

Barton Child Law and Policy Center at Emory University School of Law

Key Personnel

Randee Waldman, JD, rwaldm2@emory.edu

Policy Center Clinical Law Professor and Supervising Attorney

Melissa Carter, JD, melissa.d.carter@emory.edu

Policy Center Clinical Law Professor and Supervising Attorney

Sarah Y. Vinson, MD, svinson@msm.edu

Clinical Attending (Remote)

Location

1784 N. Decatur Road Ste. 100, Atlanta, GA 30322

Frequency and Duration

1 day per week, for three (3) months (January-March) during the fellowship's second academic year for advocacy and variable hours during the fellowship's second academic year for forensic consultation.

Overview

CAP Fellows will be at the Barton Child Law and Policy Center for two rotations, one for legal consult and the other for advocacy.

The legal consult rotation involves working with various aspects of legal and court systems involved with children, adolescents, and families. The child residents work with personnel associated with the DeKalb County Juvenile Court and Emory Law's Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic director and attorney Randee Waldman, law students, and the supervising faculty, Sarah Vinson. The resident will attend the semester clinical orientation and various legal activities throughout the semester. During their time, they will also complete at least one forensic evaluation. Activities may include participation/observation of manifestation hearings, juvenile delinquency court proceedings, or individualized educational plan meetings. The advocacy rotation involves working with lobbyists, physician advocates, nonprofit advocacy organizations, and state legislators to design and advance policies impacting children, adolescents, and families. The schedule is one day per week for 3 months and may include additional activities such as observing testimony before state legislative committees. There is scheduled monthly supervision with Dr. Vinson as well as additional consultation as needed.

Specific Activities

Forensic Rotation - Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic/ DeKalb County Juvenile Court

- Forensic psychiatric evaluation of youth as appropriate with recommendations to the Juvenile Defender Clinic legal team
- Participation in the work and various activities of the Juvenile Defender Clinic attorney and law students
- Observation of and participation in juvenile court proceedings as appropriate
- Attendance at Juvenile Defender Clinic weekly clinic meetings and individual case supervision meetings, time to be determined, as possible
- Attendance, as fellows' clinical duties and service demands permit, at court, interviews in the client's home, IEP meetings, etc.
- During the rotation, residents should coordinate with Attorney Waldman to attend
 - at least one IEP meeting
 - one morning observing juvenile court in DeKalb county
 - a "Know Your Rights" Educational Session
- During the rotation, residents should meet with
 - additional stakeholders in the juvenile court process, including a probation officer, a district attorney, and / or a judge.
- At the beginning of the law school semester during which the fellow is assigned to the juvenile defender clinic, the child resident rotating at the Juvenile Defender Clinic that semester should attend the clinic orientation that Randee Waldman holds for the incoming Juvenile Defender Clinic Law Students
- Variable activities depending on Dr. Vinson's schedule and activities
 - Possible activities include custody, mitigation or competency evaluations, preparing for litigation, and reviewing juvenile facilities or other child forensic activities. Each fellow is expected to participate in at least one forensic evaluation during the academic year.

Advocacy Rotation – Barton Legislative Advocacy Clinic

- Participation in briefings regarding state legislation impacting children and families with Barton Child Law and Policy Center legislative team
- Participation in the work and various activities of the Barton Center faculty, fellows and law students
- Observation of and participation in state legislative proceedings
- Attendance at weekly clinic meeting each Friday from 8:30-10:00 in the Barton Center conference room, as possible
- During the rotation, residents should coordinate with the child forensic fellow and Prof. Carter to attend
 - at least one GA state legislature subcommittee and/or committee meeting
- During the rotation, residents should meet with

