



# Graduate Program in Family Law

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME LL.M. STUDIES



# Chicago-Kent's Graduate Program in Family Law

The Graduate Program in Family Law, which leads to an LL.M. degree, is designed to equip graduates for practice in the increasingly sophisticated and rapidly evolving field of family law. This program offers a unique mixture of cutting-edge practice training and legal theory to prepare students for a variety of family law-related careers.

Family law is unique in modern law practice because it remains a general practice career. Beyond basic divorce and family law, practitioners must know tax law, real estate law, partnership law, contract law, child psychology and other topics. As each of these sub-areas has ballooned, so has the expertise that a family law practitioner must bring to his or her practice. Effective education in both the technique and substance of modern family law practice is necessary for success in this competitive, dynamic field. Chicago-Kent's LL.M. in Family Law provides this education.

*There is an urgent need for well qualified family law associates. Newly hired associates face a substantial learning curve and therefore provide few benefits for the potential employer and prospective client. The Family Law LL.M. is an excellent and unique program designed to train and educate lawyers in the real world of family law. We have adopted an impressive program taught by a distinguished faculty, including judges, recognized forensic experts and elite lawyers. Our goal is to graduate the complete family lawyer with the knowledge and skills that are demanded by the practice.*

**David Grund**, Program Director

*Attending Chicago-Kent's family law LL.M. program was akin to adding several years of experience under my belt as a practicing attorney. All courses are taught by highly accomplished family law attorneys who walk you through the nuances of the field. Many of my successes, both inside and outside the courtroom, I owe to this program.*

**Bradford L. Bennett**, LL.M. graduate, 2013

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# Graduate Program in Family Law

In the past thirty years, rapidly changing social norms and dramatic technological advances have revolutionized the field of family law. As more attorneys enter the field and the practice of family law becomes more complex, demand increases for lawyers with greater family law expertise.

Recent developments in family law include:

- Blossoming forms of inchoate property (stock options, intellectual property rights, partnership arrangements) that must be divided at divorce.
- Increased labor force participation by women, requiring an alteration of the needs-based approach to property division and maintenance.
- Increased acceptance of pre- and post-marital contracting.
- Increase in marriage between older people with complicated financial histories and issues.
- Social acceptance of non-marital cohabitation leading to increased reliance (for both straight and gay couples) on contract and quasi-contract theories of property division at dissolution.
- Emergence of gay marriage and civil unions.
- Increased acceptance of same-sex partners adopting and parenting children, leading to a plethora of legal questions regarding the origin and nature of parental rights.
- Rapid technological advances in reproduction distilling the genetic and gestational reproduction from intent to parent (surrogate mothers, IVF, rights of sperm donors, open adoption, etc.), raising myriad questions about parenting claims, rights and duties.
- Recent advances in genetics testing that may affect the law regarding parentage.
- Burgeoning psychological theory relating to children, which is becoming central in all litigation involving children.

Chicago-Kent's Graduate Program in Family Law, leading to an LL.M. degree, is a one-of-a-kind program designed to provide attorneys with the expertise and skills demanded by this dynamic, growing area of the law.



*Bradford L. Bennett,  
LL.M. graduate, 2013*

# About Chicago-Kent

Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, is distinguished by its history of excellence in teaching and legal scholarship. Its faculty is one of the most productive groups of legal scholars in the country, publishing leading texts and articles across a wide array of subjects.

The Chicago-Kent curriculum emphasizes professional responsibility in the broadest sense, encompassing intellectual discipline, careful analysis, comprehensive research, and sensitivity to the needs of clients and to the context in which the law operates.

Chicago-Kent's modern, ten-story building provides a state-of-the-art environment for the teaching and study of law through advanced information and computer technology.

With more than a half-million volumes, Chicago-Kent's library is one of the largest law school libraries in the United States and includes an extensive family law collection. The law library is housed alongside the collections of the Stuart School of Business and the Library of International Relations.

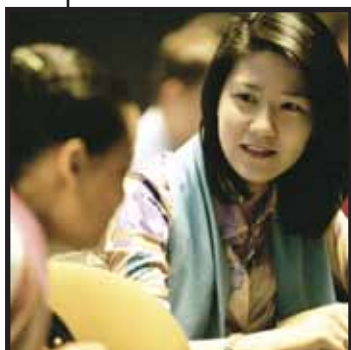
In addition to a rigorous J.D. program and the Graduate Program in Family Law, Chicago-Kent offers LL.M. degrees in taxation, financial services law, international and comparative law, and international intellectual property law.

## **Career Services**

Chicago-Kent's Career Services Office assists J.D. and LL.M. students and alumni in planning or enhancing their careers and mapping out their job search strategies. Career awareness programs, a job posting service, and a well-stocked resource center provide students enrolled in the graduate family law program with up-to-date information on career opportunities in this specialization.

## **Externship Placement**

Chicago-Kent offers an externship placement program for all students enrolled in the Graduate Program in Family Law.



# Admission

Candidates for admission to the Graduate Program in Family Law may apply at any time, but are encouraged to submit application materials by early July for the fall semester and by mid-November for the spring semester. Applications are available from the Office of Graduate Admissions at (312) 906-5360, at [admissions@kentlaw.iit.edu](mailto:admissions@kentlaw.iit.edu) or online at [www.kentlaw.iit.edu/prospective-students/llm-family-law](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/prospective-students/llm-family-law).

