



Child Justice Internship/Externship Program for 2022-2023

“My internship was a terrific experience from both humanitarian and professional perspectives. The appreciation I received from those who were in terrible predicaments and needed our help was immensely satisfying, and the opportunity to develop legal skills while evaluating cases, working with attorneys to prepare cases, and observing court proceedings was a valuable supplement to law school.” CG

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of children who have been abused or exposed to domestic violence? Have you ever wondered about how the academic legal subjects you learn in law school are applied in court? Do you like fighting the good fight?

Child Justice, Inc. (Child Justice), with offices in Silver Spring, Rockville and Columbia, MD, advocates for abused, neglected and at-risk children in Maryland custody, access and protective order cases. We serve the public interest by providing pro bono legal assistance or representation to protective parents and by seeking appropriate solutions to the threats facing abused, neglected, and at-risk children. We also work to improve the response of state agencies and courts to children in need of protection in family law cases.

Since 2001, first as Justice for Children, and beginning in September 2012 as Child Justice, Inc., we have worked with dedicated pro bono attorneys in top law firms to provide access to justice and give children the gift of a stable, nurturing life with a loving and safe parent or guardian. Since 2019, Child Justice has developed our in-house capacity to represent protective parents and now have a staff including attorneys, paralegals and volunteers who work with Child Justice!

Child Justice provides pro bono legal services for non-offending protective parents of abused (sexually, physically, emotionally) children in lower court proceedings where custody and access are at issue. These cases often involve experiences of interpersonal violence by the protective parent. We also assist parents who wish to appeal lower court decisions to the Maryland’s appellate courts by trying to place their cases in the hands of experience appellate advocates. In certain cases of significant public interest, we may submit *amicus curiae* pleading in support of a party in an appellate case or handle an appellate case in-house.

Besides protecting child victims, we strive to advance the law in this area. We have submitted *amicus curiae* briefs to the US Supreme Court in *Golan v. Saada* (requirement of federal court to craft ameliorative measures to allow return habitual residence where child has been found to be at grave risk of harm) and the US Court of Appeals in *Doyle Randal Paroline v. The United States of America* (restitution for victims of revenge pornography). Over the last decade we have participated in many precedent setting cases. In particular, see *Fox v. Wills* (MD 2006), *Doe v. Doe* (HI 2009), *Davis v. Petit* (Maryland 2012), *Sumpter v. Sumpter* (MD 2013), *Ohio v. Clark* (USC 2015), *McClanahan v. Wash Co. DSS* (MD 2015), *Voisine v. US* (USC 2016), *Burak v. Burak* (MD 2017), *Breona C. v. Rodney D.* (MD 2021).

Interns/externs have a variety of opportunities to increase their skills which may include some of the following:

- Assisting with client/witness interviews and assessment of applications for legal assistance.
- Organizing case files, writing case summaries, outlining legal issues and preparing for trials.
- Researching and writing memoranda and drafting pleadings in protective order and family law litigation.
- Engaging in court watch by attending court proceedings and noting observations of the judicial process.
- Obtaining direct casework supervision and feedback by practicing attorneys on a regular basis.
- Inviting interns to be an active part of the Child Justice Team, including attending to regular staff meeting educational trainings.

We prefer our interns/externs to be 2L students because of the challenging nature of the subject matter and tasks but we also consider 1L students. Interns/externs must be self-motivated, have excellent writing abilities, including an attention to detail, be able to meet deadlines, and have the ability to work independently. Self-awareness and the ability to handle highly emotional material is required.

If you are interested in applying, please submit an inquiry through our website (www.child-justice.org), include a recent transcript of your grades, a writing sample and a resume or CV or send an email with those documents to Luanne.McKenna@child-justice.org with the subject line “CHILD JUSTICE INTERN.”