



Seth N. Eckstein

Partner

Oakland

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What can I solve for you?

Drawing on my broad experience in education law, both as an in-house attorney for a large school district and as a private practitioner, I help clients navigate a wide array of issues that arise everyday situations. My areas of focus include support with labor and employment, human resources, labor relations and negotiations, public records, personnel investigations, governance, contracts, business transactions, parcel taxes and facilities. My goal is to provide practical solutions to the challenges my clients face in this complex legal landscape.

What's it like to work with me?

Education is my passion. Because I was a teacher before I started practicing law, I fully understand and appreciate the critical service educators provide to our children and our communities. While clients value my legal skills, they're also grateful for the human element and educator's perspective I bring to their matters. They quickly recognize my steadfast commitment to working closely with school districts in helping deliver the best programs possible to serve all children.

"Before law school, I was a teacher. That experience drives me now to help districts deliver quality programs that serve all children."



Overview

With experience as a former educator and in-house counsel, Seth N. Eckstein is well-versed in school operations and takes a holistic approach as a general counsel and thought partner for clients. He is committed to addressing issues promptly and proactively so that school district can execute on their mission to serve children. Seth counsels clients on the full spectrum of labor and employment, human resource and governance and board-related issues as well as personnel investigations, business transactions and matters involving parcel taxes and the Brown Act. He also represents districts in workplace discrimination complaints, labor disputes and other claims.

Seth is particularly passionate about personnel issues because this work ultimately is about putting the best staff in front of students. He partners with human resource professionals to address complicated, fast-developing issues and help them provide the best learning environments. His goal is to help districts stay focused on their mission: providing the best environments to educate students. Sometimes that requires working with different departments and different administrators to always place children's interest first.

Because of his experience teaching Mandarin Chinese at a public school in Boston and as in-house attorney with the Oakland Unified School District for more than six years, Seth recognizes how educators and school districts operate. He also knows clients frequently need responses to issues immediately so he makes himself available for delivering solutions quickly.

Clients appreciate Seth's strong communication skills, responsiveness and ability to provide practical analysis and distill complex legal concepts into easily understood language. He understands that some school districts don't have a lot of resources and takes that into consideration to offer cost-effective options to achieve optimal outcomes. No matter the circumstances, Seth considers it an honor to work shoulder-to-shoulder with public school professionals and serve as their "thought partner," as he puts it.

Experience Highlights

Internships

- Interned for the Hon. John T. Noonan of the Ninth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals in San Francisco



After School

As a father of two, I enjoy spending time with my family. I also like cycling and hiking, including a trek up Mt. Kilimanjaro, as well as reading history and science fiction.

Education

- Northeastern University School of Law (J.D.)
- Colby College (B.A., *summa cum laude*)

Admissions

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

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

Related Services

- Employment Law
- Governance & Leadership
- Investigations
- Labor Relations & Negotiations

Related Clients

- Public Education K-12

Languages

- Mandarin