



SCHOOLS
LEGAL
SERVICE



THE AUGUST WORKSHOP | 2014

Essential Training For Educational Administrators

SCHOOLS LEGAL SERVICE

is an education law consortium providing legal and collective bargaining services exclusively to school and community college districts and county offices of education since 1976. The first agency of its kind in California, Schools Legal Service represents education agencies throughout the state.

As part of the education community, Schools Legal Service personnel understand the needs of our educational agency clients. SLS members include some of the largest as well as the smallest districts in the state, both urban and rural.

Our attorneys represent varied practice areas and legal disciplines, including personnel and collective bargaining, special education, student issues, and business and construction. Collectively, we have more than a century of experience in education law. Helping our clients make good decisions in a complex environment means more of their resources can be dedicated to serving students.

For more information, please feel free to contact us:

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SCHOOLS LEGAL SERVICE

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August 2014

Welcome to our 29th August Workshop!

We are pleased to have this opportunity to help kick off the school year by informing you of important developments in education law and providing an opportunity for you to get together with colleagues in districts of all shapes and sizes.

We know this has been a challenging year as districts grappled with a new funding model, emerging trends in student discipline, implementation of common core and a host of other issues. We will continue to emphasize preventive training in the year to come, including our joint training series with the Kern County Consortium SELPA, and a new series of trainings in labor and personnel.

Schools Legal Service is a partnership of member districts established almost 40 years ago. Formed by our members to serve education agency clients exclusively, our districts have a unique voice in the priorities of the Service. Our philosophy is that quality legal representation and preventive advice help educational administrators make the best possible decisions, which translates to more resources for the classroom.

Throughout the year, our client districts are encouraged to call us with questions or comments. Generally we can best assist you when contacted at the earliest possible stage. Staff members are always on call for your urgent matters day and night, including weekends and holidays.

Thank you for your continuing support and best wishes for a great school year.

Grant Herndon
General Counsel

Stacy L. Inman
Assistant General Counsel

Today's Presenters & Contributors



Attorney **Darren Bogié** joined the Special Education Practice Group from private practice focusing on civil litigation in Sacramento. A graduate of California State University, Chico and the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, Darren's experience in advising and defending both public and private sector clients serves our clients well. He is a former Deputy County Counsel, Assistant United States Attorney, and JAG Corps Trial Defense Counsel. Darren is a member of the California State Bar, the California Council of School Attorneys and the Kern County Bar Association.

Attorney **Melissa Brown** joined SLS after focusing on civil litigation in private practice. A graduate of UCLA and Santa Clara University School of Law, she is proud to have joined the ranks of education law attorneys as her family has been involved in many aspects of California education for over 60 years. Melissa serves as member of the Board of Directors of the Kern County Bar Association Charitable Foundation, as Past-Chair of the Kern County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, and has volunteered as an Attorney Coach at local and statewide Mock Trial competitions for Kern County high school students.



Attorney **Christopher Burger** joined SLS in 2002 from private practice, where he focused on real property and environmental matters. His prior experience as an environmental regulator for the Kern County Department of Environmental Health serves our clients well in the school site acquisition setting. Chris is also an authority on developer fees and administers a separate Kern County-based joint powers program for the collection of developer fees. The California Pacific School of Law graduate is a member of the California State Bar, Kern County Bar Association, California Council of School Attorneys, and an active participant in the Coalition for Adequate Student Housing (CASH).

Attorney **Tenielle Cooper** joined the Labor and Employment Practice Group at SLS from private practice in civil litigation and complex business litigation. Ms. Cooper is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara and Pepperdine University School of Law. Her significant litigation experience and extensive case investigation skills serve SLS clients well. Ms. Cooper is a member of the Kern County Bar Association and the California Council of School Attorneys. She also provides clients with sexual harassment prevention training and employee evaluation and discipline documentation training.



Attorney **Alan Harris** is a former United States Marine Corps JAG officer who joined SLS from private practice in 2002. Al represents districts and advises governing boards in student discipline matters and a range of other issues pertaining to students such as free speech and dress code issues. He assists administrators in obtaining temporary restraining orders and stay-away orders. He also practices in the areas of special education and school business law.

