

Rob Mason

Rob Mason is Board Certified in Juvenile Law and is the Director of the Juvenile Division for the Public Defenders Office in the Fourth Judicial Circuit. He has been an Assistant Public Defender since 1990 and has chaired the Florida Juvenile Court Rules Committee, the Florida Public Defender Juvenile Justice Steering Committee and the Florida Bar Committee for the Legal Needs of Children. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Center for Children's Rights and on the Advisory Board for the Southern Juvenile Defender Center. As Chair of the Juvenile Court Rules Committee 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, successfully arguing it before the Florida Supreme Court. Mr. Mason 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 has authored the chapter "Disposition in Delinquency Cases" in 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 issues. He participated as an active member of the Advisory Committee for the Juvenile Justice Center at Barry University and the Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network. The MacArthur foundation honored him as a 2010 Models for Change "Champion for Change."