

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.

Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic

<http://www.childwelfare.net/>

The Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic, part of the Emory University School of Law, operates as a student legal clinic, accepting students from Georgia law schools and graduate students in fields related to child advocacy. To further the Barton Clinic's research-based approach, the Clinic operates this website as a Georgia statewide resource on child abuse and neglect issues. The site contains diverse information on items such as Georgia's Office of Child Fatality Review, Georgia's Department of Human Resources Policies and Procedures manual, the Barton Clinic's child advocacy work, and information on how individuals can make a difference. The site also provides information on how to subscribe to electronic mailing lists that discuss child protection and juvenile justice issues, an engine to search national and state child welfare media stories, foster care recruitment links, and national child law links.

Casey Family Programs

<http://www.casey.org/>

The mission of Casey Family Programs is to support families, youth and children affected by the foster care system to reach their full potential. Jim Casey, the founder of the United Parcel Service (UPS), created Casey Family Programs in 1966 as a direct service organization that strives to give stability and opportunity to children who were unable to live with their birth parents. The website includes information on the organization's Strategic Plan

to make a positive impact on one-fifth of the approximately 500,000 children in foster care by 2006. Additionally, Casey Family Programs acknowledge and make a conscious effort to confront the disproportionate amount of minority children in foster care. The website includes information on Casey projects and services, as well as links to resources for transitioning foster youth.

 **Education Week on the Web**

<http://www.edweek.org>

Created by Editorial Projects in Education Inc., a Washington, D.C. non-profit organization, this site's primary mission is to raise the level of awareness and understanding of issues in American education. This site focuses on preschool through twelfth grade education. The "Education Week" section of the site focuses on school systems, curriculum and educational policy, while the "Teachers" section provides professional advice for teachers. The site also updates its "News" section daily with education related articles from magazines and newspapers from around the country. The "Special Reports" section offers in-depth coverage of various topics in education as well as links to other sites dealing with education. The site also includes a section called "State Information" that provides information on education specific to each state.

 **Evan B. Donaldson National Adoption Institute**

<http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/>

The Evan B. Donaldson National Adoption Institute ("Adoption Institute") website provides information regarding ethical adoption practices. The Adoption Institute defines ethical adoption as respecting all participants in the process: the birth parents, adoptive families, adopted person and adoption professionals. The Adoption Institute's site describes efforts on legal and policy issues that impact adoption including the relationship between welfare reform and the adoption of children in foster care, interstate barriers to adoption, open records, sibling contact and open adoptions. The site

provides resources for research such as abstracts, news clippings, statistics and a searchable database. The site includes information on current policy concerns as well as information on education and training for adoption professionals.

 **The National Center for Juvenile Justice**

<http://brendan.ncjfcj.unr.edu/homepage/ncjj/ncjj2/whoarewe/whoweare.htm>

The National Center for Juvenile Justice (“Center”) is a private, non-profit resource for independent research on juvenile justice topics. The Center also serves as the research department of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. The Center concentrates its efforts on applied, legal and systems research related to juvenile and family courts. The site provides information on how to access Center resources such as statute and code analyses, statistical data analyses and court improvement technical assistance. The site also includes an extensive list of publications relating to the juvenile court and a description of current and past projects sponsored by the Center.

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

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

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (“NCJFCJ”) is dedicated to improving juvenile and family courts by utilizing education and applied research to improve the standards, practices and effectiveness of the juvenile court system. NCJFCJ strives to increase awareness and sensitivity to children’s issues and to provide assistance to courts nationwide to improve practices in child abuse and neglect cases. This site provides information on NCJFCJ’s various projects including Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Family Violence, Permanency Planning For Children, and Victim Advocacy. This site also offers information on ordering NCJFCJ publications, links to related resources and juvenile court training opportunities.

 **National Criminal Justice Reference Service**

<http://virlib.ncjrs.org/juvenilejustice.asp>

This portion of the United States Department of Justice website offers a comprehensive array of statistical information, research and reports on juvenile justice related topics. This site includes over 200 reports on issues ranging from HIV/AIDS in juvenile facilities to innovative practices such as Family Strengthening for High-Risk Youth. To navigate the wide range of information available, the site allows sorting by title, date and topic. The site also provides juvenile justice resource links.

