



Taylor Needham

Associate

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What can I solve for you?

As a strong advocate for public education, I bring extensive legal skills, knowledge and experience, passion and compassion in counseling clients on an array of issues in the student services and special education areas. They include Individual Education Plans (IEPs), special education placement, disciplinary action, expulsions, suspensions, and many others.

What's it like to work with me?

As the first college graduate and lawyer in my family, I understand the power of receiving a strong public education. I'm honored to work with school districts to ensure that future generations also get the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our clients face a never-ending stream of concerns and issues, and I strive not just to put out fires, but also to proactively help them prevent problems from arising through implementing sound policies and complying with all rules and laws.

"As a first-generation college student and lawyer, I understand the importance and power of a strong education. I enjoy working with school districts to ensure that future generations of students also get the opportunity to reach their full potential. "



Overview

Taylor Needham practices primarily in the student services and special education arenas. She represents school districts in a range of matters, including in issues arising from Individual Education Plans (IEPs), special education placement, disciplinary action, expulsions, suspensions, manifestation determinations, parental consent, distance learning and vaccination policies.

Covid-19 created a slew of novel education-related issues, and schools and school districts are still grappling with the pandemic's many educational and behavioral repercussions. Taylor tackles each issue with open-mindedness and adaptability, which fosters her ability to find creative responses to problems that have little or no precedence.

Disagreements about how to educate and discipline students with mental, physical and behavioral challenges often arouse emotion and intense responses, but Taylor's calm, practical and child-centric approach helps diffuse intense situations and preserve relationships. Clients appreciate her dedication, sensitivity and commitment to solving problems in efficient and practical ways. The nature of Taylor's practice means she's fortunate to work with administrators over the long term and really get to know them, their districts, level of risk acceptance and preferred style of operating.

Taylor started her F3 career as a post-bar law clerk. During law school, she represented low-income families of students with disabilities at the University of San Diego School of Law's Education and Disability Clinic. She also clerked at the San Diego Unified School District Office of the General Counsel and San Diego Superior Court, Juvenile Courthouse, and externed for the Honorable Thomas Whelan at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

Experience Highlights

- Woman's Law Caucus
- Advocates for Children and Education
- Articles Editor for the *San Diego Law Review*

Clerkships

- Taylor started her F3 career as a post-bar law clerk
- Clerked at the San Diego Unified School District Office of the General Counsel and San Diego Superior Court, Juvenile Courthouse



Externships

- Externed for the Honorable Thomas Whelan at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California

After School

I was a drama kid in middle school, and in the post-pandemic era I've enjoyed getting back into attending live theater and musicals. I also crochet—mostly special gifts like blankets and stuffed animals for my young goddaughter and baby nephew.

Education

- University of San Diego School of Law (J.D.)
- California State University, Fullerton (B.A., *summa cum laude*)

Admissions

Bar Admissions

- California

Related Services

- Special Education
- Student Rights & Discipline

Related Clients

- Public Education K-12