

WHO WE ARE

The Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic is a program of Emory Law School dedicated to ensuring safety, well-being, and permanency for abused and court-involved children in Georgia. These outcomes are best achieved when systems only intervene in families when absolutely necessary, treat children and families fairly, provide the services and protections they are charged to provide, and are accountable to the public and the children they serve. The clinic helps Georgia serve neglected and abused children by providing multidisciplinary, child-focused research, training, and support for practitioners and policymakers charged with protecting Georgia's children. Located at the Emory University School of Law, the clinic collaborates with the School of Public Health, the School of Medicine, and the Center for Violence Studies at Emory, as well as with other Georgia colleges and universities.

WHAT WE DO

The program operates as a student clinic in which law and other graduate students conduct research; write articles, policy papers, and other informational materials; analyze and draft legislation and policy directives; and participate in reform initiatives. Faculty, staff, and students provide a limited amount of legal representation for child clients who are involved with multiple child-serving systems.

- Research
- Advocacy
- Statewide online resource center: www.childwelfare.net
- Training and support for practitioners and policymakers
- Student summer internships throughout Georgia

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Child Advocacy:

The Law, the Policy, and the Players

An interdisciplinary class on child advocacy that brings together students in law, medicine, theology, and public health. This course explores the various factors that shape policies affecting abused and neglected children, including the requirements of federal laws and regulations, the perspective of different disciplines working on these issues, public perceptions, and media coverage.



Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic

The Barton Clinic is an in-house legal clinic dedicated to providing research, training, and support to the public, the child advocacy community, and the legislature in Georgia. Students involved in the clinic have a chance to work directly on issues before the state legislature, complete published research, train community leaders and activists, participate in statewide functions, and help inform the discussion on child welfare issues with their own ideas or projects.

Field Placement

The Southern Juvenile Defender Center (SJDC) is one of nine regional support centers affiliated with the National Juvenile Defender Center and the ABA Juvenile Justice Center. The mission of the SJDC is to improve the lives of children in their encounters with the juvenile and criminal justice systems in the region by enhancing the quality of representation and the capacity of the juvenile defense bar and by educating society with regard to issues and processes affecting these children. Students provide technical assistance to attorneys representing children in juvenile and criminal courts and conduct research on issues such as overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system, privatizations of juvenile detention facilities, and the transfer of juveniles to adult courts.



INTERNSHIPS

Emory Summer Child Advocacy Program

Internships are available with juvenile courts, state agencies, and child advocacy organizations across the state. Information on previous placements is available at www.childwelfare.net. Applications are accepted from students at Emory Law School, other graduate programs at Emory University, and universities nationwide.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A postgraduate fellowship is offered to recent law school graduates. The Postgraduate Fellow in Law conducts research, supervises student research projects, advocates for children's issues with policymakers and state legislators, and publishes articles.

OUR MISSION

The Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic's mission is to promote and protect the well-being of neglected, abused, and court-involved children in the state of Georgia, to inspire excellence among the adults responsible for protecting and nurturing these children, and to prepare child advocacy professionals.



HISTORY

The Barton Clinic was established in March 2000 to address the need in Georgia for an organization dedicated to effecting systemic policy and process changes for the benefit of the children in Georgia's child welfare system. The origins of the Barton Clinic are in the Emory University School of Law's Child Advocacy Project, which began in 1992 and provides summer internships in the field. The establishment of the year-round legal clinic with a full-time director was made possible by a generous grant from the Barton Foundation. The clinic's activities and priorities are directed by an Advisory Committee to ensure that a broad spectrum of professions and organizations contribute to and are informed about the work of the clinic.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Will L. Crossley, "Defining Reasonable Efforts: Demystifying the State's Burden under Federal Child Protection Legislation," *Boston University Public Interest Law Journal* (Spring/Summer 2003).

Melissa Dorris, "Federal Oversight and Private Actions: Maintaining Balance in Rights Enforcement of Federal Child Welfare Legislation," *23 CHILDREN'S LEGAL RIGHTS JOURNAL* 23 (Winter 2003–2004).

Laura Haskins, "Foster Parents and the Juvenile Courts in Georgia: A Survey Assessment about the Right to Notice and Opportunity to Be Heard," posted on www.childwelfare.net.

Beth Locker and Melissa Dorris, "A Child's Right to Legal Representation in Georgia Abuse and Neglect Proceedings," *10 GEORGIA BAR JOURNAL* 12 (2004), available at http://gabar.org/pdf/GJB/August_04_Web1.pdf.

Mary Margaret Oliver and Will L. Crossley, "Survey of Child Endangerment Statutes Nationally and Analysis of Georgia Legislative Opportunity," *Georgia Bar Journal* (December 2001).

For more information about the Barton Clinic's work, research, publications, and sample documents, visit the clinic's website at www.childwelfare.net.

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BARTON CHILD LAW & POLICY CLINIC OF EMORY UNIVERSITY

Promoting
and protecting
the well-being
of Georgia's
abused and
neglected
children