

The law school is beginning a new partnership with the Children and Family Law Program (CAFL) of the Massachusetts public counsel's office. This partnership is designed resolve an attorney shortage in Western Massachusetts that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court has a called a constitutional crisis. Students who participate in the program will be eligible for expedited placement on CAFL's private counsel panel so that they can begin practice soon after learning their bar exam results. Students may be eligible for post-graduation fellowships in the local CAFL office, or employment with local private attorneys during the period between taking the bar exam and finding out bar results.

Students who want to participate in this program must successfully complete:

- Constitutional Law
- Evidence
- Family Law
- Child, Family, and State
- Trial Methods OR
an in-court externship, internship, or clinic in which the student represents clients in court and is SJC 3:03 certified (If 3:03 certified in the last semester of their senior year, student will be able to continue their 3:03 certification until the announcement of the bar examination results.)
- Law Office Management
- A planned post-bar fellowship with a CAFL trial office or private attorney

Examples of qualifying clinic or externship/internship:

- Criminal Prosecution Clinic
- Criminal Defense Practicum
- Legal Aid Clinic
- Externship or internship requiring 3:03 certification (i.e. CPCS—CAFL Program-Springfield; CPCS-Youth Advocacy Division-Springfield; CPCS District Court Criminal Defense-Springfield and Northampton).