General Counsel **Grant Herndon** has practiced law for 27 years since graduating from the Georgetown University Law Center. He joined Schools Legal Service in 1994 from private practice, where his work included representation of state agencies such as the Department of Corrections, Department of Health Services, and Department of Parks and Recreation in personnel and related matters. Grant counsels governing boards and administrators on a variety of matters, including Brown Act and governance issues, conflict of interest, administrator contracts, election and voting rights issues, nonprofit formation, and school district organization. He completed the year-long CBO Mentor Program offered by statewide education groups including FCMAT, CCSESA, CASBO and School Services of California, and serves as an officer of the California Council of School Attorneys and member of the National School Boards Association. He is a member of the California State University Bakersfield Institutional Review Board and advises the nonprofit organization MOVE International, serving children and adults with severe disabilities through innovative, collaborative programs.



A graduate of the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, attorney **Bill Hornback** joined SLS in 1996 from private practice where his construction law experience was immediately put to use in advising and representing school districts in complex construction disputes. Bill has completely revamped SLS's extensive public works bid documents and provides training to districts in competitive bidding and related matters. His work with the Kern High School District's building program benefits all SLS clients. Bill is also a statewide expert on charter school issues.

Assistant General Counsel **Stacy Inman** coordinates the work of the Special Education Practice Group. Well-versed in all areas of special education law, Stacy has represented districts in special education matters for more than 20 years and has participated in a multitude of due process hearings. A graduate of the UC Davis School of Law, she worked as a deputy county counsel assigned to Juvenile Hall before beginning her school law practice. Stacy provides training to special education administrators and professionals through various SELPAs within our client base. She is an authority on student discipline issues relating to special education students as well as Section 504 matters.

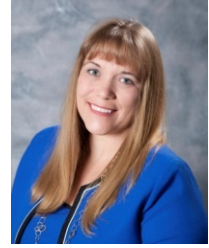


Outside the office, Stacy's efforts in forming a Kern County chapter for the ALS Association and promoting a successful annual community fundraiser have resulted in the availability of equipment and services locally which have literally changed the lives of Kern County residents with ALS. She was recently awarded the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Distinguished Service Award.



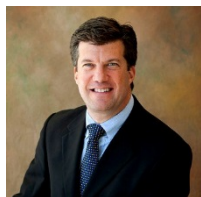
Attorney **Kelly A. Lazerson** joined Schools Legal Service in 2012 as a staff attorney focusing on labor and employment issues for school and community college districts. The former teacher and graduate of Whittier College School of Law, Kelly comes to the firm from private practice in employment law and most recently as the Legal Research Attorney/Alternative Dispute Resolution Administrator for the Kern County Superior Court. Kelly is a certified mediator.

Attorney **Kathleen LaMay**, a graduate of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and Ventura College of Law came to SLS from private practice in 2005. With a primarily focus on special education and other student matters, she has successfully represented clients in numerous due process hearings and mediations. She also develops and presents informative workshops on procedural and compliance issues. Kathleen is a member of the California State Bar, Kern County Bar Association and CCSA.



Attorney **Timothy L. Salazar** came to SLS from private practice in Torrance with an extensive background in collective bargaining and labor and employment law. A graduate of UCLA and a certified mediator, Tim is a member of the California, New Mexico and Texas State Bars. His practice focuses on collective bargaining, and he will represent clients in employment law matters including employee discipline, investigation of complaints, grievances, arbitrations and PERB hearings. Tim will also provide sexual harassment training for supervisory employees and other employment-related training.

Bargaining Specialist **Daryl Valdez** joined SLS in 2009, bringing a wealth of expertise and experience in human resources issues and collective bargaining. A former senior executive in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, the California State University Bakersfield graduate went on to establish a successful consulting firm through which he guided clients in all aspects of labor relations, including pre-election and decertification campaigns, bargaining, supervisory training, and benefit administration.



Lee Jay Berman is a mediator and trainer. He is the founder and President of the American Institute of Mediation based in Los Angeles. He mediates disputes in the workplace and in litigation, and he provides workshops and training courses for businesses and organizations in the areas of strategic negotiation skills and conflict resolution skills. He can be reached at leejay@leejayberman.com

Frank J. Fekete is a graduate of Rutgers University and the Harvard Law School. He has practiced school law in California since 1975. From 1982 to 2000, he was general counsel for Schools Legal Service in Bakersfield. After co-founding Epylon Corporation in San Francisco, he returned to school law and now practices as Education Advocates, Inc., located in Redondo Beach.



Frank is a past president of the California Council of School Attorneys, a former board member for the National Council of School Attorneys, and was the original chair of CSBA's Education Legal Alliance legal advisory committee. Among his clients are the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) and the Self-Insured Schools of California (SISC). He was an expert witness for the plaintiffs in *Vergara v. California*, successfully challenging the constitutionality of California's teacher tenure, layoff and dismissal statutes.

THE AUGUST WORKSHOP

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