



Fiona Murphy

she/her/hers

Associate

San Diego

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What can I solve for you?

I can proactively address special education legal challenges, ensuring compliance and fostering positive learning environments for all students. I'm committed to providing practical, effective solutions tailored to my clients specific circumstances.

What's it like to work with me?

I understand the complexities and sensitivities surrounding special education law. My background as teacher drives by a passion for meeting every child's learning needs combined with my experience as a seasoned litigation attorney, provides me to offer provides me with a unique perspective.

If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.

Fred Rogers



Overview

Fiona Murphy a trusted advisor on all matters of student services and special education law. She skillfully guides school districts, county offices of education, and special education local plan areas across California, providing comprehensive counsel on the full spectrum of special education legal issues.

Fiona launched her legal career as a litigation attorney, where she gained invaluable experience in researching case law, statutes, regulations, and legal precedents to support arguments and case strategy, she also handled written and electronic discovery, and prepared for depositions and trial.

During law school, Fiona interned at the San Diego Public Defender's Office, gaining hands-on experience across three key divisions: primary, alternate, and juvenile delinquency. In these roles, Fiona worked directly on cases that helped her hone her client communication and interviewing skills, as well as refine her writing and analytical abilities. Notably, as a legal intern in juvenile delinquency, she had the opportunity to advocate for clients on the record, a critical experience that enhanced her ability to think on her feet, present compelling arguments, and navigate courtroom procedures under pressure. This background instilled in her a meticulous approach to legal analysis and a results-oriented focus.

Fiona's passion for education law stems from her prior career as a teacher and her own experience as a special education student. During her primary and secondary education, Fiona's individualized education plan (IEP) ensured she received the necessary support to fully engage and participate in the classroom. The skills she gained through this process were instrumental in her success both in higher education and throughout her professional career.

As an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher Fiona quickly learned that a one-size-fits-all approach was not effective, and adapted her methods to meet the unique needs of each student. She regularly advocated on behalf of her students, ensuring accommodations or class adjustments were made when necessary. This experience laid the foundation for her work as an education law attorney, where she is committed to ensuring that all students receive the support and accommodations they need to thrive. It also gives her unique insight into the daily realities of educators and informs her practical, solutions-focused approach to legal representation.

Involvement

Professional Affiliations

- Lawyers Club of San Diego



- Legal Aid Society of San Diego

Community Affiliations

- University of San Diego, Men's Rowing, Alumni Council, Member. 2023-present
- University of San Diego, MenTOREROS, Mentor. 2023-present.

Recognition

- Wiley W. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services, California Lawyers Association, 2024.
- Outstanding Service Award, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, 2024.

After School

In her free time, Fiona competes as a coxswain for the Men's Masters rowing program at the San Diego Rowing Club. She loves spending time outdoors—whether scuba diving and snorkeling in the ocean or hiking in places like Yosemite and Three Sisters Falls. Fiona also has a passion for crafting, particularly crocheting and knitting, and enjoys photography. Above all, she cherishes time spent with family and friends.

Education

- Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law (J.D.)
- University of San Diego (B.A., Communications)
 - Student Athlete Honor Roll Western Conference 2014
 - University of San Diego, College of Arts and Sciences First Honors 2014, 2016, & 2017
 - Second Honors 2013 & 2015, University of San Diego Scholar-Athlete.

Admissions

Bar Admissions

- California
- New York



F3 Law

Related Services

- Student Rights & Discipline
- Special Education