

CHARLES G. CHILDRESS
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CLINIC

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EDUCATION

The University of Texas School of Law - Austin, Texas, **J.D.**, 1973
Texas Tech University - Lubbock, Texas, **B.A.**, 1967

LICENSES and BOARD CERTIFICATIONS

State Bar of Texas, admitted April 29, 1974
U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, admitted 1978
U.S. Supreme Court, admitted 1983
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, admitted 1984
Board Certified in Family Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 1990

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CLINIC (2001-present)

Supervising Attorney and Clinical Professor (August 2001-present). One of two clinical professors in the Children's Rights Clinic. Handled an average case load of about 50 cases involving child abuse or neglect. During spring and fall semesters, qualified students are assigned as attorneys ad litem for children subjects of child protective services suits. Clinical professors instruct and supervise students providing legal services in the trial of the cases. Supervising attorneys must sign all pleadings and accompany the students at each hearing, trial and other court appearance and at each deposition in the Clinic's case load. Between school sessions, the supervising attorneys assume full responsibility for the cases.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PROTECTIVE AND REGULATORY SERVICES - Austin, Texas (1997-2001)

Senior Attorney, Legal Services Division (September 2000–August 2001). Provided part-time advice on family-law legal issues while studying Spanish and the Mexican legal system, September through December, 2000 at the Universidad Autónoma del Noroeste, Saltillo, Mexico; after returning to Texas provided legal advice, legislative drafting, consultation and assistance during the legislative session; analyzed impact of pending or passed legislation.

Supervising Attorney for Field Operations, Legal Services Division. (June 1999–September 2000) Supervised 40 agency field attorneys, and provided legal support and guidance for attorneys agency attorneys and as requested for county and district attorneys handling Child Protective Services cases; continued to handle appeals; developed and delivered legislative updates and presentations on other continuing legal education (CLE) topics.

Special Projects Attorney, Legal Services Division. (September 1997–June 1999) helped implement new legislation to improve the processing of protective services cases by PRS; wrote or edited several articles on PRS practice under the new shorter statutory time frames for disposing of cases and delivered CLE presentations to judges, prosecutors and department attorneys; assisted with the publication of a Child Protective Services *Attorney's Desk Reference, Staff Attorneys' Handbook* and a Child Protective Services *Legal Forms Manual*; helped develop and implement standardized forms and a new automated document assembly program; provided direct representation on trial and appellate cases; and assisted with legislation during the 1999 session.

FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS, SAN ANTONIO

Chief Staff Attorney. (January–September 1997) Supervised pool staff attorneys and provided advice and research assistance to the court.

PRIVATE PRACTICE AND CONSULTING

Attorney. (June–December 1996) Limited trial practice; also provided research and consultation on court automation to Comptroller for Texas Performance Review during legislative interim.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

San Antonio and Austin, Texas (1987-1996)

Chief, Child Support Division. (February 1995–June 1996) Assisted with the reintegration of the Child Support Litigation Division with the Child Support Enforcement Division and managed the consolidated program.

Deputy Chief, Child Support Litigation Division; Legal Counsel, Child Support Division. (1992–1995)

Chief of Appeals and Research Team, Litigation Section, Child Support Enforcement Division. (1991-1992)

Chief of Litigation, Field Operations Section, Child Support Enforcement Division. (1987-1991)

Senior attorney in San Antonio field office, Child Support Enforcement Division. (1987)

Responsibilities, prior to being appointed division chief, included handling appeals on significant issues, including trial work to preserve appellate record if needed. Designed and implemented a statewide standardized forms and document assembly project. Supervised field attorneys, an immediate staff of up to six attorneys, research assistants and other staff. Helped develop a "Model Office" staffing and case processing design for field offices. Worked with data services programmers on design of a system for case tracking to meet federal expedited process standards and on a field support program keyed to this data which would produce court dockets and reports. Worked with teams developing a new automated system on legal and data processing requirements, including requirements for state legal practice and federal regulatory mandates. Reviewed, commented upon and drafted legislation, particularly on Family Code changes. Advised policy and training personnel on legal issues.

LAW OFFICE OF CHILDRESS & O'NEILL

San Antonio, Texas (1984-1987)

Partner in general civil practice law firm. Honored as "Small Firm of the Year, 1985" by the Pro Bono Project of the Bexar County Legal Aid Association.

BEXAR COUNTY LEGAL AID ASSOCIATION

San Antonio, Texas (1977-1984)

Attorney; managing attorney; chief of family law section; chief of litigation.

LAW OFFICE OF CHARLES G. CHILDRESS

San Antonio, Texas (1976-1977)

Solo practice with general civil trial and appellate practice.

UNITED STATES ARMY, JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

(1974-1976)

Judge Advocate General Prosecution and defense of army personnel in administrative and judicial proceedings; also provided general advice and assistance to members and dependents in civil matters such as wills, probate and family law matters.

UNITED STATES ARMY, CHEMICAL CORPS

(1967-1969)

Served as staff officer in Brigade and in Division headquarters of mechanized infantry division.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES and PUBLICATIONS

Member of State Bar of Texas, American Bar Association, Travis County Bar Association, Texas-Mexico Bar Association and Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists.

