

**THE ALAN LERNER EXTERNSHIP IN CHILD WELFARE POLICY:  
A COLLABORATION BETWEEN PENN LAW & THE FIELD CENTER FOR  
CHILDREN'S POLICY, PRACTICE & RESEARCH**

**Overview**

The Alan Lerner Externship in Child Welfare Policy honors the legacy of Professor Alan M. Lerner, a pioneer in child advocacy lawyering. The externship allows a talented second or third year law student to engage in research and advocacy projects focusing on children and families. The Field Center is a vibrant collaboration of faculty, staff, and students from the University of Pennsylvania's Schools of Social Policy & Practice (SP2), Law, Nursing and Medicine, Graduate School of Education and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The Center brings together multidisciplinary scholarship, research and advocacy in support of improving the overall well-being of children and families.

The Externship will afford the selected student an opportunity to work with Professor Finck, Director of the Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic and an interdisciplinary team of scholars, practitioners, and graduate students through the Field Center on national public policy issues affecting the welfare of children and families.

**Details:** The Externship will be offered in the Fall of 2022. ***Please note that due to Covid-19, the Field Center is prepared to have a student work remotely if the need arises.*** Interested students must submit a completed application on or before **11 AM on May 10, 2022.** The Fellow will be notified prior to the close of advanced registration. Upon successful completion of responsibilities, the Fellow will be awarded four academic credits in the fall semester. The Fellow will meet biweekly with Professor Finck, as part of the externship program

The Fellow will engage in research and writing in an area of child advocacy and policy on a topic chosen in conjunction with the faculty supervisor. The Fellow will meet with Field Center staff and faculty supervisor(s) on a weekly basis to discuss progress on the Fellow's

projects and to receive guidance in reflective learning from the fellowship experience. The Fellow is encouraged to attend the Field Center's team meetings with interdisciplinary faculty whenever possible. Though not required, the Fellow is encouraged to take a related class at SP2 and will be given registration priority for this purpose to the extent permitted by institutional rules and requirements.

**Application:**

- (1) A resume and (unofficial) transcript.
- (2) A brief statement of not more than one single spaced typed pages describing the applicant's interest in child and family advocacy; any courses, work experiences, volunteer efforts, or other experiences that demonstrate the applicant's interest and commitment; and a description of the applicant's professional goals.
- (3) A brief statement of not more than one single spaced typed pages on the applicant's vision for the role of interdisciplinary practice among law, social work, education and medicine in shaping reforms in child related policy.

**All application materials shall be submitted electronically to [externships@law.upenn.edu](mailto:externships@law.upenn.edu) no later than 11 AM on May 10, 2022.**