
JURIST IN RESIDENCE LETTERS

The Jurist in Residence (JIR) position was created to foster judicial leadership and to promote greater expertise among child protection judges. The Jurist in Residence acts as a consultant, trainer, and speaker to provide expert and seasoned judicial advice on matters affecting courts and legal system handling of child welfare cases and issues. District Judge Dean Rucker has served as the Children's Commission's Jurist in Residence and since 2014. He was joined in December 2018 by a second Jurist in Residence, Judge Rob Hofmann.

Appointed in 1998, Judge Rucker serves as the Presiding Judge for the Seventh Administrative Judicial Region of Texas. In 2014, Judge Rucker retired as judge of the 318th Judicial District in Midland County, a bench he held since 1988. Judge Rucker was a longtime member of the Supreme Court Task Force on Foster Care, created in 1994, and was a founding member of the Children's Commission before becoming a Jurist in Residence. He is a member of the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He has served in numerous leadership capacities and also chairs the Children's Commission's Legislative Committee.

Judge Rob Hofmann currently serves as judge of the 452nd Judicial District in five western hill country counties, following many years as a Child Protection Court Judge. He has also served as the Children's Commission Chair of the Foster Care and Education Committee prior to serving as the Vice Chair of the Children's Commission.

Acting as JIRs, Judges Rucker and Hofmann are instrumental in advancing judicial education and community collaboration across the state through training events and written communications, particularly by authoring regular topical and timely Jurist in Residence letters. The JIR Letter was created to routinely update judges on special matters, training events, and best practices.

Jurist in Residence Letters

(Listed alphabetically and available at <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/for-judges/jurist-in-residence-and-jir-letters/jir-letters/>)

- [83rd Legislative Session Proposal on Appointment and Compensation of Counsel in Child Protective Services \(CPS\) Cases](#)
- [84th Legislative Session Update](#)
- [85th Legislative Session Update](#)
- [2019 Child Protection Update: 86th Legislative Session](#)
- [2019 Child Welfare Judges Conference](#)
- [2019 Spring Scholarship Opportunities for Child Welfare Attorneys](#)
- [2019 Summer Scholarship Opportunities for Child Welfare Judges and Attorneys](#)
- [Announcing Judicial Commission on Mental Health](#)

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- [Attorney and Judicial Scholarships Extended](#)
 - [Back to School - Legislation and Resources to Help Improve Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care](#)
 - [Bench Book for CPS Judges](#)
 - [Best Practices for Residential Interventions for Youth and their Families: A Resource Guide for Judges and Legal Partners with Involvement in the Children's Dependency Court System](#)
 - [Beyond the Bench: Law, Justice, and Communities Summit](#)
 - [Capacity & Community Engagement](#)
 - [Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths \(CANS\) Assessment for Foster Children \(2015\)](#)
 - [Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment and Family Strength and Needs Assessment \(2016\)](#)
 - [Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths \(CANS\) Assessment for Foster Children Meetings \(2016\)](#)
 - [Children's Commission Mediator Survey](#)
 - [Children's Commission Releases Report on Building a Trauma-Informed Child Welfare System: A Blueprint](#)
 - [Children's Commission Webcast: 86th Legislative Session Update on CPS-Related Matters](#)
 - [Court Hearing Practices and Court Costs](#)
 - [CPS realigns staff in response to state budget cuts](#)
 - [Deadlines Extended: 2019 Summer Scholarship Opportunities for Child Welfare Judges and Attorneys](#)
 - [Definition of Home for Purposes of Removal to Foster Care](#)
 - [DFPS "3 in 30" Program Information and Implementation Schedule](#)
 - [DFPS Case Management System](#)
 - [DFPS Foster Care Redesign](#)
 - [DFPS Transformation Report and Suggested Statutory Changes](#)
 - [Drug Court Grant Opportunity](#)
 - [Education Considerations for the 2017-2018 School Year](#)
 - [Education Decision-Making in CPS Cases and the New Form 2085-E](#)

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- [Education Guides: Transition Planning in CPS and Special Education, Information Sharing Between Child Welfare and Schools](#)
 - [Engagement Efforts to Achieve Permanency](#)
 - [Engaging Children and Youth in Court](#)
 - [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) \(2015\)](#)
 - [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) Update 2017](#)
 - [Extended Health Care Benefits for Former Foster Youth](#)
 - [Extending Foster Care Beyond 18](#)
 - [Family Helpline and Spanish Version of the Parent Resource Guide](#)
 - [Family Visitation in CPS Cases](#)
 - [Federal Requirements Regarding Specificity in Court Orders](#)
 - [Foster Care and Human Trafficking](#)
 - [Free Online Attorney Training on Representing Parents in CPS Cases Offered by State Bar of Texas](#)
 - [Free Spanish-Language Interpretation Available By Telephone For Some Courts](#)
 - [Guide for Fathers in CPS Cases](#)
 - [The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Abduction in Cases Involving Battered Respondents: A Texas Bench Guide for State and Federal Court Judges](#)
 - [Hands-on Trial Skills Training Opportunity](#)
 - [Hands-on Trial Skills Training Applications Due Thursday, January 10, 2019](#)
 - [Hands-on Trial Skills Training Applications Extended to Thursday, January 17th](#)
 - [Homeless Youth Handbook](#)
 - Hurricane Harvey Announcement: [Message from the Department of Family Protective Services](#)
 - [ICWA Quick Reference Tools for State Courts](#)
 - [Impact of Budget Deficits on CPS](#)
 - [Implicit Bias in Judicial Decision-Making](#)
 - [Information about Youth Sex Offenders](#)
 - [Judicial Commission on Mental Health](#)

