

Texas Lawyers for Children

Helping Judges and Attorneys Handling Child Abuse Cases

BY BARBARA J. ELIAS-PERCIFUL

Texas judges and attorneys handling the cases of abused children can find assistance and information through Texas Lawyers for Children's Online Legal Resource and Communication Center, which can be accessed at www.TexasLawyersforChildren.org.

The online resource offers a wealth of current legal, medical, and psychological information. Users can select from more than 1,100 topics and see a list of the resources for that particular topic.

Judges and attorneys can also gain immediate access to the expertise of hundreds of colleagues statewide. Secure email networks, document vaults, and discussion boards are segregated by profession.

The resource center also contains a statewide network of attorneys willing to assist children's attorneys pro bono in special areas of law. For example, attorneys not practicing in the child abuse field can provide expertise in areas such as trial skills, appellate law, trusts, and immigration. Attorneys experienced in representing children can volunteer to mentor those with less experience. Attorneys can also volunteer to represent children growing up in foster care who otherwise would have no representation.

To use Texas Lawyers for Children's Online Center, visit www.TexasLawyersforChildren.org and click on "Register." For more information, contact Texas Lawyers for Children at (800)993-5852.