

family. health. education.

Children's Law Center works to give every child in the District of Columbia a solid foundation of family, health, and education. Children's Law Center challenges a bureaucratic system that can get in the way of a child's basic needs: access to school, necessary medical care, and a permanent, loving family.



Our children come to us with problems that shouldn't need a lawyer. Landlords *should* clean up mold before it aggravates a child's asthma. Schools *should* provide the right accommodations for special needs students. The government *should* guarantee children don't languish in foster care. But in today's world it often takes the threat of legal action to make sure these things happen. Last year, Children's Law Center helped more than 5,000 children and their families. Armed with this experience, we press for changes in laws and policies to benefit all of DC's children and families.

We've multiplied our impact by partnering with thousands of other professionals across the city. We train and mentor lawyers from the city's most prestigious law firms to serve as pro bono attorneys for vulnerable children. We work directly with pediatricians to find legal remedies to health issues. And we teach parents and caregivers how to advocate for their children. Together, we protect and defend the whole child.

Our Agenda

family

Family is the center of a child's life. CLC lawyers represent children's best interests—and help them achieve their best chance at a safe, loving family. Appointed by the court, CLC attorneys are always on the child's side, whether that child is in court because of abuse or neglect or because of a custody battle. CLC lawyers also represent foster parents, grandparents, and other caregivers who are trying to provide a forever family for one of the hundreds of foster children in DC.

health

Health concerns—physical, mental, and emotional—take a great toll on children in all aspects of their lives. Asthma attacks aggravated by roaches, rats, or mold at home have sent dozens of our children to the emergency room when they should be in the classroom. The trauma of child abuse often leads to mental health issues, which can fester undiagnosed for years and then cause crises. CLC attorneys work in partnership with pediatricians—literally next door to examining rooms at Children's National Medical Center and Mary's Center—to find and fix the root cause of a child's health problem.

education

Education opens doors of opportunity but school can be hard for children with physical, learning, or emotional disabilities. The school system often ignores problems rather than solving them. CLC lawyers are experts in DC school policies and education law. They know what the legal requirements are, who is responsible for meeting them, and how to press for action. CLC holds the school system accountable and helps children get the education they deserve.

About Our Organization

Judith Sandalow has served as CLC's executive director since 2000. **CLC's board of directors** draws its members from the fields of law, policy, business, and philanthropy. Former board members continue their association with CLC through our emeritus board and members of our advisory board personally connect CLC to law firms across the city.

CLC has been recognized both locally and nationally. For making the nation's capital a safer place for children, CLC received the Mayor's Community Service Award; for her leadership and ability to create lasting change in the community, Judith Sandalow received the Meyer Foundation's Exponent Award; and for creating a positive and effective work environment that allows CLC to recruit and retain high-quality staff, CLC was named by *The NonProfit Times* as one of the Top 50 Nonprofits to Work for Nationwide.

Supporters include The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, DC Bar Foundation, Freddie Mac Foundation, and Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation. CLC also receives significant support from law firms throughout the Washington metropolitan area as well as from many individual donors. CLC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Visit www.childrenslawcenter.org to learn more.