



Laura Schulkind

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EXPERIENCE

With over 20 years of experience in school and public sector law, Laura Schulkind has developed an extensive background in the successful resolution of many employment and education-related issues and is experienced in all phases of school and employment law. Her areas of expertise include board governance and the Brown Act, student rights and discipline, certificated and classified evaluation and discipline, employee leave rights and the interactive process, contract grievance arbitration, harassment, employee investigations, education services for non-English speakers, employment and educational testing and accountability, school safety planning and hate crime prevention, OCR investigations, special education, desegregation, and designing lawful strategies to promote employment diversity. She is currently on the Board of Governors Title 5 Task Force, where she is assisting with revising the EEO and hiring regulations for community colleges.

Laura leads the firm wide practice regarding students with special needs--including the IDEA and state special education law, Section 504, and the proper use of general education services and "Response to Intervention" strategies to serve students within the general education program. Laura's expertise includes the proper designation of Section 504 eligibility and accommodations, serving students with diabetes, developing IEPs for students with autism, and the administration of medication at school. Under Laura's leadership, the Firm takes a highly collaborative approach to special education issues, looking for creative and cost-effective solutions that help forge lasting, positive relationships between educators and parents. Laura has successfully negotiated numerous resolutions that keep special education students in public schools.

Prior to joining Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, Laura was a partner at a Bay Area law firm that specializes in education and employment law. While there, she represented school districts and other public entities on a wide range of school law and employment issues. Among other things, she twice represented coalitions of school districts challenging aspects of the STAR testing program and has a particular interest in psychometrics and legal issues relating to testing.

A sought after presenter, Laura regularly conducts workshops for school districts, community college districts and professional organizations across the State in areas such as the Brown Act, conflicts of interest, harassment, best practices in management, certificated evaluation and discipline, school safety, employee leaves, student discipline, special education and EEO hiring. She is an Instructor at the University of California at Berkeley, School of Education, where she teaches education law in the Principal Leadership Institute and School Psychology Program. She also served as the legal member of the State Department of Education's hate crime prevention training team.

EDUCATION

JD, The New York University School of Law
BA, Wesleyan University

LEGAL EXPERTISE

Employment Law
Investigations
Litigation Services
Private Education
Public Education

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

LITIGATION

Plaintiff v. Private University (2012) - Negotiated a favorable settlement of under \$10,000 on behalf of a private university in a lawsuit brought by a former student asserting race discrimination and breach of contract claims.

Mosley v. West Contra Costa Unified School District (2011) - Petitioner was a vice principal. The school district (District) served a timely notice pursuant to Ed. Code § 44951 on March 11 advising Petitioner she may be reassigned to a non-administrator position for the following year. In May, the District sent Petitioner a letter in error stating that her assignment for the upcoming year would be as a vice principal. The Superintendent wrote to Petitioner in June informing her that the May assignment letter had been sent in error and the Board had not approved her assignment as an administrator. The Board subsequently assigned Petitioner to a counseling position. Petitioner filed a writ challenging the District's action. The court held that the May assignment letter did not rescind the March notice, that Mosley remained on notice of potential reassignment, and the district properly exercised its authority to assign Mosley to a counseling position.

AFFILIATIONS

President, California Council of School Attorneys

PUBLICATIONS

Questions and Answers Regarding Responding Quickly to Disasters, Oct 13, 2017

DeVos Calls For Revising Title IX Regulations, Announces Public Comment Period, Sep 7, 2017

President Trump Issues Executive Order Entitled: “Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States”, Jan 26, 2017

Revisions to the Title 5 Regulations, *Press Release* Feb 26, 2014

PRESENTATIONS

The Executive Assistants Program, California School Boards Association (CSBA) Annual Education Conference, San Francisco, Nov 30, 2018

Hiring the Best While Developing Diversity in the Workforce: Legal Requirements and Best Practices for Screening Committees, Rancho Santiago Community College District, Orange - AM & Santa Ana - PM, Nov 8, 2018

Town Hall - Legal Eagles, Association of College Human Resource Officers (ACHRO) 2018 Fall Institute, Sacramento, Oct 11, 2018

How to Write it Right: An Advanced Course on Discipline and Performance Documentation, Association of College Human Resource Officers (ACHRO) 2018 Fall Institute, Sacramento, Oct 10, 2018

Hiring the Best While Developing Diversity in the Workforce: Legal Requirements and Best Practices for Screening Committees, Rancho Santiago Community College District, Orange - AM & Santa Ana - PM, Sep 27, 2018

Hiring the Best While Developing Diversity in the Workforce: Legal Requirements and Best Practices for Screening Committees, Rancho Santiago Community College District, Orange - AM & Santa Ana - PM, Sep 26, 2018

Meet the Trailblazers, California Counsel of School Attorneys (CCSA) Conference, Santa Ana, Sep 7, 2018

The Brown Act, San Jose-Evergreen Community College District, San Jose, Aug 28, 2018

Hiring the Best While Developing Diversity in the Workforce: Legal Requirements and Best Practices for Screening Committees, Ohlone College, Fremont, Aug 23, 2018

Faculty Engagement in the Disabled Student Accommodations Process, El Camino College, Torrance, Aug 22, 2018

Human Resources Academy for Community College Districts, Bay Area CCD ERC, Oakland, Jun 14, 2018

Faculty Engagement in the Disabled Student Accommodations Process, El Camino College, Torrance, May 29, 2018

Promoting Equal Opportunity in Public Contracting, Association of Chief Business Officials (ACBO) 2018 Spring Conference, Santa Rosa, May 21, 2018

Sick and Disabled Employees and The Disability Interactive Process, West Valley-Mission Community College District, Saratoga, May 18, 2018

Ethics Decision Making, College of the Desert, Palm Desert, May 10, 2018

Ethics, San Jose/Evergreen Community College District, San Jose, Apr 10, 2018

Title IX, West Valley-Mission Community College District, Saratoga, Apr 6, 2018

Hiring the Best While Developing Diversity in the Workforce: Legal Requirements and Best Practices for Screening Committees, San Bernardino Community College District, San Bernardino, Apr 3, 2018

Diversity Hiring in Practice: A Working Meeting, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, Mar 23, 2018

Hiring the Best While Developing Diversity in the Workforce: Legal Requirements and Best Practices for Screening Committees, Los Medanos College, Pittsburg, Mar 21, 2018

Allegations and Reports of Sexual Misconduct: Effective Compliance with Title IV and Bullying at Work and School: Legal Obligations and Interdisciplinary Prevention Strategies, West

Valley-Mission Community College District, Saratoga, Mar 9, 2018

HIPAA and FERPA, Peralta Community College, Oakland, Mar 8, 2018

Immigration Issues on Campus, Community College League of California (CCLC) Symposium, Aptos, Mar 3, 2018

Legal Eagles, Association of Community College Administrators (ACCCA) Annual Conference, Santa Rosa, Feb 23, 2018