



## Christopher D. Keeler

Partner

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### What can I solve for you?

School district leaders routinely juggle a variety of conflicts, student and personnel matters and governance issues. I'm pleased to provide them with steady guidance so they can focus on facilitating what I consider to be the highest purpose of government—educating students.

### What's it like to work with me?

I tend to build strong, long-term relationships with those I represent, and I'm always looking down the road for emerging issues and hazards. Clients like my cordial personality, experience-based advice and ability to step in and help clean up problems. I devise a range of options to get them to their objective, but also identify the path I believe will be the best. Ultimately, the clients choose their path, but I take a candid approach when addressing options and strategies.

*"Our work is a natural fit for me – my parents worked in education, as did many family friends. My practice of education law honors what I consider the highest purpose of government."*



## Overview

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A versatile advisor and advocate for public education, Christopher D. “Chris” Keeler guides Southern California superintendents and school boards through the wide range of legal matters. Helping primarily San Diego and Inland Empire educational entities, he adeptly counsels clients on issues involving governance, labor and employment, collective bargaining, student matters, business, public contracts, real property, and unionization in charter schools. As the son of parents who worked in education, Chris has a deep appreciation for teachers, administrators and school district employees.

With almost three decades of experience in education law, Chris advises clients in conflicts and procedures stemming from employee evaluations and discipline, student behavior, sexual harassment, dress codes, free speech and Internet-based misconduct by both students and employees. He is frequently invited to provide training at seminars and conferences, as well as in-service trainings tailored specifically for individual clients. With a deep understanding of Interest-Based Bargaining, Chris also trains management and labor negotiation teams.

Over the years Chris has successfully represented school districts, large and small, before various administrative agencies, including the Public Employment Relations Board, Office of Administrative Hearings, California Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, as well as state and federal courts. He offers clients calm and practical direction on the turbulent issues that have arisen in recent years, including school district responses to the Covid-19 pandemic, public challenges to curriculums, protests at school-related meetings, and controversies stemming from social media content. In addition, he keeps clients up-to-date and compliant with California’s ever-evolving education laws.

With a keen interest in the rapid advancement of educational technology, Chris addresses the legal issues that stem from embedding it in schools. From online courses and collective bargaining issues to social media use policies, he is a recognized leader in this emerging area of law.

## Experience Highlights

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- Certified trainer in Interest-Based Bargaining, Chris is frequently invited to provide joint training to management and labor negotiation teams

## Involvement

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### Professional Affiliations

- California Council of School Attorneys

## After School

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I really value spending time with my family. We enjoy staying at our vacation home near Park City, Utah where we take hikes and visit our two married daughters who live in the state. I'm big on mountain biking and ride a few times a week. I'm also very active in my church and volunteer a lot of time there.

## Education

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- Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School (J.D.)
- Stanford University (B.A., International Relations)

## Admissions

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### Bar Admissions

- California

## Related Services

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- Investigations
- Education Technology
- Employment Law
- Governance & Leadership
- Labor Relations & Negotiations
- Student Rights & Discipline



## Related Clients

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- Community Colleges
- Higher Education
- Public Education K-12

## Presentations

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- Popular Speaker annual CSBA and ACSA conferences
- California Association of School Child Welfare Administrators
- School Employers Association
- Association of California Community College Administrators