

**Cheryl Prestenback Buchert**  
**Clinical Professor of Law Emerita**  
**Loyola University College of Law**  
**Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice**  
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## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Admitted to Practice Law in the State of Louisiana - April 1994**

### **EDUCATION**

**Loyola University School of Law**, New Orleans, Louisiana  
*Juris Doctor*, December 1993

#### Activities

Law Clinic, Summer and Fall 1993  
Law Student Division of American Bar Association, 1990-1993  
Volunteer with Income Tax Assistance Program, 1992  
Student Participant in NITA Deposition Program, 1992

**University of New Orleans**, New Orleans, Louisiana  
*Master of Education Degree*, August 1990

#### Honors and Activities

Alpha Theta Epsilon Honor Society  
Phi Delta Kappa Honor Society  
Graduate Assistant for Project IMPACT, 1988-1990

**Loyola University**, New Orleans, Louisiana  
*Bachelor of Science in Education*

#### Honors and Activities

Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society  
Cardinal Key National Honor Society  
Reporter for Student Newspaper, The Maroon  
Cheerleader Captain  
Member of Sorority - Sigma, Sigma, Sigma

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

**Cheryl P. Buchert, Attorney at Law**, Metairie, Louisiana, *Sole Practitioner*  
Family Law and Successions (1994 – present)

**Clinical Professor of Law Emerita**

**Loyola University New Orleans College of Law**, New Orleans, Louisiana

2016 - Present

Clinical Professor of Law, 2011-2016

Associate Professor, 2007-2011

Assistant Professor, 2005-2007

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2002-2005

Taught Law and Poverty: Social Justice Lawyering (Spring 2024 and Spring 2025)

**Supervisor of Loyola Law Clinic's Family Law Section**

August 1, 2002 – July 31, 2023

-Supervised senior law student practitioners in the Family Law Section of Loyola's Law Clinic in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Plaquemines, and St. Charles Parish Courts. (Fall 2002 through Fall 2023)

-Represented over 700 indigent clients in law clinic cases.

-Supervised the representation of over 100 children in court appointed custody cases. (2003-2023)

-Partnered with Families Helping Families by representing parents with special needs children between the ages of 15 and 17 by filing for Continuing Tutorships. (Spring 2015 -Summer 2023)

-Supervised the representation of interdicts in Interdiction cases. (2008-2023)

-Supervised the representation of three young girls in a nonparent custody case with allegations of drug abuse and domestic violence. After 13 scheduled trial dates, the nonparents dismissed their intervention. The student practitioners gave opening statements and closing arguments, qualified the child custody expert witness, actively participated in all court conferences and pre-trial conferences, elicited testimony from the litigants, and admitted exhibits. The students logged over 1,000 hours. (Spring 2022 – Spring 2023)

-Supervised the representation of a young teenager in a grandparent custody and abuse case. The student practitioners were successful in gaining a permanent protective order

for the child against the abuser. (Fall 2021 – Spring 2023)

-Supervised a custody case in St. Tammany Parish. Hurricane Ida made landfall on August 29, 2021, leaving a wake of devastation and destruction in Southeastern Louisiana. Not only were homes lost and families displaced, but the Hurricane gave rise to a multitude of child custody issues and family law disputes exacerbated by evacuations out of state, lack of resources, and minimal contact between parents. A Mother retained the Family Law Clinic in early September whose daughter was taken out of state during the Hurricane Ida evacuation by her father. The Clinic filed a petition to establish custody on behalf of the client, and prayed for the immediate return of the child, as a repercussion for the father's violation of the Louisiana Relocation Statutes. Under the Relocation Statutes, improper relocation, including failure to provide notice of a proposed relocation of a child, is grounds for immediate return of the child back to their home state and home parish. After multiple hearings, the Judge ordered the immediate return of the child to the State of Louisiana. After five months apart, the client and her daughter were finally reunited in Louisiana and are happy to be making memories together again. (Fall 2021 – Spring 2022)

-Partnered with Jefferson Parish Senior Services in providing legal assistance to senior citizens. (Fall 2021 – Spring 2022)

-Supervised Paternity case in both Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court and the 24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson. The Father of a minor child owed over \$ 10,000 in child support arrears when he found out that he was not the biological father. A DNA paternity test confirmed that he was not the father. The clinic obtained a Judgment of Non-Paternity and had his child support obligation terminated. (Spring 2020)

-Supervised two Post Hurricane Katrina-Louisiana Road Home cases and successfully resolved the issues in the 2020 Spring Semester, almost fifteen years after Hurricane Katrina. One client began receiving letters and notices in August 2013 from the State of Louisiana stating that he was overpaid \$ 23,000.00 and must repay the money. For years, the student practitioners corresponded with the attorneys for Office of Community Development-Disaster Recovery Unit and researched and reviewed hundreds of pages of documents. A year ago, a student noticed discrepancies with the original FEMA documents that used inaccurate building and contents coverage dollar amounts and reported the misinformation. Finally, in 2020, the law firm handling the collection of overpayments acknowledged the error and closed the recovery file, thus ending the Road Home nightmare for our client. In our second Louisiana Road Home case, the Family Law Section, in early 2018, collaborated with Clinical Professor Davida Finger and the Community Justice Section in a case involving a proof of ownership issue for our client. The State wanted \$ 86,000.00 back from our client. The student practitioners filed suit

and were successful at trial. Finally, in 2020, all paperwork is completed and the Road Home nightmare for our client will be ended. (Fall 2013 - Spring 2020)