Degree-seeking applicants must submit the Application for Admission to the Graduate Program in Family Law, \$60 application fee, personal statement, resume, and official law school transcript.

## **Non-Matriculants**

Students wishing to take one or more courses in the Graduate Program in Family Law without becoming candidates for the LL.M. degree may do so with permission. Non-matriculant applicants must submit the Application for Non-Matriculant Admission, \$60 application fee, resume and official law school transcript.

## **Tuition and Financial Aid**

Tuition information can be found at [www.kentlaw.iit.edu/tuition](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/tuition).

## **CLE Credit**

You are able to earn Illinois MCLE credit for your LL.M. course work. You may also fulfill other CLE or CPE requirements, depending on state rules. Chicago-Kent is an accredited CLE provider for Illinois MCLE and will provide a certificate upon request, stating the number of CLE credit hours for your course work, based on state law. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 795(d)(2) governs Illinois MCLE credit hours for law school courses. Refer to [www.kentlaw.iit.edu/academics/llm-programs/family-law/cle-credit-info](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/academics/llm-programs/family-law/cle-credit-info) for details about obtaining Illinois MCLE credit for LL.M. course work at Chicago-Kent. LL.M. course work may also count toward CLE requirements for other states, depending on the relevant state's rules. For more information, contact Chicago-Kent's Office of Continuing Legal and Professional Education at (312) 906-5090.

## **For more information, please contact:**

Office of Graduate Admissions  
Chicago-Kent College of Law  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
565 West Adams Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3691

Telephone: (312) 906-5360  
TDD: (312) 906-5230  
E-mail: [admissions@kentlaw.iit.edu](mailto:admissions@kentlaw.iit.edu)  
[www.kentlaw.iit.edu/academics/llm-programs/family-law](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/academics/llm-programs/family-law)

# LL.M. Degree Requirements

To earn the LL.M. degree, students must complete 24 credit hours of coursework in the Graduate Program in Family Law, including an externship requirement of 9 credit hours. Students are expected to take at least one course per semester and must complete the program in five years. Part-time students may complete the program in three years by taking two courses each semester. Part-time students already working in family law may not have to complete the externship.

In order to receive the LL.M. degree in family law, a student must have achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.500 upon completion of the 24 credit hours of study in the program. A student whose cumulative grade point average upon such completion is less than 2.500 cannot receive the degree. All classes meet once a week, Monday through Thursday evenings.

## Calendar

Classes for the fall semester begin in late August. Classes for the spring semester begin in mid-January. A detailed class schedule can be found at [www.kentlaw.iit.edu/academics/llm-programs/family-law/class-schedule](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/academics/llm-programs/family-law/class-schedule).

## Academic and Administrative Policies

As a member of the Association of American Law Schools and in conformity with its bylaws, the faculty of Chicago-Kent College of Law has adopted the following policy: Chicago-Kent College of Law provides equality of opportunity in legal education for all persons including applicants for admission, enrolled students, and graduates, without discrimination or segregation on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, handicap or disability, veteran status, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Chicago-Kent reserves the right, without notice, to change requirements for admission or graduation; the arrangement, time, credit, or content of courses; the books to be used; the tuition or other fees charged; academic standards; the regulations affecting students; and any and all other matters contained in this announcement. Changes will be duly published.

This brochure is supplemented by an online student handbook, which contains additional information about Chicago-Kent, including academic regulations and other matters affecting students. The handbook can be found at [www.kentlaw.iit.edu/student-handbook](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/student-handbook).

Illinois Institute of Technology seeks to provide current and prospective students with information to help them make informed choices, to take full advantage of IIT's resources, and to maximize the quality of their university experience. This information is available online at [www.iit.edu/student\\_affairs/handbook/](http://www.iit.edu/student_affairs/handbook/).



# Faculty

The Graduate Program in Family Law is taught by full-time practitioners and full-time faculty members at Chicago-Kent College of Law. For a complete listing of faculty members, see [www.kentlaw.iit.edu/academics/llm-programs/family-law/faculty](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/academics/llm-programs/family-law/faculty).

**David Grund**, *Program Director*

**Kari Johnson**, *Faculty Coordinator*

## Family Law LL.M. Course List:

Advanced Family Law Practice and Procedures (2 credits)

Children and Divorce (2 credits)

Tax and Financial Aspects of Divorce (2 credits)

Family Law Mediation and Negotiation (2 credits)

Non-traditional Family Law (2 credits)

Family Law Trial Advocacy and Litigation Strategies (3 credits)

Advanced Motion Practice and Procedure (2 credits)

Externship (9 credits)

All students must complete an externship requirement of 9 credit hours. Part-time students who are unable to complete an externship may substitute three J.D. courses which focus on family law issues to satisfy the LL.M. degree requirements. For additional information and course descriptions, visit [www.kentlaw.iit.edu/prospective-students/llm-family-law](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/prospective-students/llm-family-law).



IIT Chicago-Kent  
College of Law



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