

Books Recommended for Juvenile Court Judges: and Others

There are several outstanding books about our juvenile courts and the children and families who appear in them. These books will enrich your understanding of the workings of the juvenile court, how it works (or doesn't), and how it interacts with the children it is intended to protect and support. This list is not complete as there are many books on these topics, but contains the best I have discovered.

Hopes Boy by Andrew Bridge

The author describes his life in foster care, his experience in juvenile court, his relationship with his disabled mother, and the hurdles he overcame to become an advocate for foster children.

A Place Called Home by David Ambroz

The author writes about his life first with his mother whom he loved but who was mentally unstable, then in foster care where he was treated badly by foster parents who rejected his sexual orientation and tried to change him. His success in later life is inspirational.

Random Family by Adrian Nicole LeBlanc

The author follows a New York family through their contacts with the court

system both juvenile and criminal. "A new benchmark in the field of immersion journalism." — *L.A. Times*.

Somebody Else's Children by John Hubner and Jill Wolfson

A pair of reporters worked within the juvenile court for two years producing "a gripping account of what happens to children in the juvenile justice system." — *John Gardner, former Secretary of HEW*.

Walk to Beautiful by Jimmy Wayne

A popular folk singer describes his life after his mother left him at a bus station at age 13. It describes how he overcame years of homelessness and foster care to become a success in life.

The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog by Bruce Perry and Maia Szalavitz

Two experts write about interventions when children are traumatized. These are stunning case histories of traumatized children fortunate enough to come under the care of Dr. Perry, who with patience and compassion unfolds the real causes of difficulties in their young and harmed lives, leading to effective treatment and significant salvation.

Finding Fish by Antwone Fisher

(also a movie) – The author recounts his life without his family and how he found his family ultimately. It is a powerful story about the importance of family finding.

I Speak for this Child by Gay Courter

Describes the work of a Child Advocate working in the court system.

Three Little Words: A Memoir by Ashley Rhodes-Courter

Life in foster care for 9 years and 14 foster homes.

The Deepest Well by Nadine Burke Harris, M.D.

The author is a doctor who established a clinic based on using ACEs as a guide for treatment of traumatized children. She was the first Surgeon General in California.

No Matter How Loud I Shout by Ed Humes

This is an inside look at youths who have committed serious crimes in Los Angeles. It is an Excellent but sad book about Southern California's juvenile justice court, written in 1996 and updated in 2014.

Invisible Kids by Holly Schlaack

Focuses on children in foster care written by an advocate. It is helpful for understanding what children go through in the foster care system. 🌟



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