#### **Network Webinar**

# Loyola University Children's Law and Policy Executive Program

**Professional Development Opportunity** 

February 3, 2021

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#### **Attribution**

This project is supported by 2018-CH-BX-K001 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

#### Disclaimer

The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.



### Objective

Review the Loyola Executive Program Professional Development Grant Opportunity and the application process

## Agenda

Introduction

Description of Program

Description of Process



# Introducing a Professional Development Opportunity



# Commitment to Professional Development

National CASA/GAL and Civitas ChildLaw Center at Loyola University Collaboration:

- Certificate in Children's Law and Policy
- Customized for the CASA/GAL Network
  - Explore the legal and child welfare system
  - Further develop your leadership skills
  - Opportunity to collaborate with others in the network



# Loyola University Chicago's: Children's Law & Policy Executive Program

#### Loyola and the Civitas ChildLaw Center

- Loyola University Chicago is one of the premier Jesuit universities in the nation, with 3 Chicago-area campuses in addition to permanent campuses in Rome and Beijing. In addition to the School of Law, Loyola is also home to Schools of Social Work, Education, Medicine, and Nursing as well as respected programs in psychology, public health, and criminal justice.
- The Civitas ChildLaw Center serves as a teaching, research and service program within the School of Law. The Center was established in 1993 and has received national recognition for its academic and law reform programs on behalf of children and families, including the National Association of Counsel for Children's Outstanding Program award and the ABA Livingston Hall award for contributions to juvenile justice.



#### About the Online Executive Program

- The courses offered in online **Children's Law and Policy Executive Program** in the field of child and family law were established by Loyola University Chicago in 1995, and until 2011 had only been available to those who lived in the Chicagoland area.
- Due to an increased demand for online learning and an expanding pool of national applicants, the Children's Law and Policy program was redesigned for today's busy professionals and is now available to students online
- Loyola's Executive Program provides students with a comprehensive understanding of children's law and policy and helps them develop skills to make them better advocates and more effective leaders.
- The program is over two semesters: Summer 2021 (May) and Fall 2021 (September)



#### The Benefits of Online Education

- Work and life commitments that make a formal, on-ground commitment difficult.
- Students can learn from home or the office during hours that work for them and at a pace that they are comfortable with.
- The opportunity to interact with colleagues across the country and benefit from hearing perspectives reflecting the differences in venue and experience.
- The benefit of learning from professors who are experts in their respective field.



#### Online Executive Program Curriculum

- A total of 8 credit hours are required
- Time Commitment: Plan to dedicate 10-15 hours per week to the program.
- Pace: 4 credits per term, for 2 consecutive terms.
- Term 1: Introduction to the Study of Law and the Legal System (2 credits) Child Welfare Law and Policy (2 credits)
- Term 2: Leadership Development (4 credits)

Students may acquire an additional 16 credit hours to receive the **Master of Jurisprudence in Children's Law and Policy**.



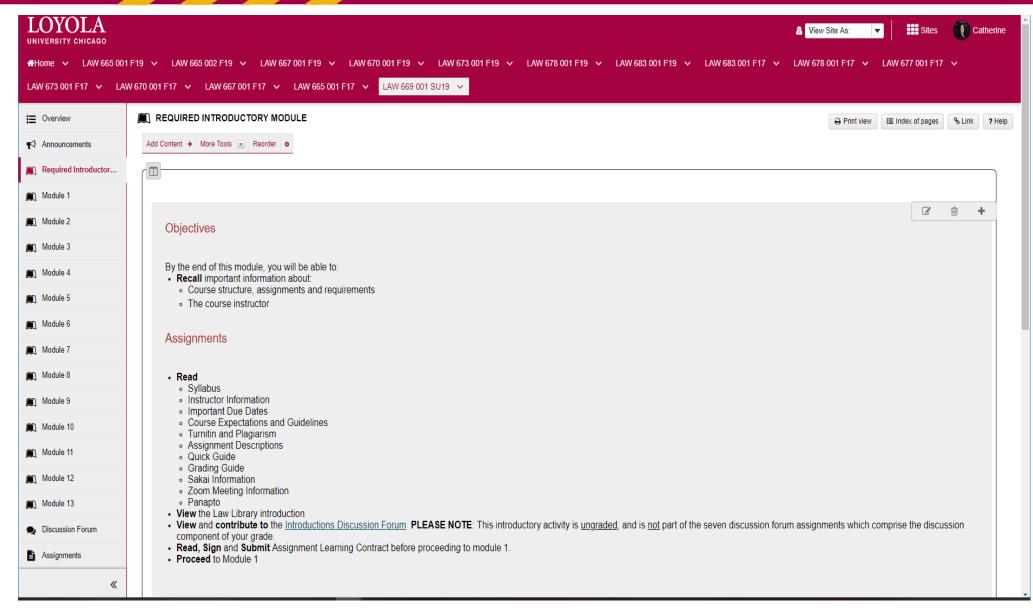
#### How Do I Learn Online?

