu](mailto:alex.freeman@du.edu).**