

Dena Fisher
Associate Judge
315th District Court

Dena Fisher is the Associate Judge in the 315th District Court in Harris County, Texas, a juvenile court, presiding over delinquency and CPS dockets. Prior to being on the bench Judge Fisher was in private practice representing children for many years. She represented children charged with crimes, in delinquency cases, and children in abuse and neglect cases in CPS. She was also an attorney for children in the both the Human Trafficking court and the Gang Court, both juvenile specialty courts in Harris County. Prior to being in private practice, Judge Fisher was a Harris County Assistant District Attorney, and before that she was a Juvenile Probation Officer in Harris County for 13 years. She now sits on the Texas Supreme Court Dual Status Task Force, helping to set statewide policy and guidelines for the treatment of children who are involved in both the CPS and delinquency systems.

In addition, she presides over the Harris County Juvenile Mental Health Court, called Court 360, and she is one of the three founding judges of the Houston PEARLS and EAGLES Programs, a mentoring programs for youth in foster care. In her courtroom, she holds special dockets for dual status children as well as her regular dockets. Judge Fisher visits children in the delinquency and CPS placements in Harris and surrounding counties and also enjoys public speaking at various conferences and trainings. She regularly speaks to newly sworn CASA volunteers and caseworkers at CPS, as well as new probation officer classes in Harris County, welcoming the incoming classes and letting them know the potential impact that they could have on the lives of the children they interact with.

Judge Fisher teaches the Juvenile Representation clinic at the University of Houston Law Center, where her motivation is to expose law students to the role of representing children, with the hope that some of them will enter this important field of practice. Judge Fisher has spent most of her life advocating for children in one capacity or another, with a special interest and passion for advocating for dual status children and children in foster care.

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