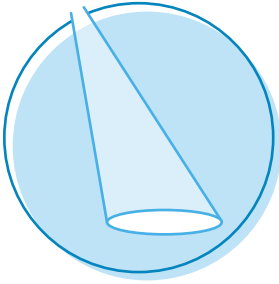


## RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT



### TURNING PAGES: INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS ON THE CHILD CATCHER BY ANDREW BRIDGE

By Judge Leonard Edwards (Ret.)

Some of you may remember *Hope's Child* by Andrew Bridge. It told the story of a young boy growing up in foster care who longed for his mother. Sadly, she was mentally ill and placed in a mental health facility. Building on the foundation laid in *Hope's Child*, Bridge continues telling his story in *The Child Catcher*. He secured a fellowship to attend Wesleyan University in Connecticut, graduated from Harvard Law School, was involved with several child-serving agencies in Los Angeles, and ended up as an attorney in the Justice Department.

He was assigned to work on *Wyatt v. Stickney*, a long-standing lawsuit against Bryce Hospital in Alabama (*Wyatt v. Stickney*, 325 F. Supp. 781 (M.D. Ala. 1971)). The case had once been heard by Judge Frank Johnson, the famous federal judge who made several important decisions about the hospital. The story tells of Andrew's efforts to build a case that the placement was not providing inadequate care, but actively abusive care to the hundreds of children living there. Andrew often had to travel from his office in Washington D.C. to Alabama to visit the children placed at the facility in Eufaula.

When Andrew met with the staff at Eufaula, he learned quickly that they were resistant to his participation in the lawsuit and uncooperative in assisting with his efforts. Their strategy was to delay the proceedings so that no changes would be made. Discovery was not provided, his attempts to talk with staff were obstructed, and his efforts to speak with some of the children were frustrated. The book follows Andrew making some contact with children and, finally, trying the case before a federal judge. In the trial, Andrew examines a young child who was willing to describe his life at Eufaula. His preparation and examination of the child witness are a highlight for all attorneys working with children.

This is a dramatic book with a powerful ending. I highly recommend it. ■

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



**JUDGE EDWARDS** is a retired judge from Santa Clara County, California, where he served for 26 years, primarily in the juvenile court. He now works as a consultant. His writings can be seen on his website: [judgeleonardedwards.com](http://judgeleonardedwards.com).