



Cynthia M. Smith

she/her/hers

Partner

Sacramento

csmith@f3law.com

D 916.604.3072



What can I solve for you?

Clients rely on my legal skills, years of experience and practical yet often creative approach in handling a full spectrum of issues that arise in education law and day-to-day school operations. I advise them on business agreements, contracts and other concerns, the all-important and dynamic governance management and policies, Public Record Act requests, property and facilities challenges and opportunities, and other areas in which they need direction and resolution.

What's it like to work with me?

I apply my legal acumen and strong research, analysis and writing skills to a variety of client matters. When clients need my help, I thoroughly assess the particular situation and plot the optimal path forward. It's gratifying for me to place their burden on my shoulders and relieve their anxiety by resolving problems as quickly and effectively as possible. And, they appreciate the steady hand and cordial demeanor I bring to their concerns.



"I am honored to work for such an esteemed private firm, while at the same time, serving the public through representation of the public education system. It's the best of both worlds."



Overview

Cynthia M. “Cindy” Smith skillfully advises California K-12 and community college districts on a range of business and facilities matters, as well as governance issues such as Brown Act questions and parliamentary procedure queries. Cindy also helps them comply with the Public Records Act by fulfilling requests for documents—one of many tasks that clients are eager to turn over to her so they can better focus on their educational missions.

Cindy’s many years of legal practice have previously spanned several areas, including litigation, investigations, special education and charter schools. Prior to joining the firm, she served as a clerk for the California State Legislature, Assembly Judiciary Committee. Cindy draws on her broad and deep experience and institutional knowledge to act in a general counsel capacity to several districts. A careful listener, she ascertains how the issues at hand affect other areas of their organizations and addresses the tangential aspects that clients might not have considered initially.

On the real property side of her practice, Cindy provides counsel on bidding specifications and procedures, agreement drafting and easement issues. When school districts experience decreases in student numbers through boundary reconfigurations or changing demographics, she helps them sell surplus properties. Cindy has also assisted clients with a variety of contract-related issues, including interpreting, revising, and drafting contracts, and negotiating resolutions to contract disputes.

Managing partner of the firm’s Sacramento office, Cindy is a popular presenter on legal education topics. As the product of public education and a family involved in government service, she proudly serves school districts and relishes the opportunity to help facilitate student learning.

Experience Highlights

Clerkships

- Served as a clerk for the California State Legislature, Assembly Judiciary Committee



Involvement

Professional Affiliations

- California Council of School Attorneys, Member
- Sacramento County Bar Association, Member

After School

My interests include reading—particularly good fictional stories—going to the beach, crocheting and quilting, which I took up during the pandemic. I also love to spend time with my family. One of my two teenagers plays soccer, so I enjoy watching her matches and supporting her team.

Education

- University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (J.D., *with distinction*)
- California State University, Sacramento (B.A.)

Admissions

Bar Admissions

- California

Related Services

- Business
- Education Technology
- Facilities & Construction
- Governance & Leadership
- Real Estate & Property

Related Clients

- Public Education K-12