



Kathleen Anderson

Associate

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What can I solve for you?

As a former special education teacher, I bring a unique perspective to my practice when helping school districts stay compliant with the many statutes and rules governing the education of students with disabilities. I provide compliance counseling on all kinds of issues affecting students with disabilities, and I offer training and workshops to help prevent problems and disputes from arising so that my clients can focus on educating the students in their care.

What's it like to work with me?

I believe we're all in this together. Public education is crucial to our society, and I chose to work in this arena because I want to support and strengthen school districts to enable them to shine when serving their kids. I draw on my sense of humor to help calm staff who feel stressed by the many demands they address. When matters fall into a gray area with no clear-cut answers, I assist districts in identifying options and weighing the pros and cons of each option so clients can choose the best approach for them.

"In the words of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 'Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time,' and I enjoy assisting clients in bringing about that change."



Overview

Helping Central Valley school districts deliver services to students with disabilities, Kathleen “Kathy” Anderson counsels clients on the requirements imposed by federal and state statutes such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and related California law and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) and related state law. Kathy addresses matters on their front ends by advising district staff on developing legally-compliant documents such as Section 504 Plans, IEPs and related documents, and on their back ends by advising on how to respond to parent, advocate, and parent counsel demands, compliance complaints and requests for due process.

Kathy understands that the law does not place unlimited demands on her clients, and that her clients have responsibility for managing budgets and the taxpayer funds with which they have been entrusted. She works hard to prevent school districts from being taken advantage of and strives to enable them to make the most of their finite resources so that the districts can facilitate learning for all students.

Fostering teamwork, Kathy enjoys getting to know and working with a wide range of district employees, including administrators, related service providers and teachers. These connections enable her to better deliver services and resolve problems in an efficient manner. She also provides extensive employee training to help clients mitigate risks and perform their jobs more effectively.

As the parent of a special needs child and a former teacher who spent four years working with high school kids with severe disabilities, Kathy draws on valuable first-hand experience to address challenges facing special education kids and their families, as well as the staff serving them. Her educational background includes a master’s degree in special education and a teaching credential as an education specialist.

Prior to joining F3, Kathy was of counsel at an environmental and land use law firm, where she assisted clients in solving complex compliance issues. She frequently puts her outstanding communication skills to good use by authoring articles, conducting workshops, and lecturing on a variety of special education topics—and engages her audiences by weaving in anecdotes from her personal classroom experiences.

Kathy channels passion, knowledge, dedication and empathy into her practice, to the benefit of both students and school districts. She abides by the words of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who said, “Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.” Kathy finds it highly rewarding to support clients in bringing about that positive transformation.



Involvement

Professional Affiliations

- Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Advisory Committee Member
- American Bar Association

Community Affiliations

- Fresno Police Department Chaplain

After School

In addition to spending time with our grown children, my husband and I like to travel. We particularly enjoy adventurous activities such as ziplining. In addition, community service is a vital part of my life. Among other things, I've mentored incarcerated youth, assisted in the formation of a family day care home association, formed guardianships for mentally ill youth, worked a battered women's hotline, and many charitable activities through my church. Most recently, I became a Fresno Police Department Chaplain.

Education

- University of California, Los Angeles (J.D.)
- Brandman University (M.A., Special Education)
- University of California, Los Angeles (B.A., English, *magna cum laude*)

Admissions

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District, California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District, California



Related Services

- Special Education
- Student Rights & Discipline

Related Clients

- Charter Schools
- Public Education K-12

Publications

- Authored “Battered Wives, Religion & Law: An Interdisciplinary Approach”, published in the *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism*