

When a Child Takes the Stand: Practical Guidance for Trial Lawyers

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by Katherine E. Canning

Katherine Canning authored an article in the *ABA Litigation Journal* detailing the unique challenges that young witnesses present in the courtroom setting. She discussed how attorneys can help a child witness give testimony important to a case, pointing out that targeted preparation and the flexibility provided by the Federal Rules are helpful in doing this.

Katherine writes: "Preparing a young witness to testify at trial requires a tailored approach. I've had occasion to prepare several elementary-school-aged witnesses when litigating pro bono Social Security benefits cases. Each experience has brought its fair share of surprises, but ultimately I've found that working with children is not vastly different from preparing adult witnesses: The ultimate goal is to help your witness feel confident and ready when the witness steps into the courtroom, and that goal is best achieved by viewing the experience from your witness's point of view."

Read the [full article](#) via the ABA (membership required).

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