

# DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCATES

## Felicia Beth Nekritz Juvenile Law Fellowship at Capital University Law School

Make a difference in the lives of at-risk children forever  
Invest in a Fellow today

Many factors place juveniles at risk of involvement with our nation's delinquency court systems, including child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, mental health needs, and educational issues. Enlightened policies and excellent advocacy are crucial for youths who enter our nation's juvenile justice systems. Without early intervention and effective response, delinquents who become repeat offenders are likely to commit progressively more serious crimes and become involved with the criminal justice system as adults.

Well-trained, highly qualified child advocates, agency counsel, government attorneys, and juvenile judges can **make all the difference** between a youth's successful transition into adulthood and a youth's continued struggle in the system.<sup>1</sup>

### A SNAPSHOT OF OUR NATION'S AT-RISK KIDS & YOUTH

#### Each day in the United States:

- 3,477 juveniles are arrested<sup>2</sup>
- 155 juveniles are arrested for violent crimes
- 296 juveniles are arrested for drug crimes

In 2006, juveniles accounted for **17% of all violent crime** arrests and **26% of all property crime** arrests<sup>3</sup>

**1 in 8 violent crimes** were attributed to juveniles

Nearly **900,000 children** per year have confirmed cases of abuse or neglect<sup>2</sup>

Over **500,000 children** are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect

An abused or neglected child is **53% more likely to be arrested as a youth** and **38% more likely to commit a violent crime**<sup>4</sup>



Successful outcomes and futures for these children and youth are dependent on talented and dedicated legal professionals acting in all capacities within our child welfare and juvenile justice systems.



<sup>1</sup> National Resource Center for Youth Development 2004 *Improving Outcomes for Older Youth: What judges and attorneys need to know*

<sup>2</sup> Children's Defense Fund, March 2008

<sup>3</sup> November 2008 Juvenile Justice Bulletin, Office of Justice Programs of the US Department of Justice

<sup>4</sup> Prevent Child Abuse New York 2003 *The Costs of Child Abuse and the Urgent Need for Prevention*

# WHY THE NEKRITZ JUVENILE LAW FELLOWSHIP?

**“The number one barrier to effective representation is inadequate training.”**

*2004 Pew Commission Report*

## A DEMANDING PROFESSION THAT REQUIRES WELL-TRAINED ATTORNEYS

- According to a study by the American Bar Association, **one of the major systemic barriers to attracting and keeping talented lawyers** in the child welfare and juvenile fields is the **lack of practice-specific training, both at the law school and practice levels.**
- According to a Pew Commission report, many children and parents in the foster care system never receive adequate, timely and consistent legal representation.

## TALENTED LAW STUDENTS ARE NEEDED & YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL

- Across the country, high student loan debt, large caseloads, and under-compensation discourage attorneys from entering or remaining in this field. As a result, the child welfare and juvenile sectors experience high attorney turnover and increased professional burnout.
- **The return on your investment in a Fellowship will be significant both to the quality of the profession and the financial future of the Fellow.** Today’s law school student graduates on average with \$76,000 in loans. Your contribution to a Fellow’s \$15,000 scholarship will save that student at least \$37,500 in loan repayment after graduation.

Capital University Law School and the National Center for Adoption Law & Policy are proud to offer a competitive Fellowship in the area of juvenile law to train future law students in this demanding practice field.



### FELICIA BETH NEKRITZ JUVENILE LAW FELLOWSHIP

Felicia Beth Nekritz, L’96, was committed to helping juvenile offenders through her work at the Office of the Ohio Public Defender. The Felicia Beth Nekritz Juvenile Law Fellowship was established in her memory to assist students who share her vision for improving the lives of juveniles through prevention and intervention, policy and systemic improvement efforts, as well as the provision of direct services for at-risk youth.

Fellowship Benefits: \$5,000 annual academic merit scholarship, funded summer work opportunities, paid faculty research assistantship, and conference stipends

*The Fellowship Program is administered and supported by the National Center for Adoption Law & Policy  
Learn more about this Fellowship at [www.law.capital.edu/ncalpfellowships](http://www.law.capital.edu/ncalpfellowships)*

**This Fellowship advances Capital University Law School’s strategic plan and the mission of the National Center for Adoption Law & Policy (NCALP)**

- It encourages the pursuit of public interest work and pro bono service while also promoting a law school community committed to philanthropy.
- It enhances the Law School’s growing reputation as a leader in child and family law and attracts top students interested in these practice areas.
- It is an essential component of NCALP’s commitment to training current and future attorneys so that they have the skills and tools necessary to help children, families, and child-serving agencies.