

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class 1 (Jan. 24): Course Overview

Speakers:

- **Michael Gregory, Clinical Professor of Law; Faculty Director, Child Advocacy Program; Director, Education Law Clinic; Managing Attorney, Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative (TLPI)**
- **Crisanne Hazen, Lecturer on Law and Assistant Director, Child Advocacy Program**

Class 2 (Jan. 31): Child Constitutional Rights and Climate Change

Guest Speakers:

- **Julia Olson, Executive Director & Chief Legal Counsel, Our Children's Trust**
- **Anne Dailey, Evangeline Starr Professor of Law, University of Connecticut School of Law**

Climate change presents one of the biggest global challenges, and most so for the young people growing up with in a world with an uncertain, and perhaps dire, environmental future. Twenty-one youth plaintiffs filed a federal lawsuit in 2015, *Juliana v. United States*, asserting violations of their constitutional rights by the government. Julia Olson founded and leads Our Children's Trust, the organization behind this lawsuit (and other state-based actions). Professor Anne Dailey will share her thoughts about the constitutional framing, and situate the discussion in the larger context of children's constitutional rights.

Class 3 (Feb. 7): Education System Reform: Trauma-Sensitive Schools

Speakers:

- **Michael Gregory, Clinical Professor of Law; Faculty Director, Child Advocacy Program; Director, Education Law Clinic; Managing Attorney, Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative (TLPI)**
- **Youth and Community Partners**

The Harvard Law School Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative has worked for nearly two decades, using a variety of advocacy strategies, to create a national understanding of the critical need to address the effects of trauma and racism on students' ability to learn. Professor Michael Gregory will share some of these strategies, including TLPI's work supporting student advocates to raise their voices and bring attention to their own educational needs. Professor Gregory will be joined by some of his community partners, who will speak to their legislative and other advocacy work in Massachusetts.

Class 4 (Feb. 14): Child Welfare System Overview and Reform

Guest Speakers:

- **Judge Gloria Tan, First Justice at Middlesex County Juvenile Court**
- **Virginia Pryor, Acting Director, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**
- **Frank Vandervort, Clinical Professor of Law and Co-Founder, Juvenile Justice Clinic, University of Michigan Law School**

The child protection system is responsible for investigating allegations of abuse or neglect, and then working to resolve threats to child safety in an effort to prevent future harm to children. This charge means that the system is expected to be both reactive and preventative in the services it delivers. In terms of prevention, it means screening and delivering the proper level and array of protective interventions and preventative services for millions of children each year. We will hear the perspectives of three actors within the child welfare system on some of the key problems within the system, and how to leverage each of their roles towards reform.

Class 5 (Feb. 21): Juvenile Justice System Overview and Reform

Guest Speakers:

- **Marsha Levick, Chief Legal Officer and Co-Founder, Juvenile Law Center**
- **Kristin Henning, Blume Professor of Law and Director, Juvenile Justice Clinic and Initiative, Georgetown Law**

The juvenile justice system is supposed to be rehabilitative rather than punitive. That's the promise our system has made from the beginning, in exchange for reduced levels of due process protection as compared to the adult criminal justice system. But it's a promise our system has not lived up to. Over the past decades, leaders in juvenile justice reform have engaged in successful efforts to remedy some of the most egregious practices in the way we punish children, who are most often Black and brown. The Juvenile Law Center (JLC), is the oldest, non-profit children's law firm in the country. Co-founder, Deputy Director and Chief Counsel Marsha Levick has made JLC a leader in the national reform movement. Professor Kristin Henning has also spent decades representing hundreds of Black and brown children, as well as working on a systemic level to remedy the system's many failures. Her new book, *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth*, brings the power of storytelling to her repertoire of strategies she is leveraging to create positive change.

Class 6 (Feb. 28): Learning Community Session

The goal of this session is to foster a deeper understanding of the change model and learn how to apply the model to real life problems. Students will work in small groups to create visual representations of one component of the change model and then come back together as a class to share and discuss. At the end of class, students will begin to work on their final projects.