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- [Judicial Guide to Advocate for and Ensure Adequate Funding for Legal Representation in Child Protective Services Cases](#)
 - [Judicial Scholarship Opportunities: NCJFCJ and NACC](#)
 - [Judicial Scholarship Opportunity to NCJFCJ 82nd Annual Conference](#)
 - [Learning Opportunity for Judges Who Hear CPS Cases Involving Infants and Toddlers](#)
 - [Legal Representation Survey](#)
 - [Legislative Changes Regarding Medical Care for Foster Youth](#)
 - [Legislative Proposal on Appointment and Compensation of Counsel in Child Protective Services \(CPS\) Cases](#)
 - [Medical Care for Foster Youth](#)
 - [Medical Consenter Training](#)
 - [NACC Conference Scholarships, New Child Protection Law Section, Job Opening at the Children's Commission](#)
 - [New Appellate Rules Applicable to Termination of Parental Rights or State as Managing Conservator](#)
 - [New Data Available on Education Outcomes for Texas Foster Youth](#)
 - [New ICWA Quick Reference Tools for State Courts](#)
 - [New Laws Effective 9/1; Scholarships for 2017 Texas CASA Conference; 2017 Legislative Update Now Available Online](#)
 - [New Required Domestic Violence Training for Child Protection Mediators](#)
 - [New Texas Case Law on Indian Child Welfare Act](#)
 - [Notice and Engagement Email Notification System Announcement](#)
 - [Notification to Courts of New CASA Screening Procedure](#)
 - [Ombudsman for Children and Youth in Foster Care](#)
 - [Opiate and Opioid Dependency of Pregnant and Nursing Women](#)
 - [Parental Child Safety Placements, or PCSPs](#)
 - [Permanency Care Assistance Program, Part I - Basics](#)
 - [Permanency Care Assistance Program, Part II - Follow-Up](#)
 - [Permanency Care Assistance Program, Part III](#)

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- [Permanency Summit Follow-up](#)
 - [Psychoactive Medications](#)
 - [Relative and Other Designated Caregiver Program](#)
 - [Reminder: Registration is Now Open for the 2019 Child Welfare Judges Conference](#)
 - [Resources Related to Cultural Competency and Reducing Disproportionality and Disparities](#)
 - [Save the Date: 2018 Child Welfare Judges Conference](#)
 - [Save the Date: 2019 Child Welfare Judicial Conference](#)
 - [Save the Date for Children's Commission Webcast: 86th Legislative Session Update on CPS-Related Matters](#)
 - [Scholarship Deadlines; TBLS Child Welfare Application Extension; TBLS Exam Fee Reimbursement; and DFPS Region 1 Community Meeting](#)
 - [Special Issue: Resources Related to Preventing and Addressing Domestic Child Sex Trafficking](#)
 - [Star Health Enhancements](#)
 - [Star Health & Psychotropic Medications](#)
 - [Subpoena Policy at DFPS](#)
 - [Summer Scholarship Opportunities for Child Welfare Attorneys](#)
 - [Supreme Court Emergency Order and Applicability of Family Code Section 263.401](#)
 - [Supreme Court of Texas Emergency Order Affecting Child Protection Cases](#)
 - [TBLS Applications for Specialization in Child Welfare Law Certification Exam](#)
 - [TBLS 2018 Specialization Exam in Child Welfare: Scholarship Opportunity for Inaugural CLE hosted by new Child Protection Law Section of the State Bar of Texas](#)
 - [Texas Board of Legal Specialization Announces Inaugural Child Welfare Law Specialists](#)
 - [Texas Child Protection Law Bench Book](#)
 - [Texas Child Protection Specialty Courts](#)
 - [Texas Health Steps Medical Checkup](#)
 - [Texas Higher Education Information and Resource Guide for Foster Care Liaisons](#)
 - [Texas Mounts Effort to Improve Educational Outcomes of Children and Youth in Foster Care](#)
 - [The Texas Response to Human Trafficking](#)

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- [Texas Youth Permanency Study](#)
 - [Training on Family Drug Court, Child Welfare Information Study, Last Day to submit TST Applications](#)
 - [Trial Skills Training Opportunity: July 2018](#)
 - [Trial Skills Training Deadline Extended; Legal Representation Surveys](#)
 - [Trial Skills MCLE Now Available in the TexasBarCLE Online Classroom](#)
 - [Unaccompanied Alien Children](#)
 - [Undocumented Caregivers in Texas](#)
 - [Update on the status of ICWA in Texas](#)
 - [Video Conferencing to Increase Family and Youth Engagement](#)
 - [Webinar: Kinship Care and Race Equity in Child Welfare](#)
 - [Webinar: LGBTQ and Race Equity](#)
 - [Why It's Important to Consider the Indian Child Welfare Act](#)
 - [Youth Voice in Court Proceedings](#)