

Websites on Juvenile Issues

Journal staff reviewed the following websites to provide our readers with some useful points of reference and guidance for research. The listed websites provide detailed information on a variety of juvenile law and policy issues.

Adoption and Safe Families Act

<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/asfa.htm>

<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/cf/asfasearch.htm>

The National Conference of State Legislatures offers this site on the Adoption and Safe Families Act (“ASFA”). Congress passed ASFA in 1997 to facilitate permanent living arrangements for foster children. Among its provisions, ASFA outlines situations when parental rights should be terminated and the time period within which permanency hearings should be held. This website outlines ASFA’s requirements and provides information on state compliance with the law. The comprehensive, searchable database details how each state is complying with ASFA’s requirements.

Afterschool Alliance

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org>

The Afterschool Alliance advocates for quality, affordable afterschool programs for all children. This website is dedicated to raising awareness regarding the importance of afterschool programs and offers resources for individuals interested in creating and maintaining valuable afterschool programs. The website also provides tools and tips on accessing funding for afterschool programs and advice on networking, so that individuals can build support for their programs among local residents, community groups, and policy makers. Organization contact information is available on the website for individuals interested in starting an after-school program.

 **American Indian Child Resource Center**

<http://www.aicrc.org/index2.html>

The American Indian Child Resource Center is a non-profit organization that has been serving American Indian children and their families in the greater San Francisco Bay Area for over twenty-seven years. The Center is dedicated to assisting Indian youth and their families by helping establish familial links and referring families to culturally appropriate resources. The Center also provides adoptive families with culturally-effective services. The website includes information and history relating to the Indian Child Welfare Act, as well as information on becoming a foster parent to an American Indian child. Additionally, the website offers an online copy of the Center's newsletter with updates on program activities and opportunities.

 **Bright Futures 4 Kids**

<http://www.brightfutures4kids.org>

Bright Futures 4 Kids is the site for the Child Abuse Prevention Center of Orange County. The goal of this site is to educate parents about intervention techniques to replace old patterns of abuse with nonviolent, nurturing parenting styles. The Center believes the safety of children is dependent on the well-being of their parents. Therefore, the Center strives to empower parents through helping them to become financially self-sufficient while breaking generational cycles of child abuse, domestic violence, and teen pregnancy. Mentors assist families in obtaining housing, education and job training in an effort to increase financial self-sufficiency and self-esteem. The website provides information about programs for in-home parent education and teen pregnancy prevention. In addition, the Center sponsors an "Adopt-a-Social-Worker" program, where a community organization works with a social worker to learn about the issues affecting families in its neighborhood and to provide donations to those families. The Center has expanded its services for in-home parenting support programs, serving clients that

have the highest risk of child abuse and parents of children with special needs. The site also lists upcoming events in the Orange County area and volunteer opportunities.

 **Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research**

<http://www.law.upenn.edu/ccppr/homeCCPPR.htm>

The Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research at the University of Pennsylvania is dedicated to ensuring children have a stable and nurturing environment in order to become self-sustaining adults capable of caring for their own families. The organization believes there is a "crisis" in our nation because the lives of many children are compromised by violence, poverty, inadequate health care, and failures of protective systems. The Center believes children are the least powerful of all people in society and are in need of high quality advocacy, research and policy initiatives. The website provides information on activities, conferences, and topics concerning children. Because the group is comprised of individuals from the School of Law, School of Medicine, and School of Social Work, the website offers research and information from multiple disciplines and perspectives.

 **Child Trends**


<http://www.childtrends.org>

Child Trends is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization dedicated to improving the lives of children by conducting and providing science based information. This information is then used to improve decision making and policy selection in a way most beneficial for children. The organization's major research areas include education, welfare, poverty, and child abuse. The website has a number of pages dedicated to completed research and projects that are currently in progress. It also has a "Media Advisories" page that provides links to specific projects and highlights of the project's findings. In the "Publications" section, visitors are able to purchase complete research projects on a number of topics.

 **Children of the Night**

<http://childrenofthenight.org>

Children of the Night is dedicated to assisting children between the ages of eleven and seventeen who have been forced into prostitution in order to survive. The goal of Children of the Night is to help child prostitutes re-enter mainstream society and go on to live healthy lives. Children of the Night maintains a twenty-four bed shelter home in Los Angeles to provide refuge, an on-site school, counseling, and emotional support for child prostitutes who are looking for a way out. The organization's website has information on the services provided to children in the shelter such as caseworker support, needs assessments, victim services and independent living/alumni support. The website provides a twenty-four hour emergency line for child prostitutes to contact the organization. The website also has information on the problem of child prostitution, and on how someone can help by volunteering or donating.