# Online courses at Loyola are divided into learning modules that may consist of:

- Reading Assignments
- Audio Lectures
- Writing Assignments
- Quizzes
- Discussion Forums
- VoiceThreads
- Live, Synchronous Classes

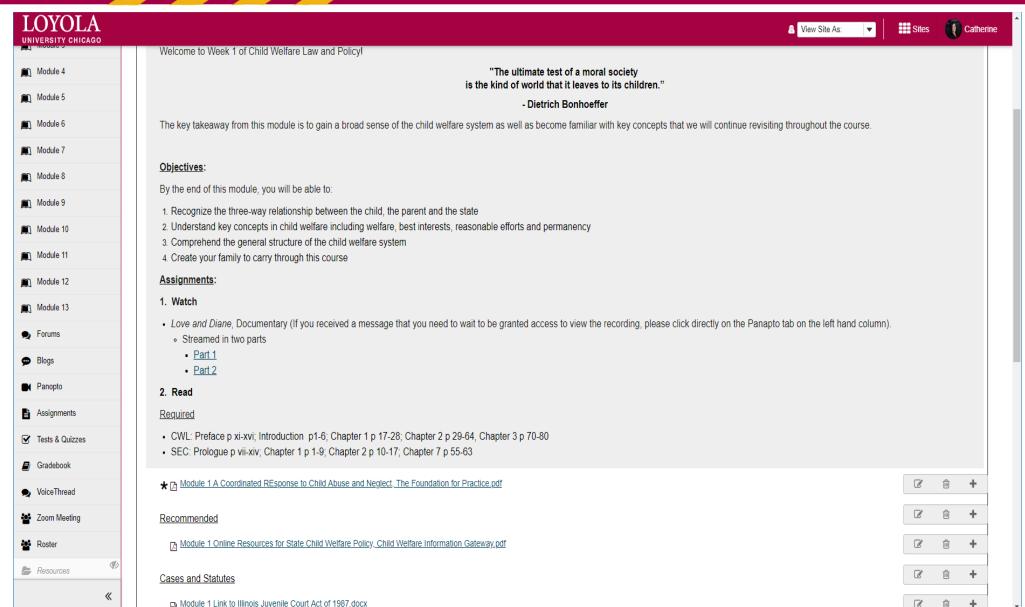


### Online Module Sample





#### Online Modules





Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

### Learning On Site: MJ EIWs

Loyola holds one **Education Immersion Weekend** at Loyola's Water Tower Campus in Chicago each year.

- CASA/GAL students in the certificate program may attend this weekend
- Travel costs of attending are the student's responsibility
- At the Education Immersion Weekends, students will:
  - Reinforce online learning objectives and foster communication between students and faculty
  - Workshop their thesis/capstone topics and present finished products to faculty committees
  - Attend presentations by national child welfare and legal experts
  - Recognize graduating students
  - Socialize with students, faculty and alumni





# How Do I Apply?



#### Admission Requirements

#### Requirements:

- Must hold a minimum of a BS/BA degree from accredited university/college
- Must have 2 years experience working with families/children
  - Experience may be volunteer, internship or employment
- Must be a current paid employee of a CASA/GAL member program
  - May be a local or state program director
  - May be a CASA/GAL staff member that meets criteria



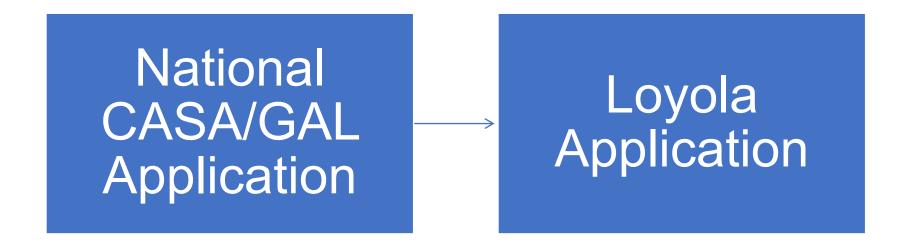
#### **Grant Opportunity**

#### National CASA/GAL grant opportunity:

- Up to 12 students accepted for 2021
- Grant will cover the cost of tuition for the certificate program
- Grant will cover cost of books up to \$200
- Grant will be administered by the local/state CASA/GAL program









#### Steps of the Grant Process

- 1. Application release
- 2. 4 weeks later National CASA/GAL application deadline
- 3. 2+ weeks later Application notifications sent
- 4. April 15 Loyola program application deadline
- 5. May 17 Summer semester begins
- 6. September 13 Fall semester begins



#### National CASA/GAL Application

#### National CASA/GAL Application:

- Online form
- Completed by state or local CASA/GAL director regardless of applicant
- Requires a short paragraph from prospective student
- Reviewed by National CASA/GAL team
- If accepted, move onto the Loyola application



#### Loyola Application

Loyola Application (completed after notification from National CASA/GAL):

- Online application form completed by prospective student
  - Transcripts from all colleges or universities attended
  - Two letters of recommendation
  - A statement of how participation in this program will impact your work
  - An updated resume listing relevant work (paid or volunteer)
- Deadline for the Loyola application:
  - April 15



#### Process and Additional Information

- Loyola has final decision on acceptance into the program and will notify applicants
- After notification of acceptance from Loyola, National CASA/GAL grant team will process grant with local or state CASA/GAL organization
- Loyola will provide information directly to the student on getting started in the program
- FAQ, informational flyer and application appear in the grants area of the member portal of the CASA/GAL website



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