

Connecticut Special Education Due Process Hearing Officers 2017

Attorney Ann F. Bird received her B.A. in English and Economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1979 and her J.D. from the University of California at Davis in 1982. She practiced law in private firms in California and Connecticut until 1994 when she joined the Hartford Corporation Counsel's Office, where she was assigned to represent the Hartford Public Schools. As Assistant and then Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel, Attorney Bird handled all school matters, including special education mediation and due process issues until her retirement in 2008. She has served as an Impartial Hearing Panel for the State Department of Education for expulsion hearings for the Connecticut Technical High School System, school accommodations, residency and transportation hearings and teacher revocation hearings since 2009.

Attorney Susan Dixon has been a practicing attorney for 35 years, representing a diverse variety of clients in family, custody, child abduction and juvenile court matters. She has represented not just adults but also children in court from newborns to the age of majority, in delinquency, neglect and custody cases. She has argued cases at the state and federal level as a trial lawyer and has decided cases as an Attorney Trial Referee and Factfinder. As a parent, Attorney Dixon became directly and extensively involved with the public, private and also the charter school systems. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Connecticut in 1974 and 1981, respectively, and was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1981. She also belongs to the Connecticut Bar Association, and is admitted to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Attorney Brette H. Fitton received a B.A. and B.S. from Southern Connecticut State University and a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law, where she received the Honorable Herbert Barall Family Law Award, the Connecticut Bar Association Real Property Section Award, and the Advanced Asylum Clinic Award for her advocacy in Federal Immigration Court. Attorney Fitton has a private law practice in Essex, Connecticut where she focuses on family law. An active member of the Young Lawyers Section of the Connecticut Bar Association, Attorney Fitton served as co-chair of the Family Law Committee from 2007-2010. She currently serves as the Section's Public Service Director for which she received the Young Lawyer Section Leadership Award.

Attorney Gregory Goodstein has been practicing law for 22 years. He has served the State of Connecticut previously as a Magistrate, presiding over Small Claims and Motor Vehicle hearings and trials. Attorney Goodstein now serves as a Hearing Officer for both the Office of Early Childhood and the State Department of Education. On a local level, Attorney Goodstein serves the City of Hartford in a similar capacity as a Hearing Officer in connection with a program administered by the Hartford Department of Public Health. Attorney Goodstein has volunteered his services as a Mediator within the Connecticut Judicial System. He has further served on the Connecticut Bar Association Executive Committees for the Young Lawyers Association; the Workers' Compensation Section; and the Criminal Law Section.

Attorney Sylvia Ho received a BA cum laude and with Special Honors from Tufts University in 1983 and a JD from Boston College Law School in 1987. After graduating from law school, she served as Law Clerk to the Justices of the New Hampshire Superior Court where she assisted the judges in legal analysis and drafting of legal decisions regarding motions and trials. She has had extensive litigation experience before Connecticut state and federal trial courts and state and federal administrative agencies. She has also represented clients before Connecticut state and federal Circuit Courts of Appeals. Her practice has primarily involved administrative law, commercial litigation, employment discrimination and civil

rights litigation. She is a member of the Connecticut Asian and Pacific Lawyers Association and is proficient in Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin). She is a member of the Connecticut state and federal Bars and the Bar of the First and Second Federal Courts of Appeals.

Attorney Janis C. Jerman received a B.A. in psychology from Purdue University in 1987 and a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1993. Attorney Jerman is admitted to practice law in Connecticut and in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. Attorney Jerman is an impartial hearing officer handling a variety of matters for the State Department of Education including special education due process hearings (since 2006); expulsion hearings for the Connecticut Technical High School System; school accommodation, residency, and transportation hearings; petitions for school bargaining unit clarification; and teacher license revocation hearings. She also serves as an arbitrator and fact-finder for the Hartford and New Britain Superior Courts and is on the arbitration and mediation panels of American Dispute Resolution Center, Inc.

Attorney Patrick L. Kennedy received his B.A. in Government and Economics from Connecticut College in 1983 and his J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1986. He has been in solo practice since 1992 and currently focuses on arbitration and mediation of civil cases. Attorney Kennedy serves as an arbitrator and fact-finder in various Connecticut Superior Courts and as an arbitrator for FINRA. He served as Chairman of the South Windsor Planning and Zoning Commission for eight years and serves as a volunteer judge for high school and middle school mock trials for Civics First.