 **Children's Defense Fund**

<http://www.childrensdefense.org>

The Children's Defense Fund, founded in 1973, is a private, non-profit organization whose goal is to provide a "strong, effective voice" for children who are unable to champion their own rights. The organization focuses on five issues that are central to children's well being: childcare; child health; child welfare and mental health; violence prevention and youth development; and family income. The Issues section of the site is organized into these five issues, and includes links to pages dedicated to each specific issue. The site also has links to affiliated programs, such as the Black Community Crusade for Children. The website also offers a page of national and state specific data pertaining to all aspects of children's lives.

 **Children's Protection Project**

www.ago.state.ma.us/children

The Massachusetts Attorney General's office established the Children's Protection Project as a partnership with communities, agencies, and organizations committed to protecting the rights of children and serving the needs of children in the state. By working as a partnership, the project holds agencies and organizations that serve and protect children accountable. The Attorney General's Office also works towards educating employers about the laws that affect minors through a variety of outreach programs. The website also provides resources for parents on a variety of different issues, such as school safety and teen dating violence.

 **Cornell University Legal Information Institute**

http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/childrens_rights.html

The Cornell University Legal Information Institute maintains a section within Cornell Law School's website entitled, "Law About . . .". The pages provide brief summaries of legal topics with links to key primary source materials, and on-line and off-line references. The "Children's Rights: An Overview" section provides links to federal statutes, recent U.S. Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions, and state and international materials. The site does not advocate a particular position, but focuses on summarizing the current law on the topic.

 **Families and Advocates Partnership for Education**

www.fape.org

The Families and Advocates Partnership for Education ("FAPE") is "an alliance that aims to improve the educational outcomes for children with disabilities." This partnership focuses on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the federal law pertaining to the education of children with disabilities. The purpose of FAPE is to educate politicians about the issues the disabled community faces. The "Newslines" section of the site provides a description of current topics in education and

relevant links. The website also features links to on-line publications about children with disabilities.

 **Freechild Project**

<http://freechild.org/index.htm>

The Freechild Project is “a youth-driven training ground, think tank, resource agency, and advocacy group for young people” looking to create social change in their community. The Project is youth-based, encouraging young people to create social change for themselves. The website offers a variety of information for youth empowerment, including topics such as “Discrimination against Youths in the Workplace” and “Adult Allies.” Each of the topics also provides links to individuals and organizations that support youth rights. The Freechild Project website also offers information about training and consultation services.

 **International Initiative to End Child Labor**

www.endchildlabor.org

The International Initiative to End Child Labor (“IIECL”) is an organization that advocates “eliminating the worst forms of child labor in the United States and around the world.” The IIECL provides training and educational workshops, and conducts research about child labor issues. The website offers many categories of information including issues pertaining to child labor and the effects of labor on child development. In addition, IIECL maintains three databases of organizations and resources to help eradicate child labor worldwide. These databases can be accessed at the “Databases” link of the website.

 **MARTY Project**

www.geocities.com/marty_project/index.html

The MARTY Project “is a voluntary, early intervention program designed to assist Lac du Flambeau Tribal Youths and their families in changing problematic behaviors.” The goal of the program is to correct the behavioral problems of at-risk youth and thereby decrease the number of Native American youth placed in the criminal justice

system. The program offers community resources, parental support, crisis intervention, and educational information. In addition the program “advocates for the child and the family, and attempts to coordinate resources to address” problems associated with at-risk youth. The website contains links to various community organizations that participate in the program.

 **National Association of Counsel for Children**

<http://naccchildlaw.org>

The National Association of Counsel for Children (“NACC”), based in Denver, Colorado, is a non-profit child advocacy and professional membership association dedicated to representing and protecting children in the legal system. The website lists upcoming conferences and training sessions sponsored by the NACC, as a way to provide training and technical assistance to child advocates. Additionally, the site offers on-line access to a range of children’s law quarterlies, journals and books. The website includes membership information and benefits such as the option to join the NACC to receive subscriptions to publications at reduced prices, and discounts to NACC sponsored conferences. The website also offers access to a child advocate job database and resources for students and professionals interested in children’s law.

 **National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems**

www.nccrest.org

The National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems is a collective of students, families, researchers and policy makers who “support state and local school systems to assure a quality, culturally responsive education for all students.” The collective realizes that there are political and social tensions in the educational system that prevent students of color from succeeding. Variables that affect the education of students of color include race, class, gender, language, and disability. Through their website, the Center seeks to

inform educators and administrators about the educational issues of students of color and develop “culturally responsive practices and systems that embrace the multicultural diversity of the school-age population and their families.” The site also provides information on training opportunities for state and local school systems looking to address these educational issues.

