PUBLIC INTEREST WEEK
Hosted by Journal of Public Interest Law, Office of Skills and Experiential Learning, Gillis Long Poverty Law Center, and Public Interest Law Group

Panel on Immigration and Children’s Rights
To Be Rescheduled

Fundraiser at Mellow Mushroom
Thursday, February 25th
10% of food proceeds will benefit Youth Empowerment Project
Donations welcome: https://www.gofundme.com/v3mjf78s

Presentations on Children’s Advocacy & Domestic Violence
Friday, February 26th 9am-12pm

Skills credit available-Sign up on Blackboard
Contact Natasha Lacoste to register for CLE Credit:
nalacost@loyno.edu
Public Interest Week: Children’s Rights & Advocacy
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
Hosted by:
Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law, Gillis Long Poverty Law Center, Office of Skills and Experiential Learning, and Loyola Public Interest Law Group

Presentations on Children’s Advocacy and Domestic Violence
Friday, February 26, 2016
9am-12pm Room 405

• Sign In and Welcome: 9:00am-9:15am

• First Presentation: 9:15am-10:00am
  o Cheryl Buchert and Ramona Fernandez, Clinic Professors of Family Law and Children’s Rights Sections of Loyola Law Clinic

• Second Presentation: 10:00am-10:45am
  o Joan Miller, Staff Attorney for Project Save of Catholic Charities

• Break 10:45am-11:00am

• Third Presentation: 11:00am-11:45am
  o Stacie Leblanc, Executive Director of Audrey Hepburn CARE Center
  o Kären Hallstrom, Deputy Judicial Administrator for Children and Families, Louisiana Supreme Court

• Q&A and Closing Remarks 11:45am-12:00pm

• Lunch will be served at 12:00pm

Materials available at:
law.loyno.edu/loyola-journal-public-interest-law
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Guest Speakers:

**Professor Cheryl Prestenback Buchert**  
Clinical Professor of Law  
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law  
Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice

Professor Buchert joined the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law faculty in 2002 as the supervisor of the family law section of the Loyola Law Clinic. Before joining the faculty, Buchert practiced family law as a sole practitioner. She is a member of the 24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson Domestic Liaison Advisory Committee, the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Jefferson Parish Bar Association, and a founding member of the Jefferson Parish Family Law Association. Professor Buchert has completed Juvenile Mediator Training, Basic and Advanced Divorce Mediation Training, and Collaborative Divorce Professionals Training. After Hurricane Katrina, Professor Buchert assisted in forming the Loyola Katrina Advice Clinic in Houston when the law school relocated to the University of Houston Law Center for the Fall 2005 term and was the supervisor of the Loyola Katrina Clinic and Team when the law school returned to New Orleans in January 2006. Professor Buchert has presented locally, statewide, and nationally on Katrina related issues and family law. Professor Buchert is also the author of *Family Law, in LOUISIANA CIVIL PRACTICE FORMS* (West, 2008 - 2015 editions). Buchert received her J.D. degree from Loyola University New Orleans School of Law, her M.Ed. degree from the University of New Orleans, and her B.S. degree from Loyola University of New Orleans.

**Ramona G. Fernandez**  
Clinic Professor & Acting Clinic Director  
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law  
Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic & Center for Social Justice

Ramona G. Fernandez was born in the Dominican Republic and was raised in New York City. She received her Juris Doctorate from Loyola University Law School; a Bachelor of
Ramona is a Clinic Professor and the Acting Director of the Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic & Center for Social Justice at Loyola College of Law. She also heads the Children’s Rights Clinic at Loyola University College of Law. In this clinic 3rd year law students are appointed by the courts to represent the best interest of the child in highly contested custody disputes and in cases where there have been allegations of abuse and/or neglect, disavowal of paternity and Special Immigrant Juveniles. Ramona also teaches the Street Law Course at the College of Law. This Program offers interested New Orleans and Jefferson Parish schools and correctional facilities the opportunity to have law students, under the supervision of law professor, to teach Street Law to High School students and the community.

**Joan Miller**  
Staff Attorney-Project SAVE  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

Joan Miller graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education. After teaching school for several years, she decided to pursue a law degree. Graduating from Loyola University School of Law in 1986, she first practiced with a solo practitioner in Baton Rouge, where the emphasis of the practice was in the areas of family law, successions and personal injury. She returned to New Orleans and worked for several years with a personal injury law firm, after which she decided to set up her own practice. In 2002, she accepted a position as staff attorney with Project SAVE, where she remains today. For her, the Project SAVE work provides the perfect combination of helping people with family matters while at the same time advocating for those in crisis.