-Supervised student practitioners representing a child in a grandparent visitation case on appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. The students filed a brief and orally argued the case. The Fifth Circuit affirmed the 24th Judicial District Court's judgment which was the clinic's position and remanded to set the visitation terms. Previously, student practitioners filed two legal memorandums and orally argued twice before the district judge and won both arguments on the correct law and the legal standard of proof (preponderance of the evidence versus clear and convincing) to be used in trial. The students also examined and cross-examined many witnesses including qualifying the expert during a three day trial. (Spring 2018 - Fall 2019)

-Supervised the representation of a minor child in a three day grandparent visitation trial. The student practitioners made seven court appearances including a hearing officer conference, status conference, two days of oral arguments, and the three day trial. The students also wrote and filed two Legal Memorandums on the appropriate law and the proper standard of proof. (Spring 2018)

-Supervised the representation of a special needs minor child in a two day non-parent custody trial. (Spring 2018)

-Supervised the representation of minor children in a two day trial where the student practitioners examined five court appointed expert witnesses and the children's therapist. The Court conducted "Watermeier" hearings and rendered a Considered Decree at the end of trial with the Court awarding the Court domiciliary status of the children instead of the parents. This case took three years to complete with a total of ten clinic students throughout the years logging collectively over 700 hours. The landmark case, *Watermeier v. Watermeier*, defines how minor children are examined by the Judge with the attorneys and court reporter present. (Fall 2014 - Spring 2017)

-Supervised the representation of a grandfather gaining visitation rights of his 2-year-old grandchild after her mother was shot and killed. (Spring 2017)

-Supervised the representation of a father where the law clinic was successful in gaining sole custody of his minor child. (Spring 2016)

-Supervised the representation of a three-year-old in a custody case. This case involved many issues, including, but not limited to, alleged domestic violence, alleged child abuse, and alleged inappropriate use of social media. The student practitioner appeared in court multiple times, filed a Legal Memorandum, and prepared a comprehensive superlative trial notebook. (Spring 2016)

-Supervised the representation of minor children in a five hour non-stop non-parent and parent custody contested trial with seven litigants. (Fall 2015)

-Supervised our first LGBT case in a full day custody trial. The student practitioners met the client, filed a legal memorandum, prepared for trial and went to trial in a week's time. They examined and cross-examined four witnesses including the expert witness, a custody evaluator, and gave a closing argument. (Spring 2015)

- Supervised the representation of a grandparent in a visitation case. Under LRS 9:344, a grandparent whose child is deceased may be awarded visitation with the grandchild. The student practitioners examined seven witnesses and won their case. (Spring 2015)

-Supervised the representation of a great grandmother in a Contempt of Court visitation hearing. The student practitioners negotiated a consent judgment and the contempt proceedings against their client were dismissed with prejudice. (Fall 2014)

-Supervised the representation of a ninety-one year old client in two civil cases, a contested succession and property partition, and was successful in not having the client evicted from her home. (Spring 2014)

-Supervised the representation of minor children with multiple parents in an eight hour grandparent custody trial. The student practitioners participated in two "Watermeier" hearings where the Judge interviewed two of the minor children. (Spring 2014)

-Supervised the representation of a mother and successfully obtained a judgment for their client in a custody and community property debt case. (Spring 2014)

-Supervised the representation of a wife where the student practitioners obtained a divorce and final periodic spousal support award for their client after a trial on the merits. (Spring 2014)

-Supervised the representation of a deployed Army soldier in Afghanistan in a military child custody case where the student practitioners were successful in gaining a custody order by using a Power of Attorney signed by the soldier in court the day before he deployed. (Spring and Fall 2013)

-Supervised the representation of a father and negotiated a complex relocation custody consent judgment for their client in a settlement conference with attorneys and clients on the eve of the mother moving to another state. (Fall 2013)

-Supervised the representation of non-parents in a custody trial that went to trial with seven attorneys and six witnesses where the mother was an invalid at a convalescent home. The student practitioners were able to overcome the high burden of proving that

joint or sole custody to either parent would result in substantial harm to the child, as per La. Civil Code article 133 and their clients were awarded sole custody. (Spring 2013)

-Supervised the representation of a young mother and successfully regained custody of the child for the mother after not having custody for over a year. (Fall 2012 - Spring 2013)

- Supervised the representation of a father and successfully gained provisional custody for their client in an interstate custody case pending DNA paternity testing results. (Fall 2012)

