

Starting Your Career in....

Family Law/Child Advocacy

1. Tailor your academic work: take courses such as Family Law, Child Custody & Visitation Law, Children and the Law, Family Law Practice Seminar, Basic Federal Income Taxation, Negotiation for Lawyers, and Mediation.
2. Revise your resume to focus on relevant experience:
 - Volunteer experience (working with children, counseling domestic violence victims, DSS case reviewer)
 - Add undergraduate minors or concentrations if in a relevant area of study (psychology, social work, counseling)
 - Previous work experience (counseling, teaching, crisis center work)
3. Consider taking an accounting class to learn about financial statement basics.
4. Participate in competitions: ABA's Negotiation Competition or Client Counseling Competition.
5. Become involved in professional organizations: Family Law Sections of the ABA, MBA and BBA.
6. Read publications with a focus on family law: *Family Law Quarterly*, *Family Advocate* (both published by the ABA Family Law Section).
7. Attend relevant seminars, conferences and CLE courses.
8. Write a note for a journal or an article for a writing competition.
9. Participate in a clinical course: Family Advocacy Clinic, Battered Women's Advocacy Program, Juvenile Justice Clinic.
10. Volunteer – Join Shelter Legal Services, begin GAL work on your own or through CASA of Boston, become a volunteer case reviewer for DSS.
11. Learn helpful computer programs such as *LegalEase*.
12. Work part-time during the school year to gain additional experience.
13. Work as a judicial intern for a Probate & Family Court Justice.
14. Speak with professors who have practiced in this area to learn more about their experience.
15. Network! Speak to alumni and others about their careers. Make use of the Alumni Career Network and the SULS Alumni Directory.