

Plan Your Own Path

FAMILY LAW

This guide is arranged by the three crucial sides of the triangle.

TRADITIONAL TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

Enroll in foundational courses during your second year, such as:

- Children and the Law
- Evidence
- Family Law
- Professional Responsibility
- Texas Matrimonial Property

During your 2L and 3L

CLIENT-CENTERED RELATIONAL SKILLS AND PROBLEM SOLVING

Thoughtfully evaluate experiential opportunities. These are excellent ways for you to cultivate superior client focus, innovative problem-solving, and effective communication skills.

- **Externships:** These externships are offered through the Government and Public Interest Externship Program (includes classroom component)
 - Attorney General of Texas – Child Support Division
 - CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates
 - Genesis Women’s Shelter and Support
 - Hope’s Door New Beginning Center
 - Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas
 - Lone Star Legal Aid
 - Mosaic Family Services
 - Texas Lawyers for Children
 - Texas Legal Services Center
 - Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- **Clinics:**
 - Child Advocacy Clinic
 - Family Law Clinic
 - Crimes Against Women Clinic

Be sure to work closely with your Office of Career Services advisors to obtain additional experiences (internships, judicial clerkships, public service opportunities) to grow your knowledge and skills in this area.

OWNERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPETENCIES

Experiences beyond the formal curriculum are vital to your professional growth. Aim to acquire experiences that closely replicate as much as possible the work lawyers engage in within the family law space.

- **Student Organizations:** Commit yourself to relevant, on-campus organizations and actively pursue leadership, project management, and teamwork opportunities within the organization.
 - Family Law Association
- **Public Service Opportunities:** These pre-approved placements at 501(c)(3) organizations and government offices may provide you additional perspectives that are valuable to your career development
 - Attorney General of Texas – Child Support Division
 - CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates
 - Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program
 - Genesis Women’s Shelter and Support
 - Hope’s Door New Beginning Center

Houston Volunteer Lawyer Program
Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas
Lone Star Legal Aid
Mosaic Family Services
Texas Lawyers for Children
Texas Legal Services Center
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

- **Board of Advocates:**

- **Law Journals:**

Author a note or comment on a family law topic and seek to have it published in one of our journals or elsewhere

- **Dallas Bar Association Section E-2 (Professional Development Committee)**