



# Children's Commission

## For Judges and Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

February 26, 2018

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### Announcements

TBLS Announces 2018 Applications for Specialization Exam in Child Welfare Law; and Scholarship Opportunity for Inaugural CLE hosted by New Child Protection Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.

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### TBLS Announces 2018 Applications for Specialization Exam in Child Welfare Law

The 2018 applications are now available online through April 30, 2018 at the TBLS "[Get Certified](#)" page. Among other requirements, applicants must be licensed to practice law for at least 5 years and show substantial involvement in specific matters and cases as listed below. Applicants are notified in July, 2018 of the TBLS decision to admit them to take the Exam, and the Exam will be held on October 15, 2018 in Austin. For details concerning the application process and exam information, please visit [www.tbls.org](http://www.tbls.org) or contact TBLS at [tbls@tbls.org](mailto:tbls@tbls.org), or call 1-855-277-8257.

Child Welfare Applicants are required to have:

- Devoted a minimum of 25% of his or her time practicing child welfare law in Texas during each of the three years immediately preceding the application;
- Served as lead counsel for a party or child from inception of the case or time of appointment or engagement to final judgment in 10 cases that meet one of these requirements:
  1. a contested child welfare case in a trial court of record that involves oral testimony and factual findings, excluding default judgments; or
  2. an appeal in a child welfare case that is fully briefed on the merits at the appellate level. Under (b), an appeal that applicant prosecutes or defends in an intermediate appellate court and in the Supreme Court of Texas counts as one case.
- Participated in 20 cases that meet one of these requirements:
  1. A contested child welfare case in which applicant served as lead counsel for a party or a child and that was resolved without a trial on the merits; or
  2. Post-trial proceedings in which applicant played a substantial role.

### Certification without Examination

The new specialty area offers an option of granting certification without requiring a written examination to an applicant who:

1. Has been licensed for 10 years;
2. Is certified by TBLS in Family Law.
3. Meets all of the Substantial Involvement requirements of the Child Welfare standards.

This grandfather option is only available for the first 3 years, ending with the 2020 certification applications.

For further information, please consult the complete Child Welfare Standards for Attorney Certification on the Supreme Court of Texas' website, available at the following link: <http://www.txcourts.gov/media/1437204/179014.pdf>.

We hope you will consider being among the select group to be the first attorneys Board Certified in Child Welfare Law and be sure to stay tuned for possible reimbursement scholarship opportunities from the Children's Commission for those who pass their TBLS Exam and become Board Certified in Child Welfare Law.

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## Scholarship Opportunity for Inaugural CLE hosted by New Child Protection Law Section of the State Bar of Texas

The newly-formed Child Protection Law Section of the State Bar of Texas is offering a two-day CLE entitled "First Annual Advanced Child Protection Law Course" in Austin on April 19 and 20, 2018. This training will cover current topics of interest to Texas attorneys who practice on the CPS docket. The Children's Commission is offering \$125 scholarships to the first fifty qualified attorneys who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- be a current member of the Child Protection Law Section of the State Bar of Texas (this prerequisite is required by the Section);
- be currently representing DFPS or taking appointments on a CPS docket;
- be in good standing with the State Bar of Texas;
- be in good standing with their appointing or presiding judge; and
- commit to completing a post-event survey, in addition to the pre-event survey portion contained in the scholarship application.

Please visit the Children's Commission Attorney Scholarships page section entitled First Annual Advanced Child Protection Law Course for more information regarding the CLE logistics, topics, and to apply: [Attorney Scholarships](#). The deadline to apply for a scholarship to this CLE is Monday, March 12th, 2018.



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