



**The University of Baltimore School of Law  
Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for  
Families, Children and the Courts**

**Truancy Court Program**

Professor Barbara A. Babb, Director  
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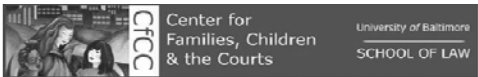
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**Mission of the Center for Families, Children  
and the Courts (CFCC)**

- Family justice system reform
- Identifying structures and processes to improve families' and children's lives
- Creation of Unified Family Courts (UFC's)

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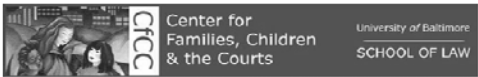
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**CFCC Student Fellows Program**



- 2 semester law school course (5 or 6 credits total)
- Students learn the theory and then put it into practice
- Experiential course; real world application

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### Truancy Court Program Methodology

- Non-Adversarial
- Holistic
- Therapeutic– A Problem-Solving Approach
- Early Intervention (Targets “Soft” Truants)



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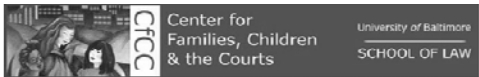
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### Truancy Court Program Goals



- Improve Attendance
- Increase Parent/Caregiver Involvement
- Empower Teachers and Administrators
- Expand Services for Students and Families

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### Truancy Court Program Characteristics

- One judge (no judicial authority)
- Weekly sessions (10 weeks each semester)
- 10-20 students per school each session
- One-on-one meetings
- School team: social worker, teacher, administrator
- Law school team: faculty supervisor or TCP Coordinator, TCP Mentor, and CFCC Student Fellow

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**Truancy Court Program Characteristics (Continued)**

- Mandatory parent/caregiver involvement
- Mentoring/character-building classes
- Incentives
- Voluntary (school, judge, student, parents)
- Graduation
- Monitoring

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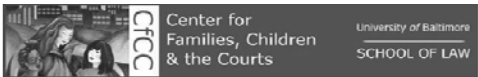
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**Truancy Court Program Numbers**

- TCP has served **over 1500** students in **30** Baltimore City Public Schools.
- TCP has served **275** students in **3** of Maryland's largest counties.
- **25** judges and masters have volunteered to serve as TCP judges for the TCP

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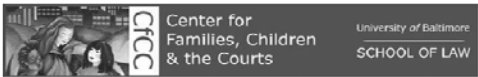
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**TCP Graduation**



- Benchmark is a 65% decrease in unexcused absences and/or tardies, along with improved grades and classroom behavior.
- 70% of the TCP students graduate.

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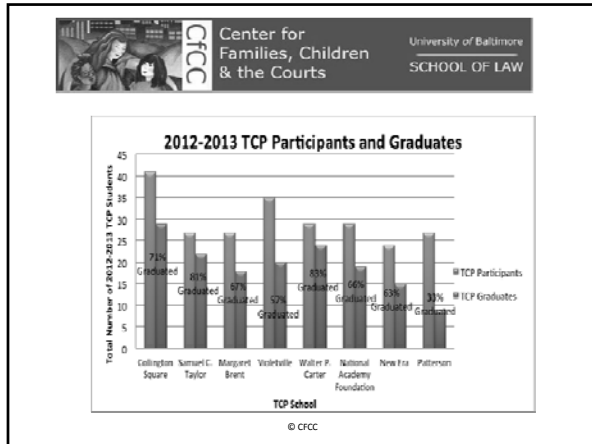
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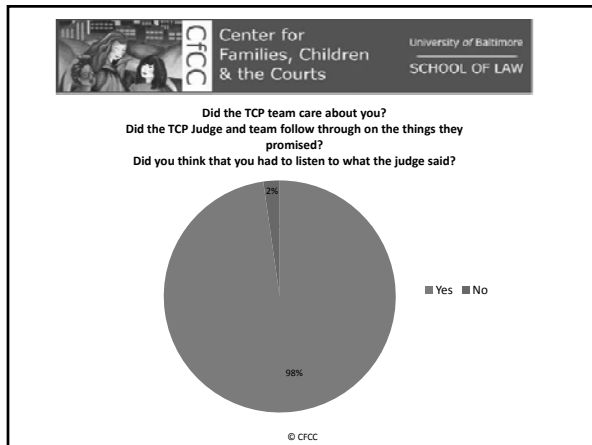
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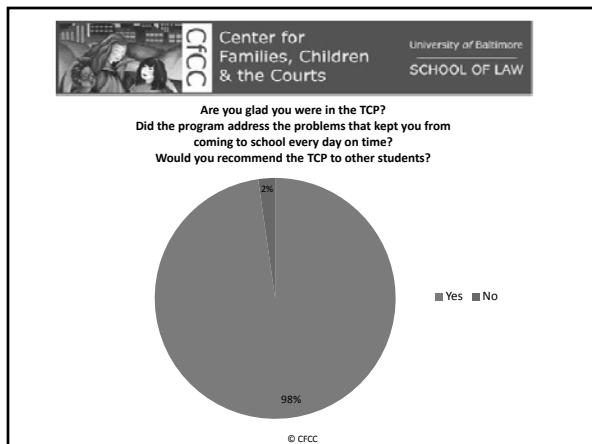
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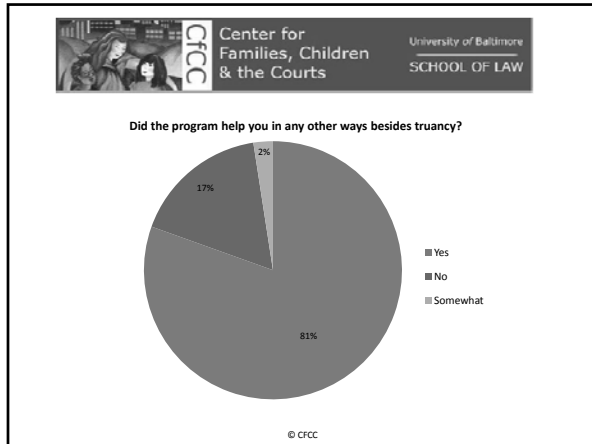
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