Class 7 (Mar. 7): Education & Juvenile Justice: Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Guest Speakers:

- **Tanya Coke, Director, Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice, Ford Foundation**
- **Judith Browne Dianis, Executive Director, Advancement Project**
- **Thena Robinson Mock, Program Director, Public Welfare Foundation**

This class will focus on the movement to end the school-to-prison pipeline (STTP), a phenomenon that disproportionately affects children of color. Philanthropy has been an important force for change in our society not just in this area but more broadly. Tanya Coke has been a key philanthropic figure in the movement to end the STTP, helping to seed its national advocacy efforts. Judith Browne Dianis leads the Advancement Project, one of the first civil rights organizations to focus on the STPP. Thena Robinson Mock has spent her career working to advance community-led efforts for education and youth justice. The speakers will share the history of the movement, and some of the current strategies being utilized following the murder of George Floyd in May 2020.

March 13: Spring Break (no class)

Class 8 (Mar. 21): Family Resource Centers (FRCs): Diversion from Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems

Guest Speakers:

- **Senator Karen E. Spilka, Massachusetts State Senate President, 2nd Middlesex & Norfolk District**

In 2014, Massachusetts enacted legislation to reform its “status offender” system, known then as the “Children in Need of Services (CHINS)” system. The newly established “Children Requiring Assistance (CRA)” system was supposed to further de-criminalize the commission of status offenses (e.g., truancy, running away, or breaking rules in school or at home) by diverting at-risk children from involvement with the juvenile court to community-based supports and services. As part of this redesigned system, the Commonwealth created Family Resource Centers (FRCs), intended to be a one-stop shop for children and families to access resources of all kinds—from food and clothing, to state agency services, to evidence-based parenting support groups. Since 2014, the legislature has steadily increased funding for FRCs and there are now locations in most corners of the Commonwealth. The legislative architect of this system reform, Senate President Karen E. Spilka, will discuss the original need to reform the CHINS system, the initial vision for and design of the FRCs, and how the FRCs have evolved over time, including how they have responded to student and family needs during the pandemic.

Class 9 (March 28): Learning Community Session

This session will further develop the insights and skills from the first two Learning Community sessions, by encouraging students to apply the *Approaching System Change* model to the ideas presented in the two preceding classes. Students will work in teams of five to create a poster detailing relevant facts, analysis, and personal insights from each class, which will then be presented to their broader Learning Community through a gallery walk.

Class 10 (April 4): Education: Systemic Reform Litigation, Policy Advocacy, and Community Organizing

Guest Speakers:

- **John Affeldt, Managing Attorney, Public Advocates**
- **Saa'un P. Bell, Associate Director of Campaign, Policy, Narrative Strategy at Power California**

John Affeldt is Managing Attorney at Public Advocates Inc., one of the first public interest law firms in the nation, and one which initially focused on systemic reform litigation as its primary method to effect change. He will discuss how he and Public Advocates have evolved in their thinking about effective social change in the area of education, and describe their current approach involving deep partnerships with grassroots organizations to achieve large-scale policy reforms. Saa'un Bell is a community and youth organizer, and has worked as a close community partner with Public Advocates. Ms. Bell will share her experiences working on-the-ground with California students and parents in cooperation with Public Advocates to advance a joint education reform agenda.

Class 11 (April 11): Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare: Emerging Adults

Guest Speakers:

- **Sunindiya Bhalla, Executive Vice-President of Women & 2Gen, Roca**
- **Other Roca Representatives**

“Less jail, more future” is Roca’s motto. Founded in 1988, Roca is dedicated to transforming the lives of troubled youth—those living on the streets, involved in gangs, and swept up in the criminal justice system. Sunindiya Bhalla will discuss the Positive Youth Justice framework Roca uses to inform its programming, as well as some of the challenges Roca has faced and successes it has achieved. Sunindiya Bhalla is responsible for further developing, implementing, and scaling Roca’s exemplary Young Mothers’ Program and raising its profile nationally as a model Two Generation program. She also works on developing fatherhood programs for Roca’s high-risk young men.

Class 12 (Apr. 18): Learning Community Session – Final Presentations

In this final session, students will share the small-group projects that they have been working on all semester in their Learning Communities. Then the full class will reconvene for a final wrap-up and conclusion to the course.