Professor Gershowitz was quoted in a report on the KHOU 11 News website concerning the verdict in the Casey Anthony murder trial.

The following report transcript was posted to the KHOU 11 News website on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 (video of the full report is available online at http://www.khou.com/news/Houston-Attorney-Helped-Pick-Casey-Anthony-Jury-125055339.html):

Houston attorney helped pick Casey Anthony jury
by Shern-Min Chow

HOUSTON – A Houston attorney consulted with the defense team for the jury selection in the Casey Anthony trial.

The case was high courtroom drama. People even fought for seats at the trial, which was streamed, televised and tweeted about for six weeks.

“The defense team was trying to monitor all the online comment. It was virtually impossible to do that. There were so many,” Karen Hurwitz.

What America thinks is interesting. What the jury thinks is crucial.

Hurwitz, a legal and behavioral consultant, helped picked Anthony's jury. She advised against selecting someone like Anthony.

“If somebody has young children it’s a lot harder to participate in a trial like this just because you’re thinking about your child,” she said. “I did work on the Andrea Yates trial and we had the same issue there.”

Yates was eventually found not guilty of killing her five children by reason of insanity. Older jurors further removed from childbirth were a plus for the defense. Another one was a juror who had “a relative had been involved in the criminal justice system” said Hurwitz.

The defense team pointed out no cause of death was ever determined. They argued that 2-year-old Caylee accidentally drowned, her family panicked and tried to cover up her death by putting duct tape on her mouth, burying her body and waiting a month to report her missing.

“People don't make accidents look like murder. That's absurd,” said prosecutor Jeff Ashton

But University of Houston criminal law expert Adam Gershowitz sees it another way.

“She’s guilty of being a bad mother. She’s guilty of a lot of other things, but she’s not guilty of intentional homicide if the jury believes her story,” Gershowitz said.

It took the jury less than 11 hours to render its verdict. That suggested they were pretty well aligned when they went into deliberations.

The defense attorneys and Houston consultant all worked pro bono, for free. Typically the publicity attached with these trials is considered part of the compensation.