Attorney Uswah A. Khan holds a Bachelor of Arts in English/writing from Barnard College, Columbia University, and a J.D. from the Pace University School of Law. She is admitted to practice in Connecticut and in the United States District Court for Connecticut, concentrating in the area of family law litigation and mediation. She is an active member of the CBA and FCBA, is on the executive committee for the Family Law Section of the CBA and is a co-chair on the Women and Law committee for the FCBA. She serves on the Connecticut State Advisory Council on Special Education 2008-present. Attorney Khan also acts as a Special Master in Stamford, Bridgeport, and Milford Superior Court for family cases. She provides internships to paralegal students of NCC. She is also a member of the SAWAN (South Asian Women's Network) mentoring group. Attorney Khan is fluent in Urdu and Hindi.

Attorney Kelly B. Moyher received her B.A. in Communications/Journalism from Marist College in 1998 and her J.D. from Quinnipiac University School of Law in 2001. She received several speaking honors while attending law school, competed at the national level of the Moot Court Honor Society at the National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC) and was a finalist at the regional level of the NAAC. Attorney Moyher is admitted to practice law in Connecticut and the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, as well as before the Supreme Court of the United States. She practiced special education law on behalf of parents for the firm of Klebanoff & Phelan for two years following law school. Following her work in private practice, Attorney Moyher worked for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) until 2015. She served as the Education Law Chair and Co-Chair for the Young Lawyers Division of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Bar Association for two years. Attorney Moyher is a recognized speaker on all issues surrounding education and special education law at both the state and national levels.

For twenty years, **Attorney Melinda A. Powell** has represented governments, small employers, elected officials and public schools in a wide variety of matters, including the IDEA, Title III of the ADA; Sec. 504; Title VI and Title VII; and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. More recently, she has also represented students at the secondary and college levels in issues involving student discipline, public accommodations and Section 504. Attorney Powell has tried numerous cases in state and federal court

and has argued appeals before the Second Circuit and the Connecticut Appellate and Supreme Court. Attorney Powell holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Administration, *with honors*. While in law school, she received the Jonathan B. Chase Fellowship to work in Fairbanks, Alaska for Alaska Legal Services. She also worked on environmental issues in Montpelier, Vermont and in Portland, Oregon.

Attorney Raymond J. Rigat received his B.A. in History and Political Science from Fordham University in 1987, and his J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1990. He served as a Naval Judge Advocate from 1991 to 1993 at Naval Station Treasure Island in San Francisco. Upon completion of his naval service he entered private practice in New London, Connecticut. From 1999 to 2011, he was Judge of Probate for the District of Clinton. In 2006, Attorney Rigat received the Connecticut Bar Association Federal Practice Section's *Pro Bono* Award. He was the Corporation Counsel for the City of Torrington from 2012 to 2015.

Attorney Justino Rosado received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Sacred Heart University and a J.D. from the University of Bridgeport School of Law. In his private law practice, from which he is now retired, Attorney Rosado concentrated in the areas of Family Law, Juvenile Law and Civil Rights. He has served as a Special Education Due Process Hearing Officer in Connecticut since 1996. Attorney Rosado is a founding member of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar and was the 2003 recipient of the HPN Award for Community Service and 2004 recipient of the Children in Placement, Judge John T. Downey Award. Attorney Rosado is fluent in Spanish.

Attorney Laura Share, from Guilford, Connecticut. Attorney Share graduated from Union College, Cum Laude, with a degree in Political Science in 2009 and from Quinnipiac University School of Law, Cum Laude in 2013. In 2013, Laura was admitted to the Connecticut Bar. As a student at Union College, Attorney Share worked as a research intern at the Foundation for Education Reform and Accountability (FERA) in Clifton Park, New York. Laura's coursework in the Political Science Department also provided her with valuable insights into America's educational systems. During college, Laura taught high school students in Saint Michael, Barbados and tutored and mentored students in urban school systems. During law school, Laura further developed her knowledge of public education and the delivery of special education services for students with disabilities. Laura is an associate attorney with Bansley, Anthony, Burdo, LLC where she handles both criminal and civil matters.

Attorney Jane Ford Shaw received her B.A. in Political Science from Providence College in 1990 and her J.D. from Quinnipiac University School of Law in 1996. Attorney Shaw is admitted to practice law in Connecticut and in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut in 1996. She has been in private practice since being admitted to the Bar, where she focuses on a wide breath of matters including real estate transactions, probate, guardianships, conservatorships, title 19 applications and small estate planning, as well as employment law, civil litigation and appellate matters. She has extensive experience in motion pleading and appellate briefing. She has also represented families in special education mediation and due process issues. Attorney Shaw frequently accepts Court appointments to represent minors and disabled individuals.