



Rachael B. Tillman

she/her/hers

Partner

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What can I solve for you?

Clients come to me because they know I bring years of experience, a clear understanding of the various angles of the law, cutting-edge strategies and a calm, steady approach in helping them prevent or solve problems. Both approachable and candid, I counsel them on virtually any special education and student services matter and advocate for them vigorously through every stage of a dispute; they know I'm always there when they need me.

What's it like to work with me?

As a product of public schools, I'm thrilled to help districts serve California students, including the next generation of leaders. The most enjoyable part of my job is connecting and building relationships with clients. Getting to know them well also helps me best understand their objectives and concerns so we can develop smart strategies to prevent and resolve challenges. When clients realize I've got their backs at all times, their stress and worry dissolve.



“As a product of public school, I am thrilled to help our clients serve the next generation of leaders.”



Overview

Legal advisor and litigator Rachael Tillman counsels and represents school districts on an array of issues that manifest in the student services and special education environments. With extensive trial, appellate, and administrative hearing experience, she advocates for clients in state and federal courts throughout the state. Rachael also represents clients in mediations and administrative and due process hearings and performs investigations under such legislation as Title IX. Always thoroughly prepared for any circumstance, she gets out in front of problems and positions clients as optimally as possible.

Rachael facilitates state school districts' obligations to provide kids of all mental and physical abilities with a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE). She finds creative solutions and develops cost-effective ways to manage problems and conflicts, including disputes about the level of services being provided to individual students. Rachael also advises on issues involving campus safety, student discipline, custody and restraining orders and learning-loss recoveries stemming from remote instruction during the Covid-19 pandemic. While taking a comprehensive and holistic approach to all matters, she tailors each strategy to fit her clients' needs.

Prior to joining F3, Rachael represented schools in all aspects of litigation and administrative law, including civil rights issues, labor and employment matters, personal injury disputes and violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. She draws on this valuable courtroom experience in communicating confidently and persuasively before judges, juries and other decision-makers, while also giving clients and witnesses the tools to stay calm and composed.

Rachael's constant availability and highly responsive communication style are key qualities that boost clients' appreciation of her trustworthiness and dedication to serving public school organizations. Many have told her that she makes them feel as though they're her one and only client.

Experience Highlights

Internships

- Legal intern for Sony Pictures Television's Business Affairs department

Recognition

- Dean's List recipient
- Witkin Award recipient for legal writing and research



After School

I've got two young kids, who keep me very busy, and I enjoy spending time with my friends as well as my family. In addition to getting outside to hike, I also like trying new restaurants around town.

Education

- Golden Gate University School of Law (J.D.; Specialized Certification in Litigation)
- University of California, Los Angeles (B.A., Political Science)

Admissions

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

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

Related Services

- Special Education
- Student Rights & Discipline
- Title IX

Related Clients

- Public Education K-12