**Stacie Leblanc**  
Executive Director, New Orleans CAC Center and Audrey Hepburn CARE Center

Stacie LeBlanc is the executive director of the New Orleans Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) and the Audrey Hepburn Children At Risk Evaluation (CARE) Center at Children’s Hospital. She has a law degree from Loyola University and a master’s in early childhood development from the University of New Orleans.

After finishing law school in 1990, she joined the Jefferson Parish District Attorney’s Office, where she assisted in the opening of the first CAC in the state of Louisiana, became the supervisor of the Felony Child Abuse Division and began the Family Violence Unit. She has served as an assistant district attorney and overseen CAC operations in both urban and rural parishes.

In 1998, she was recognized with the “Outstanding Prosecutor Award” from Victims and Citizens Against Crime for the unit’s 94% conviction rate and the prosecution of a 20-year-old child rape case, which garnered national media attention.

Recognizing the necessity of pediatric forensic expertise, Stacie joined the Children’s Hospital’s child abuse program. Since then, it has grown into a multi-physician program that treats an average of 1,400 maltreated children annually from 62 Louisiana parishes as well as the Gulf Coast of Mississippi.

In 2005, Stacie was appointed as an assistant professor of pediatrics for the LSU School of Medicine. She assumed the operation of the New Orleans CAC and co-located the NOCAC

As the chair of the legislative committee for the Task Force on Child Sexual Abuse, Stacie drafted, testified and successfully passed 11 legislative amendments for the protection of children, prosecution of their offenders and protection of mandated reporters. For her success in policy change, Stacie received the 2008 Champion for Children Award. Her professional achievements were recognized again in 2010 when she was named a Health Care Hero by New Orleans CityBusiness. In 2013, Stacie was the recipient of the Distinguished Catholic Graduate of the Year Award for helping with Safe Environment. Stacie was also recognized by the FBI in Washington, DC as the Director of the CARE Center. Recently, she was recognized by the Victims & Citizens Against Crime as a recipient of their Lifetime Achievement award.

Stacie has two children, Megan and Trey, in college and spends all her free time trying to get glimpses of them on social media.

Kären Hallstrom
Deputy Judicial Administrator, Children and Families
Louisiana Supreme Court

Kären Hallstrom has a JD/MSW from Tulane University. Kären has worked in the Louisiana juvenile justice system for over 25 years at both the local juvenile court and state Supreme Court levels, where she currently serves as the Deputy Judicial Administrator for Children and Families. She has been teaching Child Advocacy as an adjunct professor of law at Loyola University in New Orleans, and is a Reporter for the Louisiana Children’s Code Revision Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute.

Coordinators:

Courtney Hollier  Davida Finger
Symposium Editor  Interim Director
Journal of Public Interest Law  Gillis Long Poverty Law Center

Kaitlin Locascio  Christina Luwisch
Editor in Chief  Associate Director
Journal of Public Interest Law  Gillis Long Poverty Law Center

Christine Cerniglia Brown  Emily Hall
Assistant Clinical Professor  Public Interest Law Group President
Coordinator of Skills and Experiential Learning
SKL-SOCJ-022616: Children's Advocacy and Domestic Violence

Friday, February 26th (9:00am – 12:00pm) (405)

Public Interest Week: Children’s Rights and Advocacy

As part of “Public Interest Week,” Journal of Public Interest Law, Gillis Long Poverty Law Center, and Public Interest Law Group will host skills classes on “Children’s Rights and Advocacy.” This second skills class on Friday includes a presentation on “Children’s Advocacy and Domestic Violence.” Guest speakers will guide the audience through discussions related to attorney for the child cases, protective order cases, and practical issues related to children’s advocacy. Students interested in Loyola’s family law or children’s rights clinics are encouraged to attend. Loyola students who enroll in the Friday course via the Office of Skills and Experiential Learning and attend the presentations will receive 1 skills credit. Practitioners from the community are also invited. Approved for 2.5 hours of general CLE credit in Louisiana.

Presenters:

Professor Cheryl Buchert, Clinical Professor of Law
Ramona Fernandez, Clinical Professor & Acting Clinic Director
Joan Miller, Staff Attorney-Project SAVE Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
Stacie Leblanc, Executive Director, New Orleans Children’s Advocacy Center and Audrey Hepburn CARE Center
Karen Hallstrom, Deputy Judicial Administrator for Children and Families, Louisiana Supreme Court

Thursday, February 25th

Fundraiser at Mellow Mushroom to benefit Youth Empowerment Project

Students, faculty, friends, and family are encouraged to visit Mellow Mushroom, located at 8227 Oak Street, on Thursday, February 25th. 10% of all food sales will go to Youth Empowerment Project, an organization in New Orleans that assists at-risk youth and provides re-entry services. For those who cannot visit Mellow Mushroom, Journal of Public Interest Law will share a GoFundMe page for donations.