The Children and Family Advocacy Clinic (CFAC) is a teaching law office that provides holistic legal advocacy on behalf of children and adults in matters regarding child protection, domestic violence, parentage, custody, and guardianship. Under faculty supervision, students work in teams to provide legal representation and advocacy in court, administrative hearings, family team meetings, settlement conferences, and negotiations.

In addition to providing high quality and hands-on education for students, the CFAC provides client-centered legal representation that takes seriously the rights and wishes of our child and adult clients. The CFAC also engages in systemic reform through modeling, affirmative and defensive litigation, policy advocacy, and research in the areas of children’s and parents’ rights. The CFAC utilizes available and best practices in child welfare, adoption, custody, foster care, and violence prevention.

**Organization:** Children and Family Advocacy Clinic (CFAC)

**Location:**
Washington University Law School
Anheuser Busch Hall, Suite 105

**Field:**
The law school clinic; St. Louis area family, probate, and domestic violence courts; child welfare agencies, and client environments

**Contact:**
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**Website:**
http://law.wustl.edu/clinicaled/pages.aspx?id=6829

**Description:**
Students work in a forensic setting at Washington University Law School's Children & Family Advocacy Clinic
(CFAC), a legal aid office located at the law school where law students, under supervision of law faculty, represent children and adults in family court proceedings, primarily involving child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, guardianship, visitation, emancipation, and paternity. Law students generally work an average of 21 to 28 hours per week on clinic matters.

Social work students generally serve as members of the legal team, which is comprised of faculty and students advocating for clients' needs and objectives, and protecting the clients’ rights. In addition to direct services, the CFAC also works on projects aimed at improving the court system, law, and policy to better reflect the needs and perspectives of children and families.

Social work students will have the opportunity to serve in one or more of the following capacities:
- advocate for clients as part of a legal team;
- consultants to student lawyers regarding the clients’ needs and services;
- assisting clients and the legal team in identifying and navigating social service resources;
- identifying social science literature relevant to client needs;
- help improve the policies and court systems that affect vulnerable populations.

Hours: The CFAC can accommodate a range of credit hours for social work students.

**CFAC Project Faculty and Staff**
- **Professor Annette Appell**, CFAC Director & Field Placement Supervisor
- **Kathryn Pierce**, Staff Attorney
- **Katherine Herr**, Clinic Operations Manager