



M. Alejandra León

she/her/hers

Partner

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## What can I solve for you?

Clients rely on me to draw on my extensive experience, legal acumen, communication skills and big-picture approach to advise and represent them on the full spectrum of special education law and student matters. I also handle a wide range of employment issues and conduct investigations involving discrimination and other claims as well as internal compliance investigations to help school districts uncover potential problems and prevent them from arising.

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

The excellent public education I received paved the way for me to become a first-generation college graduate, earn my law degree, and ultimately give back by providing legal service to education professionals. I consider it an honor to help them. As a thought partner to my clients, I listen closely to their concerns and goals. I don't tell them what to do, but rather I craft practical often creative options for their situations. After they decide which path to take, I guide them on every step.

## Overview

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**M. Alejandra León counsels school districts, county offices of education and special education local plan areas on an array of special education, student-related and employment issues. They include matters that involve the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and myriad related California laws and rules in this complex, ever-evolving legal arena.**



Bringing an ability to ask the right questions, get people to open up, and gather facts, Alejandra also performs investigations when allegations manifest regarding discrimination and other conduct that involve students or staff. She also counsels clients on compliance with public meeting regulations.

While she enjoys tackling the intellectual complexities of education law, Alejandra most likes interacting with clients, and building relationships with them. She monitors the changing regulations and works diligently to ensure her clients stay in compliance and avoid litigation. When conflicts do arise, Alejandra steers clients through the dispute, works to attain the best possible resolution, and takes away as much as she and the client can so they can put into place measures to avoid future problems. Alejandra approaches such disagreements from a practical standpoint, always considering the long-term, relational consequences on families and school districts.

By earning a bachelor's degree in Social Welfare, Alejandra became fully aware of the interconnected nature of the various government assistance programs, which require cooperation from multiple agencies. This understanding enhances her ability to serve clients today. "The public education system," she says, "has many overlapping circles and many different people—students, families, employees, colleagues and others—so having a macro perspective helps us best interact with each other."

Alejandra earned a Juris Doctor from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where she was the recipient of the Witkin Award for Excellence in her Special Education Law Seminar.

## Experience Highlights

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- Member of F3's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

### Clerkships

- City of Vallejo Attorney's Office
- Berkeley City Attorney's Office
- Law Foundation of Silicon Valley Mental Health Advocacy Project

### Externships

- Externed for the Honorable Evelio M. Grillo in the Alameda County Superior Court

## After School

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I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, and I love to cook, which I find to be meditative.



## Education

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- University of California, Hastings College of the Law (J.D.)
- University of California, Berkeley (B.A., Social Welfare, *with distinction*)

## Admissions

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### Bar Admissions

- California

## Related Services

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- Title IX
- Investigations
- Student Rights & Discipline
- Special Education
- Governance & Leadership
- Education Technology

## Related Clients

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- Public Education K-12

## Languages

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- Spanish