- Lobbyists from the Georgia Psychiatric Physician's Association

Expected Prior Information/ Abilities

Knowledge/ Skills

- Basic understanding of the state juvenile justice and child welfare systems
- Basic understanding of the state legislative system
- Ability to perform a clinical psychiatric assessment of children, adolescents and families
- Basic understanding of and ability to use DSM V classification & psychiatric disorders of children and adolescents
- Basic understanding of and ability to use pharmacological, therapeutic, and psychosocial psychiatric interventions for youth and families
- Basic understanding of and ability to negotiate systems of care relevant to children, adolescents and families

Goals

Medical Knowledge

- Expand and broaden knowledge of children, adolescents and families involved in juvenile court or forensic systems and the frequently encountered psychiatric diagnosis
- Expand and broaden knowledge of the prevalence of trauma in juvenile justice involved youth
- Learn about the manifestations of trauma and how they place youth at increased risk of juvenile justice system involvement
- Learn the basics of providing consultation and liaison services in juvenile court or forensic systems

Patient Care

- Learn about the impact of unmet educational needs on psychiatric symptoms and the presentation of psychiatric illness in children and adolescents with mental illness and learning and or developmental disorders
- Learn juvenile justice/ forensic related consultation and liaison skills

Interpersonal Skills and Communication

- Tailor psychiatric assessment and documentation skills for juvenile court and defense attorney consultations
- Learn how to conduct and document a child forensic assessment
- Learn how to communicate information regarding psychiatrist illness and symptoms in children and adolescents to court personnel
- Learn skills for effectively communicating with legislators regarding the impact of legislation on the mental health of children

- Learn how to effectively interact with representatives of the legal and legislative systems such as lobbyists, community advocates, legislators, defense and prosecution attorneys, and judges
- Give feedback to judges and juvenile court personnel
- Learn about skills in presenting to state legislators for the purposes of child advocacy
- Work effectively with children advocacy organizations to provide quality presentations and advocacy materials to inform legislation
- Work effectively with child defense attorneys to provide high-quality consultation and liaison services
- Demonstrate leadership skills in working with multidisciplinary groups

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

- Demonstrate initiative and consistency in learning through required and independent educational activities

Professionalism

- Exhibit attitudes and behaviors consistent with the roles and responsibilities of a child and adolescent psychiatrist
- Develop positive working relationships with legal and legislative team members
- Acquire the competencies to be an engaged professional

Systems-Based Care

- Learn about consultation with juvenile courts, defense attorneys and other individuals working in forensic and juvenile justice systems
- Obtain an understanding of processes and structure of juvenile court, legal and forensic systems
- Obtain an understanding of processes and structure of the Georgia state legislative system
- Learn about the major child advocacy organizations operating in the state of Georgia
- Improve skills in advocating for children, adolescents and families with juvenile justice system and/or child welfare system involvement
- Improve skills for tracking and evaluating policies with potential impacts on children's mental well being
- Improve skills in advocating for improvements in systems that impact the mental well-being of children and families
- To learn about the relationship between mental health care access in the community to child welfare and juvenile justice system involvement
- To understand the role of education and the unique, scholastic challenges of children and adolescents with learning, emotional and behavioral problems
- To understand the interplay between school advocacy and risk for juvenile justice system involvement and/or recidivism
- Obtain a better understanding of how systems such as juvenile court, juvenile justice, and child protective services work

Assessment

- Faculty observation of verbal forensic consultation and advocacy skills
- Review of forensic evaluations
- Faculty reviews of fellows' ability to establish working relationships with legal teams and/or legislators and lobbyists
- Faculty evaluations

Location/ Directions

Forensic and DeKalb Juvenile Court Assessments and Supervision

Emory Briarcliff Campus, Building A, 3rd floor, South wing

Barton Center Activities

Emory Law School Building (*Note: the Barton Center offices are located at 1784 N. Decatur Road in suite 100, not the main law school building (Gambrell Hall)), Georgia State Capitol, DeKalb County Juvenile Court, and other locations depending on the case

References

Martin A & Volkmar F (eds). (2007). Lewis's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry A Comprehensive Textbook, 4th edition, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia.

Dulcan M. (2015). Dulcan's Textbook of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc, Washington DC.