



Howard J. Fulfrost

he/him/his

Partner

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What can I solve for you?

I provide highly informed counsel to school districts throughout Southern California, advising them on a range of issues, including case analysis and strategy, compliance, dispute resolution and hearing representation regarding a wide variety of special education matters. Clients appreciate my ability to analyze situations quickly and craft and implement the right strategies to resolve disputes and reach resolutions.

What's it like to work with me?

Drawing on my legal and educational experience as well as my commitment to students and schools, I work diligently to prevent problems by looking down the road to identify any potential pitfalls and taking action long before they arise. I care deeply about my clients and communicate clearly and frequently with them.

Overview

With a passion for helping students and public education entities function at the highest level possible, Howard Fulfrost represents school districts, county offices of education and special education local plan areas in all aspects of special education law. Howard's ability to facilitate fair and effective negotiations brings administrators and families together to attain the best outcomes possible.



Long recognized as a legal leader in special education and student matters, Howard is known for his experience in the area of local educational agencies' obligations to students with disabilities. He guides organizations through all stages of due process, including resolution sessions, mediations and hearings. Whether Howard is assisting client personnel to prepare for a challenging Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meeting, reviewing files to spot red flags on compliance, or advocating for clients before the Office of Administrative Hearings, he loves helping school districts help kids.

Howard advises clients on a wide spectrum of student-centered matters, including issues stemming from discipline, inter-district attendance, residency and subpoenas for student records. He also performs Title IX and related investigations. His ability to identify weaknesses in cases and policies and rectify them early adds both strategic and practical value for clients. It allows them to do what they do best: educate students.

As an undergraduate, Howard was a student teacher in special education at the University of California, Los Angeles' Neuropsychiatric Institute (now Semel Institute) in-patient school. He also holds a master's degree in Developmental Psychology from Columbia University. This background gives him a deep understanding of the needs and experiences of special education students and helps him speak credibly and perceptively with parents, teachers, school psychologists, administrators during IEP team meetings.

Additionally, Howard's interesting history elevates his ability to serve clients today. He began his career in the New York City public school system, where he coordinated a community-based program in two Brooklyn high schools. Prior to private practice, he was employed as staff counsel for the Division of Special Education at Los Angeles Unified School District, where he represented the district in hundreds of due process cases and provided ongoing legal support in all areas of special education law.

Howard is a popular and energetic presenter who's frequently invited to speak on a variety of special education legal topics. He regards public education as the most important institution in American society and finds it gratifying to effect policy change at the state and local level and contribute to improving America's educational system.

Experience Highlights

- Served on the American Bar Association's Commission on Disability Rights

Recognition

- Named a Southern California Rising Star by Los Angeles Magazine in 2004, 2005 and 2006
- During the summer of 2012, Howard was invited to participate in the Harvard Graduate School of Education Universal Design for Learning Institute



After School

In addition to working out at the gym and spending time outdoors, I also enjoy less physically active pursuits. I binge-watch television series like “Stranger Things,” “Ozark,” and “Game of Thrones,” and read a variety of genres, including historical fiction and nonfiction such as biographies and autobiographies. Two of my recent are *An Autobiography* by Andre Agassi, and *The Audacity of Hope* by President Barack Obama.

Education

- University of San Francisco School of Law (J.D.)
- Teachers College, Columbia University (M.A., Developmental Psychology)
- University of California, Los Angeles (B.A., Psychology)

Admissions

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Central District, California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District, California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District, California

Related Services

- Special Education
- Student Rights & Discipline
- Investigations
- Virtual Learning



Related Clients

- Religious & Parochial Schools
- Public Education K-12

Publications

- In addition to having written a number of published articles for the Los Angeles Daily Journal, Howard and his partner Jan Tomsy have co-authored LRP's **IDEA Due Process Survival Guide: A Step-by-Step Companion for Administrators and Attorneys**

Presentations

- Popular presenter at ACSA's annual Every Child Counts Symposium speaking on a variety special education legal topics