-Supervised the representation of a young father in a highly litigated custody case for two years. Against all odds, the student practitioners won the custody trial. Prior to the trial, a mental health professional examined the parents in a court ordered custody evaluation according with the best interests of the child factors. The student practitioners filed a Petition and numerous Motions; argued before the Court on their Motions; conducted formal discovery; prepared witness and exhibit lists; hosted numerous settlement conferences before the trial date; and prepared a trial notebook. At the trial, the students examined the father and cross examined the mother and the custody evaluator. Even though the custody evaluator testified that the mother should be designated the domiciliary parent, the Court granted our client domiciliary status of the parties' young child. This Judgment is a considered degree because a trial was conducted with the judge considering all evidence, including the testimony of the witnesses and exhibits offered into the court record. The Bergeron Standard is now applied to this case which means that the parent attempting to change custody in the future has the heavy burden of proving that the continuation of the present custody is so deleterious to the child as to justify a modification of the custody decree or proving by clear and convincing evidence that the harm likely to be caused by a change of custody is substantially outweighed by the advantages to the child. (Fall 2010 - Spring 2012)

-Supervised the first successful SIJS clinic case where our client, the mother, was awarded a custody judgment in the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court allowing her minor child to petition for "Special Immigrant Juvenile Status". The Immigration, Community Justice, and Family Law sections of Loyola Law Clinic collaborated to represent abused, neglected, and abandoned minors and their caretakers. Under a recently enacted federal law, there is protection for special immigrant children who face extreme hardships because of the acts of one or both parents. Federal law allows these immigrant children to begin the road to full U.S. citizenship. Law Clinic students worked for two years to research the law, interview the youth and their guardians, prepare pleadings, and represent the children and their caretakers in court. The minor had fled from El Salvador where he was abandoned by his father and harassed and abused by gang members in retaliation for refusing to join. Cheryl Buchert and student practitioner, Laken Davis,

spearheaded this first successful case. They collaborated with other student practitioners supervised by Professors Hiroko Kusuda and Davida Finger, Staff Attorney Laila Hlass, and Immigrant Outreach Coordinator Rebeca Zuniga-Hamlin. (Fall 2010 and Spring 2011)

-Supervised writing requirement of a law student at Loyola University College of Law. (Summer 2009)

-Supervised the filing and completion of the first “Contestation” case in the State of Louisiana, as provided by Louisiana Civil Code article 191, with student practitioner, Tiffany Crane, where the mother established that her former husband and legal father was not the father of the child and that her present husband is the biological father. (Spring 2008)

-Supervised independent studies courses at Loyola University School of Law for students. (Spring 2006 and Spring 2008)

-Assisted the Loyola Katrina Clinic and supervised non-clinic students in Katrina related family law and succession law cases. (May 2006 - May 2008)

-Founded the Loyola Katrina Advice Clinic in New Orleans and supervised student practitioners of the Loyola Katrina Advice Clinic and non-clinic law students on the Loyola Katrina Advice Team in New Orleans established to assist the community on Katrina issues. (January - May 2006)

-Assisted in preparing the Louisiana Hurricane Insurance Deadline Packet and Loyola Law Clinic Help Packet for sales Tax Refund. (Summer and Fall 2006).

-After Hurricane Katrina, assisted Law Clinic Director, Bill Quigley and Assistant Director, Ramona Fernandez in forming the Loyola Katrina Advice Clinic in Houston at the University of Houston Law Center after the Law School moved to Houston. (Fall 2005)

-Supervised law clinic students in assisting over 1,000 Louisiana evacuees at the Houston Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), Lone Star Legal Aid, and Houston Volunteer Lawyers’ Program with information and informal advocacy about issues including: family law, landlord-tenant, housing, consumer, bankruptcy, how to locate family members who were incarcerated and relocated, immigration, insurance, FEMA, social security, and replacing lost documents. (October - December 2005)

-Participated in the University of Houston Law Center “People’s Know Your Legal Rights” Day in Houston, Texas. (October 2005)

-Supervised the representation of a six-month-old child in a case that involved child abuse, an international child kidnapping, the FBI, the U.S. Marshalls, counterfeit money orders, bank fraud, a high speed car chase by police, and Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy. (Fall 2003 and Spring 2004)

### **Loyola University New Orleans School of Law**

*Law Clinic Student Practitioner*, Summer and Fall 1993

-Represented clients in cases and court appearances in Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, 24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court, and Orleans Parish Criminal Court.

-Prepared an appellate brief and successfully orally argued before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal in New Orleans, Louisiana.

### **PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS**

Authored the Family Law Chapter of the book, Louisiana Civil Practice Forms, Volume One, Chapter Two, published by Thomson Reuters. (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 Editions).

Coordinator and co-author of the Loyola Law Clinic Newsletter, Justice Journal, Volume One and Two, with Clinic Associate Director, Ramona Fernandez, and Student Practitioner, Rebecca deMahy. The newsletter was published to promote the work of the law clinic after Hurricane Katrina in Houston, Texas and back home in New Orleans. (Fall 2005 and Spring 2006)

### **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

*Student Practitioners and Court Appointments*

Clinical Professors Cheryl P. Buchert, Ramona G. Fernandez, and Tobie L. Tranchina, and 2023 Graduate Aspen Murphy, presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court attended by the Judges, Hearing Officers, and Commissioners. (August 2023)

*The Legal Issues of Special Needs Children and Continuing Tutorship*

Grand rounds presenter for the Ochsner Hospital Pediatric Department Continuing Medical Education. (CME) (May 2023)

*Representing Children in Child Custody Cases*

Presenter at the New Orleans Bar Association Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Seminar. (April 2023)

