



# Children's Commission.

## For Judges and Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

May 9, 2018

### Resources Related to Cultural Competency and Reducing Disproportionality and Disparities

Associate Judge Carlos Villalon of the Child Protection Court of the Rio Grande Valley West featured in Child Law Practice Article on Cultural Responsiveness

A recent ABA Center on Children and the Law article, from their publication Child Law Practice, highlights the successful practices of Associate Judge Villalon, Jr. and his staff in the Rio Grande Valley. Cultural challenges, responding to cultural needs, and the impact of these practices are reviewed in detail. The article also lists information on legal guidance on cultural responsiveness from the NCJFCJ, the Family Justice Initiative, and the ABA. To read the article, link here: "[A Culturally Responsive Court: Lessons from Rio Grande Valley West, Texas.](#)"

### Upcoming Webinar on May 16<sup>th</sup>: The Judiciary, Race Equity, and Child Welfare

Child Protective Services has launched a webinar series dedicated to exploring issues related to racial and ethnic disparities in the child welfare system. On May 16, 2018, from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m., the webinar topic will be "The Judiciary, Race Equity, and Child Welfare." It will feature District Judge Cyndi Wheless of Collin County and Associate Judge Aurora Martinez-Jones of Travis County, who will discuss their efforts to address the disparate outcomes of children of color in the child welfare system in those counties. Previous webcasts from this series, which are available online, include [Latinos and Race Equity](#); [Kids Count](#); Texas Appleseed's [School to Prison Pipeline](#); and [White in America](#).

To register for the May 16, 2018 webinar, link here: [The Judiciary, Race Equity, and Child Welfare](#).

### Children's Commission's Disproportionality Bench Book Chapter and Bench Card

The Children's Commission's Bench Book includes a chapter on Disproportionality, and the Commission's Judicial Workgroup Addressing Disproportionality recently developed a hearing bench card for quick reference. These tools provide practical steps to help bring about a greater awareness of the impact of disproportionality and disparities in local jurisdictions. The Bench Card is attached; to access the Bench Book chapter link [here](#).





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