



Matejka M. Handley

she/her/hers

Associate

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What can I solve for you?

Clients turn to me to address a wide range of issues that arise in special education, student services, and charter schools, and I also give speeches and presentations on these topics.

What's it like to work with me?

While I bring my legal experience and knowledge to my practice, I consider forming and maintaining strong relationships as the most essential aspect of my job. My people skills make clients feel comfortable and result in productive discussions. I understand their challenges and empathize with the difficult task of stretching limited resources to provide sufficient help to the children who need it. They also appreciate my ability to craft and execute successful strategies.

Overview

Matejka Handley focuses her practice on the areas of special education, student services, and charter schools, including issues pertaining to Section 504, student rights and discipline, and student policy compliance. She advocates for school districts in complaint hearings before the Office of Administrative Hearing, the Office for Civil Rights, and the California Department of Education.

Special education disputes often center on questions of placement and what constitutes an appropriate amount of support and services for students. Matejka goes into each case with the firm belief that all involved parties

want to provide the best learning environment possible for every child. Her steadiness and compassion in these often fraught and emotional situations help diffuse tensions and preserve relationships with families. Districts value Matejka's ability to forge acceptable compromises and speedy resolutions.

As a frequent public speaker and presenter on student services webinars and client-specific trainings, Matejka brings a friendly, relatable approach and a broad and deep knowledge base. She believes many topics are often made unnecessarily complex and enjoys creating and presenting material that's both easily digestible and highly useful.

Matejka's ease in communicating with individuals from all backgrounds put people at ease and help facilitate sound resolutions and optimal outcomes. She also contributes her clear, linear thought process and excellent organizational skills to every matter.

Before joining F3, Matejka worked at another California education law firm, where she represented local education agencies. Prior to that, she worked as a volunteer attorney for the Solano County Public Defender's office, advocating for parents during detention, disposition and status-review dependency proceedings. During law school, Matejka volunteered with Bay Area and Sacramento non-profits that addressed dependency and education for children. She also clerked for a judge within the San Francisco Superior Court who presided over dependency matters.

Experience Highlights

Externship

- Solano County Public Defender's Office
- East Bay Children's Law Offices
- Children's Law Center of California
- Legal Services for Children

Clerkships

- Clerked for Judge Linda Colfax, San Francisco Superior Court

Involvement

Community Involvement

- Volunteer Infrastructure Project (VIP) Coordinator for AmeriCorps

Recognition

- Recipient, Witkin Award for Academic Excellence in Constitutional Law

After School

I enjoy crocheting, the beach, and all things donuts.

Education

- Golden Gate University School of Law (J.D.)
- Institute for Shipboard Education, Semester at Sea ()
- Semester at Sea
- University of California, San Diego (B.A., International Studies; Minors in History and Urban Studies and Planning, summer abroad)

Admissions

Bar Admissions

- California

Related Services

- Special Education
- Student Rights & Discipline
- Title IX

Related Clients

- Charter Schools
- Public Education K-12