

Children's Rights Clinic

6 Credits (approximately 20 hrs. / week)
Graded
Satisfies Skills Graduation Requirement

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Types of Cases

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- Child in Need of Assistance (child welfare)
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Minor Guardianship
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Special Education / School Discipline
- Name & Gender Marker Changes

Your clients?

- All ages! *Newborn babies to 17-year-olds.*
- Diverse backgrounds! *Des Moines natives to youth from all over the world.*
- Different Attorney-Client Relationships! *Defender, Best Interest Attorney, & Stated Interest Attorney*

Types of Cases

Examples of cases students have worked on in clinic:

- Provided holistic representation to an unaccompanied child by assisting them in their Child in Need of Assistance, immigration, and special education legal matters.
- Helped a young child with down syndrome find safety and permanency in a minor guardianship proceeding.
- Defended a teenager accused of a delinquent act (crime) they did not commit and won a suppression motion that resulted in her charges being dismissed.
- Briefed and argued a case before the Iowa Supreme Court centered on a child's right to meaningful access to expert assistance at State expense when defending against waiver to adult court.
- Represented a high school student in their school disciplinary hearing before a local school board.
- Advocated on behalf of an intersex child so their name and gender marker on identity documents reflected their identity.

Types of Projects

- Collaborate with Iowa's Youth Justice Council on policy projects impacting young people
- Serve on Iowa Supreme Court Task Forces related to juvenile law
- Conduct Know Your Rights Presentations for unhoused youth at local shelters
- Participate in a juvenile court watch program
- Organize annual LGBTQI+ pro se legal clinic
- Mentor at-risk girls participating in a local specialty court called Too Good To Lose
- Participate in national Debt Free Justice Campaign



Skills

Interviewing

Counseling

Negotiation

Trial Advocacy

Legal Drafting

Creative Problem Solving

Why Clinic?

- **You** are the lawyer in clinic. You meet with the clients, appear in court, and make strategic decisions. No better way to prepare for practice!
- Build **transferrable** skills.
- Start practicing **time management** and **resiliency** tools to help you succeed as a lawyer.