 **National Educational Service**

<http://www.nes.org/Public/about.asp>

The National Educational Service provides resources for those who work with youth to create schools and communities “where all children succeed.” The organization’s focus is on meeting the needs of professional educators in the classroom and beyond. The website has an on-line catalog of books and videos for educators and a listing of upcoming educational seminars offered throughout the country. The “Message Board” allows educators and interested parents to have a forum in which they are able to share ideas and find answers to their questions.

 **National Indian Child Welfare Association**

www.nicwa.org

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (“NICWA”) is an organization that advocates on behalf of Native American children and families. NICWA “provides public policy, research, and advocacy” for Native American children. The program seeks to address child abuse and neglect through “training, research, public policy, and grassroots community development.” The website offers resources such as conferences and training opportunities. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide Native American children with access to culturally sensitive services that will allow them to grow up in a safe and healthy environment. The “Policy and Research” section of the site provides links to current legislation and laws affecting Native American children.

 **Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative**
www.urbancollaborative.org

The Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative is a coalition of special education teachers sharing research, information, and ideas about “what works and why” for educating special education children in urban school districts. The website has links to the Collaborative’s research data on contemporary urban special education issues and provides information on recent developments in policy, research, and practice. In addition, the website contains links to additional related educational resources and research.

OTHER FAVORITE BOOKMARKS

The Journal has reviewed websites for about five years. The websites listed below highlight some of the sites we reviewed in the past.

 **Adoption Institute**

<http://www.adoptioninstitute.org>

The National Adoption Institute website has information regarding ethical adoption practices that respect all individuals affected in the adoption process. The National Adoption Institute is most concerned with the welfare of the child and the problems faced by children who are denied the opportunity to be adopted by eligible individuals.

 **American Bar Association**

<http://www.abanet.org>

The American Bar Association’s website provides several valuable resources relating to juvenile law and policy. The ABA Center on Children and the Law site (www.abanet.org/child) provides information on child welfare laws and child custody proceedings. The ABA Juvenile Justice Center site (www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus) details

information about the National Juvenile Defender Center, juveniles being sentenced to death, and girls in the juvenile justice system.

 **Childwatch International Research Network**

<http://www.childwatch.uio.no>

Childwatch International is a non-profit, non-governmental network of institutions involved in children's research. The network "aims to initiate and coordinate research and information projects on children's living conditions and the implementation of children's rights as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child." Childwatch International seeks to ensure that children's perspectives are heard and respected.

 **Coalition for Juvenile Justice**

<http://www.juvjustice.org>

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice represents governor-appointed advisory groups within the juvenile court system. The organization provides the public with training and technical assistance related to the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The website provides information on conferences concerning juvenile justice issues and a listing of contact information for juvenile justice specialists.

 **Education Week on the Web**

www.edweek.org

This site's primary mission is to raise the level of awareness and understanding among professionals and the public of important issues in American education. The website features two sections that focus on different areas of education: the "Education Week" and the "Teachers" section. Both of these sections are offered as paper subscriptions. There is also a very useful page that gives specific educational information about each state.

 **Juvenile Justice in California**

<http://ca.lwv.org/jj/jjssystem.htm>

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of California, this site provides an introduction to the California Juvenile Delinquency system. The site features details on detention programs,

probation and parole. Additionally, the site shares proposals for changes to the California Juvenile Delinquency system and provides an overview of minority youth in the juvenile justice system.

 **Juvenile Law Center**

<http://www.jlc.org>

The Juvenile Law Center, a non-profit public interest law firm, provides information on current events and developments in juvenile law. The Center affiliates itself with a number of public agencies to advance the well-being and constitutional rights of at-risk youth. The Center's website details current legislation nationally. In addition, the site describes modern developments in juvenile law, including recently decided cases in the areas of delinquency, dependency, and adoption.

 **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**


<http://www.ncjfcj.unr.edu>

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is dedicated to serving the nation's children and families by improving the courts of juvenile and family jurisdictions. The organization strives to increase awareness and sensitivity towards children's issues, and provides assistance to enable courts nationwide to improve practices in child abuse and neglect cases.

 **National Law Center for Children and Families**

<http://www.nationallawcenter.org>

The National Law Center for Children and Families is a non-profit organization committed to enforcing the laws against illegal pornography. The Center strives to reach its goals by encouraging the protection of children and families from the harmful effect of illegal pornography, and by assisting in law enforcement and law improvement. The website provides court briefs of cases relating to federal and state obscenity and child exploitation laws.

 **UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child**

www.unicef.org/crc/crc.htm

Offering an international approach to children's human rights, this site provides comprehensive coverage of the most universally accepted human rights instruments in history. The site has a detailed description of the drafting and ratification process for the Convention. The full text of the Convention is also available on the site.

To share your thoughts on this section or to have your website reviewed in a future issue of the Journal, please contact us at jjlp@ucdavis.edu.