



Rob Mason is the Director of the Juvenile Court Unit for the Duval County Office of the Public Defender. He chairs the Florida Public Defender Association Juvenile Justice Committee, the Florida Bar Juvenile Rules Committee and is on the Executive Committee for the Florida Bar Public Interest Law Section. He is a member of the Florida Bar, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Southern Poverty Law Center, American Civil Liberties Union, and the American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Committee. He has been adjunct professor at Florida State College at Jacksonville and Jones College, teaching Evidence and Criminal Law.

A member of the Advisory Board for the Southern Juvenile Defender Center and a past Chair of the Florida Bar Committee for the Legal Needs of Children, he helped draft the *Florida Guidelines of Practice for Lawyers Who Represent Children in Delinquency Proceedings*. He helped implement a court rule mandating that juveniles have a right to confer with counsel before making a decision whether to waive counsel. He also helped pass a rule opposing indiscriminate shackling of juveniles

for court appearances. He drafted the court filings and response to comments for the rule, presented the rule to the Florida Bar Board of Governors for approval, and successfully argued it in front of the Florida Supreme Court. He has also appeared before that court successfully advocating for a court rule that children be warned of possible immigration consequences before the court accepts a plea.

Mr. Mason authored the chapter “Disposition in Delinquency Cases” in the Florida Bar Publication *Florida Juvenile Law and Practice*. He has testified on juvenile issues before committees of the Florida Senate and Florida House and has lectured nationally on various juvenile justice issues. He participated as an American Bar Association Panelist on Child Victims and also served as faculty at the National Juvenile Defender Leadership Summit. He served as an active member of the Advisory Committee for the Juvenile Justice Center at Barry University for the six years of their existence, and also participated as a member of the Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network, an initiative dedicated to improve the juvenile indigent defense system nationwide. The MacArthur Foundation has honored him as a 2010 Models for Change “Champion for Change”.

Rob Mason serves on the Board of Directors for the Jacksonville System of Care Initiative and the Duval County Juvenile Justice Council. He previously co-chaired the Steering Committee for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and currently co-chairs the Data subcommittee. He has also been the lead trial attorney for a number of delinquency appellate reversals, including the case of *J.R. v. State*, a case of first impression in Florida allowing a parent to remain in the courtroom during trial when they are a defense witness even after the rule of sequestration has been invoked.

Key Stats:

* J.D., University of Florida College of Law, graduated 1990; Associate Research Editor for Law Review

* Appointed Assistant Public Defender 1990 under PD Lou Frost’ became Director, Juvenile Court in 2009

* Awarded by MacArthur Foundation as ‘Champion for Change,’ ‘10

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