*What is A Continuing Tutorship and Does My Child Need One?*



Presenter at the Louisiana Families Helping Families Webinar on legal consequences, legal effects, and procedures to obtain a Continuing Tutorship. (Summer 2022)

*Louisiana Divorce Law Procedure*

Presenter at the Family and Divorce Mediation Training sponsored by the Loyola Advocacy Center and the Loyola University College of Law CLE Department. (Summer 2019, 2020 and 2021)

*Professional Skills for a Successful Legal Career*

Presenter at the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Office of Skills and Experiential Learning program on hints for a successful law practice and the professionalism needed to lay the proper foundation for a thriving legal career. (October 2017)

*Curatorships - Volunteers Assisting Clients When Adverse Party's Whereabouts Are Unknown*

Presenter at The Pro Bono Project sponsored Continuing Legal Education (CLE) and training for attorneys at the Louisiana State Bar Center. (August 2017)

*What Does Success Mean Throughout Each Year of Practice*

Presenter and panelist at the 1L Professionalism Convocation program at Loyola College of Law. (January 2017)

*Handling Child Support Matters for Re-Entry*

Co-presenter at the Louisiana Re-Entry Court Legal Pro Bono Program Continuing Legal Education (CLE) For Volunteers with Judge Bernadette D'Souza and Douglas Carey, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana. (December 2016)

*Professionalism In and Out of Court*

Presenter at the clinical administrators working group session during the 2016 Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Clinical Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. (May 2016)

*Child Advocacy and Lessons Learned from the Representation of Children*

Co-presenter with Professor Ramona Fernandez at the Public Interest Week on Children's Rights and Advocacy hosted by the Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law, Gillis Long Poverty Center, Office of Skills and Experiential Learning, and Loyola Public Interest Law Group. (February 2016)

*Recent Developments in Louisiana Family Law Cases*

Presenter at the 2015 Annual Family Law Conference and Continuing Legal Education Program sponsored by Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in Metairie, Louisiana. Brittany N. Legeai, a 4L student and clinic student practitioner in the Children's Rights section, assisted with the research and co-presented. (November 2015)

*Maintaining the Gold Standard: Preserving Live-Client Clinics in the New Normal*

Presenter at a concurrent session during the 2015 Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Clinical Conference in Rancho Mirage, California with Professors Judson Mitchell, Christine Cerniglia Brown, Majeeda Snead, Ramona Fernandez, Hiroko Kusuda and Janet Heppard, Clinic Director and Professor at the University of Houston Law Center. (May 2015)

*Practitioners on Different Pathways for Success*

Presenter and panel moderator at the 1L Professionalism Convocation at Loyola College of Law. (January 2015)

*Life Balance*

Presenter at the Externship Program on implementing Life Balance techniques to ensure success in practice. (June 2014)

*How to Draft A Divorce Petition In Louisiana*

Presenter at the Externship Program on Advanced Writing Skills. (June 2014)

*Louisiana Divorce, Spousal Support, and Community Property*

Presenter at the Mediation Institute's Family and Divorce Mediation Training and CLE Program in Metairie, Louisiana. Family Law student practitioner, Jonah Freedman, co-presented on tax consequences, asset valuations, and retirement plans in the "Louisiana Community Property" segment with Buchert. Freedman is a Certified Financial Planner, Stockbroker, and Financial Analyst. (September 2013)

*Louisiana Child Custody and Child Support*

Presenter at the Mediation Institute's Family and Divorce Mediation Training and CLE Program in Metairie, Louisiana. (September 2013)

*How To Be Successful While Balancing Family and the Law*

Speaker at the Association of Women Law Students luncheon. (March 2013)

*Louisiana Substantive Family Law*

Presenter at the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans CLE program for the Orleans Parish Self-Help Resource Center orientation for judges and attorneys in collaboration with the Louisiana State Bar Association. (November 2012)

*Louisiana Child Support: An Overview*

Presenter at Advanced Divorce Mediation” Continuing Legal Education Program at Loyola College of Law. (July 2012)

*Self Help Resource Center (SHRC) at Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans*

Presenter at the Jefferson Parish Family Law Association at the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Courthouse. The SHRC is a legal information resource for pro se litigants. (April 2012)

*Child Representation: Best Interest Attorney versus Child’s Attorney - Two Distinct Roles of Lawyers for Children*

Co-presenter with Professor Ramona Fernandez at the Jefferson Parish Family Law Association at the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Courthouse. (April 2012)

*Veterans Know Your Family Law Rights*

Presenter at Loyola College of Law. The student practitioners answered questions on family law issues and drafted Wills and Powers of Attorney for military veterans. (January and February 2012)

*Public Interest Careers*

Co-presenter with Professors Ramona Fernandez and R. Judson Mitchell sponsored by Loyola College of Law’s Office of Career Service and Career Development Series. (September 2011)

*The Power and Pitfalls of Collaborative Clinical Pedagogy: A Case Study from Family and Immigration Law Sections*

Co-presenter with Hiroko Kusuda, Davida Finger, and Laila Hlass, at the Southern Clinical Conference at the University of Alabama School of Law in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. (August 2011)

