



## Wesley B. Parsons

Partner

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### What can I solve for you?

Drawing on my extensive experience in and knowledge about special education, I counsel and train professionals in school districts and other public education entities on an array of issues to help them prevent problems and, when necessary, advocate vigorously on their behalf. I also advise clients on student matters, help them resolve disputes that arise between districts and families, and provide them with other legal services.

### What's it like to work with me?

My clients know I care very much about them and the important work they do. It's very satisfying to explore options and strategize to find creative, child-centered and cost-effective solutions to their problems. Clients count on me to be by their side every step of the way.

*"I am a strong believer in public education and value the opportunity to work closely with educators to improve educational opportunities for all students."*



## Overview

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**Highly respected for his special education law acumen, Wesley B. “Wes” Parsons represents school districts, county offices of education and special education local plan areas throughout California as a strong advocate, advisor and trainer. He handles general student matters, including those that involve discipline, bullying, harassment and discrimination. Additionally, Wes navigates disputes between students’ families and school districts regarding the educational options being offered to children. His clients rely upon his sage counsel and services both at the school site and administrative levels.**

Wes advises public agencies in all capacities relating to inter-district attendance and residency disputes, Section 504 matters, Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meetings, special education mediations and due process hearings, Manifestation Determinations, compliance complaints with the California Department of Education (CDE) and investigations with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). He brings deep insight into a wide range of topics, including IEP development, nonpublic and private services, jurisdictional/residency matters and abused, neglected and homeless youth.

Partnering with clients, Wes helps develop legally defensible and child-centered special education programs. In addition, he guides school districts in understanding their legal responsibilities in gender diversity matters, such as ensuring that LGBTQ youth receive the appropriate support in the school setting. Wes thoroughly enjoys working proactively to help all students receive excellent education in a safe, caring environment.

A firm believer in addressing issues on the front end to avoid setbacks on the tail end, Wes collaborates with clients to craft policies that prevent or minimize problems and disputes. When conflicts do arise, he relishes the intellectual challenge of thoroughly but efficiently examining allegations and then crafting strong arguments to counteract claims. Wes’ calm manner and ability to think quickly enable him to diffuse emotional responses and provide practical legal counsel. Clients can see their available response options and choose a path or strategy that addresses and resolves issues in the best interests of both the districts and the children.

Previously, Wes served as an attorney in both the public and private sectors, representing local education agencies at all levels of special education due process proceedings. Prior to attending law school, he was a teacher at the Early Childhood Education and Infant/Toddler Centers at the University of California, Irvine, where he also earned his bachelor’s degree. A popular speaker and trainer, Wes frequently accepts invitations to lead workshops at statewide education conferences, including the Association of California School Administrators’ Student Services conference. He is the co-author with Mary Schillinger of the book *Write On! A Guide to Compliant Documentation of Special Education Policies and Procedures*.



With a huge admiration for those he serves, Wes is a strong believer in public education. He values the opportunity to serve teachers and administrators and lessen their loads so they can continue to improve learning opportunities for California's kids.

## After School

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I like spending time with my husband and family and stay active and healthy by going to the gym, hiking, swimming and biking.

## Education

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- Loyola Law School (J.D.)
- University of California, Irvine (B.A.)

## Admissions

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### Bar Admissions

- California

## Related Services

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- Special Education
- Student Rights & Discipline

## Related Clients

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- Public Education K-12

## Publications

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- Co-author with Mary Schillinger of the book *Write On! A Guide to Compliant Documentation of Special Education Policies and Procedures*