Assisted with the development of a domestic violence prevention and intervention program in San Antonio, 1984, as a member of the Bexar County District Attorney's Task Force on Domestic Violence; helped develop and explain legislative proposals for the 1985 legislative session. Assisted the Family Code Revision Committee on Title 2 (now Title 5) recodification adopted by 1995 legislature as well as revisions to other titles.

As a member of the Supreme Court Task Force on Child Support and Visitation Guidelines, assisted in developing multiple-family guidelines. Developed legislative proposals for the Attorney General to comply with federal child support enforcement mandates and for the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory

Services to comply with federal welfare reform requirements.

Served as a resource for the Pattern Jury Charge Committee, Volume 5, State Bar of Texas for issues relating to paternity and termination. Worked with the Texas Family Law Practice Manual Committee on forms and practice notes since 1990; currently serving as a member of the committee.

Author and presenter at numerous CLE events, including *Creation and Destruction of Parental Rights*, 1988 Advanced Family Law Course (SBOT); *Presumed Fathers and Paternity Establishment*, 1991 Advanced Family Law Course (SBOT); *Presumptions and the Right to Dispute Paternity*, 1993 So. Texas Family Law for the General Practitioner Course (South Texas College of Law); *Dealing with governmental agencies: attorney general and children's protective services* (with D. Richardson), 1998 Advanced Family Law Course (1998) and *Legislative Update, Child Abuse Issues*, Child Abuse Workshop, 1999 Advanced Family Law Course (1999); *Uniform Parentage Act 2001* Advanced Family Law Drafting Course (SBOT); also gave presentations on federal regulations and child support enforcement at training conferences sponsored by the National and Southwest Regional Child Support Enforcement Associations in 1993 and 1996. Spoke on protection of children and support enforcement at Niños Primero 2000 (Texas Attorney General); and presented a paper and speech on *Protección de Menores Mexicanos en el Estado de Texas*, at IV Reunión de Evaluación del Programa Interinstitucional de Atención a Menores Fronterizos, Saltillo, Mexico (D.I.F., Coahuila, October 2000).

Organized, wrote and presented at numerous CLE programs for the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Attorney General and also at the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, including papers on trial practice, appeals and involuntary dismissal of Child Protective Services cases for *Ounce of Prevention* seminar presented for prosecutors and judges at several sites in July and August, 2000, and *Uniform Parentage Act* annual Child Protective Services Seminar, July 24, 2002. Spoke on *Opportunities and Pitfalls in Abuse and Neglect Litigation*, Texas Center for the Judiciary, May 23, 2002. Presented several seminars to local bar associations on *Representing Texas Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases*, including Athens, Texas, March 2002; Corpus Christi, April 2002; El Paso, August 2002; Bryan, September 2002; Hillsboro, October 2002; Denton and El Paso (by video) May-June 2003. Presented a legislative update to the Children's Justice Act Prosecutors' Conference, San Antonio July 22, 2003, and to the Travis County Court Appointed Family Advocates attorney group on September 4, 2003. *What You Don't Know Can Hurt* (practice and case law update) October 9, 2003.

Other publications:

Quarterly legal column for Texas CASA magazine, *Heartbeat*, including series on presentation of "best interest" facts by a guardian ad litem (*Making Your Voice Heard on Behalf of the Child*, Summer 2002; *How does a CASA Present Facts?* Fall 2003; *What Should CASA Testify About?* Spring 2003); and *Hearsay, Confidentiality and the CASA Volunteer*, Summer 2003; forthcoming, *A Few Changes You Should Know About*, (legislative update), Fall 2003.

Commentary on various sections in SAMPSON AND TINDALL'S TEXAS FAMILY CODE ANNOTATED, WITH RELATED STATE AND FEDERAL STATUTES (Rochester, NY: Lawyers Cooperative Publishing, 2003, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997)

Child custody jurisdiction in Texas: continuing exclusive jurisdiction (CEJ), the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction & Enforcement Act (UCCJEA), and the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA), STATE BAR OF TEXAS SECTION REPORT FAMILY LAW, Vol. 00-1 (Winter 2000).

Farewell UCCJA; Hello UCCJEA, *Look Out Kids*, STATE BAR OF TEXAS SECTION REPORT FAMILY LAW, Vol. 99-1 (Winter 1999).

Commentaries on 1995 legislation affecting medical support for children, STATE BAR OF TEXAS SECTION REPORT FAMILY LAW, Report, Vol. 95-3 (Legislation Issue).

Past-due child support and usury (with J. O'Connell), STATE BAR OF TEXAS SECTION REPORT FAMILY LAW, Vol. 95-1 (Winter 1994-5).

Commentaries on 1993 legislation affecting paternity and the practice of the Title IV-D agency, STATE BAR OF TEXAS SECTION REPORT FAMILY LAW, Report, Vol. 93-2 (Summer 1993).

From the 73rd Legislature: a new approach to past-due child support (with T. Goodman), STATE BAR OF TEXAS SECTION REPORT FAMILY LAW, Vol. 93-3 (Fall 1993).

Adjusting Texas Child Support Guidelines; Multiple Families and Other Considerations in the Application of the Guidelines (with H. Baldwin), STATE BAR OF TEXAS SECTION REPORT FAMILY LAW, Vol. 92-4 (Winter 1992).