*Fighting for the Legal Rights of New Orleans Residents after Hurricane Katrina*

Co-presenter with Clinical Professors Hiroko Kusuda, and Judson Mitchell during a roundtable discussion with four visiting Japanese professors of law and planning and an architecture and a Kobe University doctoral student visiting from Japan. The Japanese professors had been active in supporting residents’ needs after the 1995 Kobe earthquake and planning for future disaster recovery needs in Japan. The purpose of the New Orleans trip was to understand housing and land use

issues faced by residents after Katrina and the legal and advocacy work related to these issues. (February 2011)

*Voluntary Transfers of Custody in Juvenile Court*

Presenter at the Louisiana Kinship Integrated Service System 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Seminar “Balancing Legal and Health Options” sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Social Services in Metairie, Louisiana. (June 2009)

*Work Life Balance Roundtable Discussion - Can I Have It All, Including My Sanity?*

Presenter and moderator of the panel discussion at the Louisiana State Bar Association and Association of Women Attorneys - New Orleans Chapter co-sponsored Continuing Legal Education program, “SUPERWOMEN: Female Attorneys Challenging the Rules of the Game at Home, at Work and in Alternative Practices”, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Our panel discussed the topics of learning to balance life, work, and play; developing stress coping skills; and minding law office management ethics. (April 2009)

*Louisiana Child Support: An Overview*

Presenter at the Advanced Divorce Mediation Training and CLE Program, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. (June 2008)

*Supervising in Your Pajamas: Clinical Pedagogy for the Internet Generation*

Co-presenter with R. Judson Mitchell at a concurrent session at the 2008 Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Conference on Clinical Legal Education in Tucson, Arizona. (May 2008)

*Navigating Family Law Issues Through the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court*

Presenter at the Jefferson Bar Association Annual Continuing Legal Education by the Sea Conference, in Biloxi, Mississippi. (March 2007)

*Recent Developments in Louisiana Family Law*

Presenter at the Louisiana Family Law Practice For Paralegals Conference, New Orleans. (March 2007)

*Relocation: The Law, The Facts, The Realities*

Moderator, presenter, and co-organizer of the Child Relocation Panel at the Louisiana State Bar Association sponsored Continuing Legal Education program, “The ‘Grimm’ Truth of Post-Katrina Domestic Issues”, New Orleans, Louisiana. (March 2007)

*The Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the Loyola Law Clinic*

Presenter at the Social Justice Event, “Katrina and Civil and Human Rights”, at Santa Clara University School of Law in Santa Clara, California, with Key Note

Speaker, Bill Quigley. (October 2006)

*Loyola Law Clinic and The City of New Orleans After Katrina - Then and Now and Child Relocation Issues After Katrina*

A panel participant at Professor Rob Verchick's Katrina Program for Berkeley's Boalt Hall Law School professors and students visiting New Orleans from California, "Loyola-Berkeley Student Roundtable Discussion on Post-Hurricane Legal Issues" at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. (September 2006)

*Everything that Business and Professional Women Need To Know They Learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: Important Legal and Personal Issues and Disaster Preparation and Recovery*

Keynote Speaker at the Louisiana Federation of Business and Professional Women, Inc. State Conference in Lafayette, Louisiana. (June 2006)

*Louisiana Community Property Law and Louisiana Divorce Law Procedure*

Presenter at the Basic Divorce Mediation Training and CLE Program, Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. (June 2006)

*Clinical Education In The Aftermath Of Hurricane Katrina, A Multi-Focused Collaboration*

Plenary session organizer and presenter at the 2006 Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Conference on Clinical Legal Education in New York City, New York. (May 2006)

*Women's Economic Recovery After Katrina*

Panel discussion presenter and participant at the Economic Recovery Summit and Equal Pay Day Commemoration forum sponsored by the Louisiana Federation of Business and Professional Women, Inc. and the Louisiana Coalition for the Equal Rights Amendment in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. (April 2006)

*Family Law Issues After Hurricane Katrina*

Co-organizer and presenter of the Loyola University New Orleans School of Law "Know Your Rights" Day, New Orleans, Louisiana. (March 2006)

*Loyola Law Clinic After Katrina - in Houston and Back Home in New Orleans*

Guest Speaker at the Loyola University New Orleans Law Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting at the Law Firm of Stone Pigman Walther and Wittmann, New Orleans, Louisiana. (March 2006)

*The Role of the Katrina Advice Clinic and Katrina Advice Team and Family Law Issues After Hurricane Katrina*

Presenter at the Loyola University New Orleans School of Law “Katrina Advice Team Student Orientation and Training Day”. (March 2006)

*The Role of the Loyola Katrina Advice Clinic in Houston*

Guest Speaker and presenter at the FEMA Supervisors Meeting at the Greater Houston Disaster Center, Houston, Texas. (October 2005)

*Louisiana Community Property Law and Louisiana Divorce Law Procedure*

Presenter at the Advanced Divorce Mediation Training and CLE Program, Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. (July 2005)

*A Research Study on the Effects of Mental and Physical Practice on a Gross Motor Skill Involving Mildly Mentally Handicapped Students*

Presenter at the University of New Orleans Master Level Symposium, New Orleans, Louisiana. (1991)

*Public Law 99-457 and Disabled Students*

Presenter at the Orleans Parish Public School System In-Service Workshop, New Orleans, Louisiana. (1990)