 **No Child Left Behind**

<http://www.nochildleftbehind.org/>

The United States Department of Education's official *No Child Left Behind* website describes the new 2002 education law. The site is geared towards educating parents and community members about the provisions of the new law and ways to help children succeed academically in school. The site includes information on how the No Child Left Behind Act will improve the quality of classroom instruction, provide professional training for educators and supply resources to schools to support the new provisions. Additionally, the site includes resources for parents and the latest news on implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act.

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

www.unicef.org/crc/crc.htm

The UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights for children. The Convention addresses civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. This site offers comprehensive coverage and the full text of the most universally accepted human rights instrument in history—only two countries worldwide have not ratified the instrument. The site has a detailed description of the drafting and ratification process for the Convention. Further, the website addresses

problems of protection and monitoring for compliance. The “What You Can Do” section offers advice for schools, churches and community groups looking to boost awareness of the Convention.

OTHER FAVORITE BOOKMARKS

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

 **American Bar Association**

<http://www.abanet.org>

The American Bar Association’s website provides 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.

 **Action Alliance for Children**

<http://www.4children.org>

The Action Alliance for Children website features information about current trends, policies and other issues affecting children. The site also contains details about *Child Advocate*, the organization’s news magazine and links to resources for children and families.

 **Children’s Advocacy Institute**

<http://www.acusd.edu/childreissues>

The Children’s Advocacy Institute (CAI) works to improve the status and well-being of children by advocating their rights to safe and healthy childhoods. As part of the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego School of Law, CAI represents children in court, state legislatures and public education programs. The group’s website offers a wide variety of information ranging from commentaries to legislation. The

site also informs visitors of new issues affecting children, such as playground safety and the impact of domestic violence on children.

 **Children's Defense**

<http://www.childrensdefense.org>

Children's Defense reports daily on news items relating to children. The website offers a national perspective on juvenile issues and promotes a number of volunteer opportunities. In addition, the organization has recently been named one of America's best charities by *Worth* magazine.

 **Kids Peace**

<http://www.kidspeace.org>

Kids Peace advocates programs that help children and adolescents avoid crises before they happen. The website offers a comprehensive magazine that highlights current juvenile issues and opportunities to help the organization.

 **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

<http://www.missingkids.com>

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children offers a support system for families who have lost their children. The website posts pictures of missing children, provides a toll-free crisis helpline, shares methods for reporting child sexual exploitation and details news and events. The site also features success stories to give hope to individuals in crisis and is accessible in both English and Spanish.

 **The National Center on Education, Disability and Juvenile Justice**

<http://www.edjj.org>

The National Center on Education, Disability and Juvenile Justice seeks to address the needs of children with disabilities in the juvenile justice system. The organization's website contains information on the Center's research, training opportunities, and resources for parents.

 **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Permanency Planning for Children**

<http://www.pppncjfcj.org>

The Permanency Planning for Children Department provides educational and technical assistance to courts in hopes of improving practice in child abuse and neglect cases. The group's website details the organization's current projects, including the Permanent Families Initiative, the Child Victims Model Courts Initiative, and the Expedited Adoption Initiative. The site also provides links to other juvenile law sites, and offers information on publications concerning adoption and court practice in child abuse and neglect cases. The website allows visitors to view chapters of the publications and provides an order form for on-line purchasing.

 **Self-Help Center**

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/juvenile>

Organized by the Judicial Council of California, the Self-Help Center offers many unique services designed mainly for people preparing for court. The Center's website offers self-help search capabilities to help guide individual research projects. Additionally, the site provides free and low cost legal services, helpful links to other sites, and an on-line activity book to prepare children for court proceedings in California.

 **Youth Law Center**

<http://www.youthlawcenter.com>

The Youth Law Center, a public interest law office, works to protect abused and at-risk children. The Center focuses primarily on the problems of children living apart from their families in child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Youth Law Center responds to reports of harm resulting from dangerous, abusive, or neglectful conditions in foster care systems and juvenile institutions. The Center's website provides access to current publications available by mail as well as newsletters and an annual report. Additionally, the website provides a list of past and present Youth Law Center cases, and a detailed list of links to other juvenile law websites.

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.