The Juvenile Defender Clinic, at the Duquesne University School of Law’s Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education is seeking MSW students (foundation or concentration) who are genuinely interested in the pursuit of social work within the criminal justice field. The internship provides an opportunity to work with a highly-experienced criminal defense litigator and student attorneys from the clinic, have one-on-one contact with clients who are both living in the community and detained at juvenile justice placements, and provide direct courtroom advocacy on behalf of clients. The internship focuses primarily on disposition (i.e., sentencing) planning for the clinic’s clients by working with other system-involved parties in order to give clients a meaningful opportunity to have their voices heard inside of a system that often does not hear it due to a wide range of factors.

The Juvenile Defender Clinic represents children from 8-17 years of age who have been charged with crimes in Allegheny County’s juvenile court, adults and children who are seeking to have their juvenile records expunged, and children who have had Protection From Abuse (PFA) allegations filed against them. Many of the clinic’s juvenile clients are also involved in the dependency system, and therefore have some degree of contact with the Office of Children, Youth, and Families. Our MSW intern(s) comprise the social work division of the clinic.

The ideal intern either has some experience with the population or a genuine interest in pursuing the work of zealously advocating for the expressed interests of children inside of the criminal justice system. Strong writing and communications skills are critical, as is the ability to relate adolescents. The internship will require some local travel, so a car is preferred but not required. The internship will begin with a full-day training, and have ongoing training throughout the term of the internship.