*Public Law 99-457 and the Role of Adapted Physical Education*

Presenter at the Council for Exceptional Children Conference, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana. (1989)

*Project IMPACT and Adapted Activities for the Disabled*

Presenter at the Louisiana Association of Health and Physical Education Annual Conference, Lake Charles, Louisiana. (1989)

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

### **Juvenile Mediator Training**

Completed Juvenile Mediator Training through the Louisiana Supreme Court’s Child Advocacy Mediation Project. (October 2004 and April 2005)

### **Divorce Mediator Training**

Completed Basic and Advanced Divorce Mediation Training, Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. (Summer 2004)

### **Collaborative Divorce Attorney Training**

Completed Collaborative Divorce Professionals Training through Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. (March 2004)

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

**University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana**

*Graduate Assistant for Project IMPACT*, 1988- 1990 - Taught mentally and physically disabled students, infants through adults; implemented and evaluated programs and the training of teachers of the special population.

**Greater Pittsburgh School District, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

*Substitute School Teacher*, 1974 - Substituted in Elementary and High Schools throughout the Greater Pittsburgh area.

**Orleans Parish School System, New Orleans, Louisiana**

*School Teacher*, 1970- 1973 - Taught at Marion Abramson Senior High School in New Orleans East and A. J. Bell Junior High School in the inner city of New Orleans - Treme area.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE, PRO BONO WORK, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Guest speaker at Professor Marie Pabon's Family Law class. (Fall 2024)

Assisted the Jefferson Parish Senior Citizen Services with legal matters. (2022)

Facilitated discussion groups at the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) New Clinicians Conference held at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco, California during the 2019 Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Conference on Clinic Legal Education. (May 2019)

Member of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson Domestic Liaison Advisory Committee. The committee was formed to advise and make recommendations to the Court regarding the rules and practices of the 24<sup>th</sup> JDC Domestic Early Intervention Triage Program to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the domestic program. (June 2010 - present)

Guest speaker at Professor Andrea Armstrong's Law and Poverty class on "The Impact of Poverty Law on Children". (Spring 2019)

Guest speaker at Professor Nicholas Davrados' Persons classes. (Spring 2017, Summer 2016, and Spring 2019)

Hosted the Academy of Our Lady High School-Marrero Legal Studies senior students and their teacher, attorney Beth Bowman, a Loyola Law Alum. The clinic students explained the values of attending law school and joining the law clinic. The AOL students toured our law school and were given a gift bag compliment the

Admissions Department. (Spring 2018 and Spring 2019)

Member of Loyola College of Law Incubator Program Interview Committee. (Fall 2016, Fall 2017 and Fall 2018)

Presented "Putting Theory Into Practice" at the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Newly Admitted Students Day. (May 2018)

Participated in the Jefferson Parish Community Resource Fair for Individuals with Disabilities at the Clearview Mall with Family Law Student Practitioners presenting educational information on Continuing Tutorships and legal representation of parents with Special Needs children. (February 2018)

Guest speaker at Professor Nicholas Davrado's Succession class. (November 2017)

Guest speaker at Professor Maria Pabon Lopez's Family Law Seminar class. (November 2017)

Member of the Louisiana State Bar Association Access to Justice Re-Entry Court Program Working Group Committee and assisted on child support matters. (Fall 2016 - Spring 2017)

Notary volunteer at the Immigration Section of Loyola Law Clinic "Power of Attorney and Child Custody Outreach Program" at Iglesia Vida Church in Kenner, Louisiana. (April 2017)

Co-presenter of "The Louisiana Legal System and the Role of Loyola's Law Clinic" to International Visitor Leadership Program visitors from Africa studying the judicial systems sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council. (March 2016)

Presented with Professor Ramona Fernandez "Curatorships, Successions, and Family Law" at the Incubator Program Lunch Time Discussion. (March 2016)

Guest speaker at Professor Kathryn Lorio's Succession classes. (December 2015 and November 2014)

Guest speaker at Professor Monica Wallace's Persons classes and assisted with the Persons Experiential Modules 1, 2, and 3. (Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Fall 2013, and Fall 2012)

Member of the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Admissions and Scholarship Committee. (Fall 2011 - Summer 2015)



Winner of the annual Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity Masked Professor Contest. PAD collected a total of 1,081 cans of food donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. (October 2015)

Quoted in an article on "Free-Range Parenting" in the Nola Baby & Family magazine. Buchert explained how this type of parenting can be defined as parental lack of supervision and could be criminal abandonment. If neglect is found, the child then becomes a "child in need of care" in the Juvenile Court system. (October 2015)

Recognized in the Advocate newspaper regarding the Family Law section of Loyola Law Clinic partnering with Families Helping Families providing legal assistance and representation to parents of Special Needs children by preparing and filing Continuing Tutorships. (October 2014)

Hosted Jeremy Finn, Professor of Law from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, at Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. Professor Buchert assisted Professor Finn with his legal research project on the impact of natural disasters on the legal system, members of the legal profession, and their clients. He and his colleague, Professor Elizabeth Toomey, are publishing a "best-practice model for the legal professional" to assist in limiting or mitigating the impacts of any future natural disaster. Topics discussed included disaster legal issues and legal services provided by free clinics. Professor Finn was particularly interested in collaborating with Loyola because of the work the clinic performed immediately after Hurricane Katrina. (June 2013)

Attended the Spanish Language Program at the Universidad IberoAmericana, a Jesuit University in Puebla, Mexico. (June 2013)

Collaborated with Professor Johanna Kalb and her students in the Human Rights in Domestic Advocacy Seminar class on the topic of "Special Immigration Juvenile Status". The collaboration included meeting with students regarding the legal issues, their research assignments, and preparation of legal memos on domestic violence, gang violence, suffering, and country conditions of the children we represent and case law regarding the federal statutes in SIJS and juvenile/family law courts. Spring 2012

Established and supervised the "Veterans Know Your Rights Family Law" program in the Family Law Section of Loyola Law Clinic with the assistance of Family Law student practitioner, Sarah Mejias and drafted and executed Last Will and Testaments for Veterans. (Spring 2012)

Volunteered and supervised Loyola Family Law Clinic students at the Civil District Court for the Parish of New Orleans "Self-Help Resource Center" for self-represented litigants. The SHRC is a legal information resource for pro se litigants. (2011 and 2012)

Guest speaker at Professor Monica Wallace's Persons classes on "Louisiana Family Law and the Loyola Law Clinic. (Fall 2011, Fall 2010)

Cited in the Seattle Journal for Social Justice law review article "Engaging The Legal Academy in Disaster Response", 10 Seattle J. for Soc. Just. 211. (Fall/Winter 2011)

Signed on as Amici Curiae along with other law professors from Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Colorado in the filing of an amicus brief in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in support of the Plaintiffs and Appellees, entitled M.D., By Her Next Friend Sarah R. Stukenberg, Et Al versus Rick Perry, In His Official Capacity as Governor of the State of Texas, Et Al, Case No. 11-40789. The brief was filed on behalf of the National Association of Counsel for Children (NCAA) and law professors who devote study to child welfare advocacy and/or civil procedure issues. The case is about the right of Appellees to challenge the systemic deprivation of the due process and familial association rights in the Texas child welfare system. Filed October 26, 2011.

Guest speaker at Professor Sandi Varnado's Persons class on "Louisiana Family Law and the Loyola Law Clinic". (Spring 2011)

Member of the Ad Hoc Diversity Committee for Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans. (Fall 2010 - Spring 2011)

Member of the Loyola University New Orleans Alumni Association Board of Directors. (August 2005 - May 2011)

Chairperson of the Scholarship Committees for the Loyola University New Orleans Alumni Association which awards Alumni Legacy and Graduation Award Scholarships to Loyola students. (2007, 2008, 2010, and 2011)

Member of the Ad Hoc Diversity Committee for Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans. (September 2010 - May 2011)

Member of the Clinic, Continuing Legal Education and Skills Committee. (2009 - 2011)

Founding member and member of the Jefferson Family Law Association, LLC. (Summer 2007 - present)

Project Chairperson of the Good Shepherd Nativity Mission School Field/Activity Days for the Loyola University New Orleans Wolves on the Prowl Community Service Days. (Fall 2009 and Fall 2010)

Narrator and Guide for the 2010 Association of American Law Schools (AALS)

Solidarity Tour. Five bus loads of AALS participants toured New Orleans and learned about the effects of Hurricane Katrina on our City. (January 2010)

Guest speaker at Professor Denise Pilie's Clinical Mediation Class and presented on "Louisiana Family Law" and "Family Courts and Mediation". (Fall 2008, Fall 2009, and Fall 2010)

Loyola Law Review Comment advisor on Louisiana Safe Haven Law for 2L student. (Spring 2010)

Member of the Loyola University College of Law Curriculum Committee. (2006 - 2009)

Chairman of the Community Service Committee for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Forum for the Academy of Collaborative Professionals held in New Orleans. Coordinated two days of a pre-conference "hands on" service project for the participants to join in the effort to rebuild the city of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. My family law clinic students participated as conference student volunteers and attended plenary sessions at this Collaborative Divorce Law forum. (October 2008)

Guest speaker at Professors Denise Pilie and Nannette Joliet-Brown's Clinical Mediation Classes and presented on "Child Custody Mediation" and "Family Law Practice in Orleans and Jefferson Parish Courts. (Fall 2008)

Participant on "Public Service Jobs" Panel at the Loyola University New Orleans School of Law, Career Services 1L Orientation. (January 2008)

Clinical faculty member on the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Self Study Committee for the American Bar Association (ABA) and Association of American Law Schools (AALS) site evaluation. Assisted in drafting the "Self-Study Report of the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law" for the seven year re-accreditation process. Prepared all written materials in Self-Study Report on Loyola Law Clinic. Participated in the ABA and AALS site evaluation in April 2008. (2007 - 2008)

Guest speaker at Professor Monica Wallace's Family Law Seminar class. (Spring 2008, Spring 2009)

Narrator and Guide for the Solidarity Bus Tour of Hurricane Katrina Devastated Areas in New Orleans, Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Workshop on Clinical Legal Education: Challenging Assumptions. (May 2007)

Guest speaker at Professor Kathryn Lorio's Family Law Seminar Class. (Spring 2004, Spring 2005, Spring 2007, and Spring 2009)

Assisted the Honorable Fredericka Homberg Wicker of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal plan and implement the Louisiana State Bar Association sponsored “The ‘Grimm’ Truth of Post-Katrina Domestic Issues”, New Orleans, Louisiana. (October 2006 - March 2007)

Organizer of and Speaker on “The History of the Katrina Clinic Beginning in Houston through Today” at the Katrina Clinic Organizational Meeting. (January 2007).

Speaker on “The Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the Loyola Law Clinic” after Bill Quigley’s Presentation of “Katrina and Civil and Human Rights” at the Santa Clara University School of Law, California. (October 2006)

Guest speaker at Professor Monica Hoff Wallace’s Persons class and presented on “Louisiana’s Relocation Statute and the UCCJA after Katrina”. (Fall 2006)

Speaker on “Family Law Issues in the Katrina Clinic” at the Orientation of Non-Clinical Law Students for the Katrina Clinic at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. (September 2006)

Taught the Family Law class in Professor Bill Quigley’s Faculty Seminar class on Katrina Developments. Class Topic and Description - "Child Custody Relocation Issues in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina" - On the weekend of August 27- 28, 2005, children left New Orleans with the parent having visitation that weekend. How are the Courts ruling in custody and relocation cases after Katrina? What factors are being considered? Should we have special evacuation laws/procedures for children? (Fall 2006)

Co-coordinator and Supervisor of the Loyola Law Clinic Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 Newsletters, “Justice Journal”. (Fall 2005 and Spring 2006)

Participated in the University of Houston Law Center “People’s Know Your Legal Rights” Day in Houston, Texas. (October 2005)

Provided clinical legal services to Grace House residents under the supervision of Professor Gerald Rault. (2004 - 2005).

Member of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson Domestic Rules Revision Committee. (October 2003 - April 2005)

Panel Participant at Loyola University New Orleans School of Law, “Flying Solo”. (March 2005)

Member of Loyola University New Orleans School of Law Class of 1993 Reunion Committee. (Fall 2003)

Judge for the Tulane University School of Law Mardi Gras Moot Court Competition.  
(February 2003)

Guest Speaker at Loyola University School of Law Clinic Classes, “How to be  
Successful Practicing Law in a Small Firm or on Your Own”.  
(Spring 2001 and Spring 2002)

Member of Loyola University School of Law Clinic Reunion Committee. (2001)

Supervised a Judge from District Court of Shen Yang, China in Louisiana Law and as a  
Law Clerk. (2001)

Guest Speaker at Delgado Community College, Business Studies Division, Legal  
Secretary Class, Legal Office Procedures Class. (1999, 2000, and 2001)

Supervised six Loyola University School of Law students as law clerks. (1995-2001)

Pro Bono legal counsel and Board Member of Lakeside Country Club (a small swim and  
tennis neighborhood community club) from 1996 to 2000.

Represented clients pro bono by referral of the Advocacy Center for Elderly and  
Disabled. (1999)

Guest speaker on Law at Mount Carmel Academy High School’s Law Studies class,  
New Orleans, Louisiana. (1999)

Guest speaker on Louisiana Law at Springfield Middle School’s Career Days,  
Springfield, Louisiana. (1997, 1998, and 1999)

Panel participant at Loyola University New Orleans School of Law, “Balancing Family  
and the Law”. (1997)

Guest speaker on Louisiana Law at Mount Carmel Academy High School’s Career Day,  
New Orleans, Louisiana. (1996)

Hosted "Law Day Information Booth" at Lakeside Shopping Center sponsored by the  
Jefferson Bar Association. (1996)

Special Olympics Volunteer and Coach. (1989 and 1990)

Volunteer work for the Family Law Apostolate - Archdiocese of New Orleans, Assistant  
Coordinator for “Coping, Celebration of Life, Separated and Divorced” Seminars. (1987-

1988)

Leukemia Society, Assistant Coordinator of Phone-a-thons. (1984 and 1985)

## **AWARDS**

The Louisiana State Bar Association 2023 Children's Law Award awarded jointly to Family Law Clinic Professor Cheryl Prestenback Buchert, Children's Rights Clinic Professor Ramona Fernandez, Youth Justice Clinic Professor Hector Linares, and Staff Attorneys Sara Godchaux and Tobie Tranchina. (May 2023)

The Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Outstanding Clinic Team Award to the Spring 2023 Family Law Class, Clifford Fields, Alexys Peron, Jessica Barton, Aspen Murphy, and Kevin Michot supervised by Clinical Professor of Law, Cheryl Buchert. (May 2023)

Recipient of the 2010 Gillis Long Public Service Award, Loyola University College of Law. (March 2010)

Honored Guest of Loyola University at Philanthropy Day Celebration and recipient of a Philanthropy Award for service to the law school by teaching and supervising law students in the area of clerking in family law from 1995 - 1997. Sponsored by The National Society of Fund Raising Executives, Greater New Orleans Chapter. (1997)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Louisiana State Bar Association

Jefferson Parish Bar Association

Jefferson Parish Family Law Association, LLC

updated January 1, 2025