

COPAA

Annual Conference

March 5-8, 2009



WASHINGTON
DC
THE AMERICAN
EXPERIENCE



Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.

COPAA is a national voice for special education rights. This conference provides unique opportunities for training and networking with experienced and knowledgeable attorneys, advocates, and parents. COPAA promotes excellence in special education advocacy.

2009 COPAA Conference

COPAA invites you to attend our 11th Annual Conference, hosted in our Nation's capital, on March 5-8, 2009.

The changing political landscape, impending reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), and the potential impact that all will have on education for children with disabilities make this a conference you cannot afford to miss.

Join fellow advocates, make your voice heard, share strategies, and empower yourself with cutting edge knowledge to achieve excellence in special education advocacy.

During your free time discover inspiring museums, powerful monuments, and majestic memorials in Washington, D.C. A diverse, cosmopolitan world capital, DC invites visitors to explore its charming neighborhoods, sample its hip shops and restaurants, and experience its vibrant nightlife. Fascinating, free attractions and festive events make DC a favorite destination for travelers from around the world.



Washington, D.C. Information

Visitor information can be found on the web at <www.washington.org>

The Washington, D.C. Access Guide is the premier source of accessibility-related information in the Washington, D.C. area. The website and print guide include detailed accessibility information for attractions, restaurants, and bars throughout the region. Call (301) 528-8664 for more information or to order a copy of the guide.



Register online at www.copaa.org

Tentative Agenda

Thursday, March 5, 2009

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Pre-Conference Skills Training—Day 1
Special One Day Pre-Conference Seminars

Friday, March 6, 2009

8:30 am - 4:00 pm Pre-Conference Skills Training—Day 2
Special One Day Pre-Conference Seminars

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm OPENING KEYNOTE SESSION – **Dr. Connie Garner**, Policy Director for Disability and Special Needs Populations, Senator Edward M. Kennedy.
Reception & Exhibits following

Saturday, March 7, 2009

8:00 am - 6:00 pm Exhibits Open

9:00 am - 10:00 am GENERAL SESSION – **Dr. Timothy P. Knoster**, Executive Director, The Association of Positive Behavior Support (APBS); Associate Professor, Exceptionality Programs, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

10:30 am – 11:45am Breakout Session I

12:00 to 1:15 pm Lunch (included) Presentation of the 2009 COPAA Awards

1:30 - 2:30 pm GENERAL SESSION -- 2009 Annual Case Law Review - **Judith Gran, Esq.**, Founding Member, Past COPAA Board Member, Director, Disability Rights Project, Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (PILCOP)

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm Breakout Session II

4:15 pm -5:30 pm Breakout Session III

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Reception featuring light fare, cash bar, and silent auction to benefit the Beth Goodman Scholarship Fund

Sunday, March 8, 2009

8:30 am - 9:45 am Breakout Session IV

10:00 am – 11:15 am Breakout Session V

11:30 am – 12:30 pm COPAA Town Meeting—Learn about current COPAA initiatives, meet Officers and Committee Chairs, and get involved!



Who Should Attend

The COPAA conference is of most interest to parents of special education students as well as attorneys and advocates who represent such students.

Registration is NOT open to anyone who is employed by or receives more than 50% of his or her income from state, local, or intermediate education agencies, or, in the case of an attorney, who represents or has represented such an agency or school district within the past five years.

Registration is limited and is on a first come, first served basis. Participation for pre-conference sessions is limited to the specified number of registrants per pre-conference session.

“The greatest feature of the COPAA Conference is the opportunity to learn from and network with seasoned professionals in Special Education Advocacy”

Hotel Information

Capital Hilton Hotel
1001 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: 1-202-393-1000 Toll Free Reservation: 1-800-HILTONS

The Capital Hilton is located in the center of downtown Washington, D.C.—just two blocks from the White House and walking distance to monuments, restaurants, the National Mall, and many other major points of interest. We advise you to make reservations early. The block of rooms reserved for the COPAA Conference is on a first come, first-served basis and typically sells out. To reserve your room online visit <www.copaa.org/conference/index.html>.

COPAA 2009 Conference Hotel Rates

\$180.00 per night for single or double room (does not include tax and assessment fees, currently set at 16%)

Please make your reservations early to ensure a room at the conference site. COPAA has contracted for a block of rooms for COPAA conference attendees. The conference rate is good for reservations made prior to February 4, 2009. After that date all rooms in the block that have not been reserved by conference attendees will return to the hotel's general inventory and may not be available at the discounted rate.

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College Internship Program

Two Day Pre-Conference Sessions - March 5th & 6th

Connecting with Congress, Effective Disability Advocacy

Working effectively with decision-makers in Washington and our states is vital to protecting the rights of children with disabilities and ensuring that they get a good education. This intensive workshop offers the skills and savvy disability advocates need to engage with elected officials for maximum impact. COPAA leaders will offer an inside look at the legislative landscape and an overview of the pressing priorities we want to see at the top of policymakers' to-do lists. Then, Holly Minch, strategic communications professional, will teach professional legislative communication strategies and skills. Holly has over a decade of experience working with nonprofit organizations around the globe to present effective messages and realize their goals through effective advocacy with elected officials. Seminar participants will receive practical, hands-on training to hone strong messages, connect with the audience, and drive home crucial policy points. Teams will apply skills on Friday in meetings with key elected officials and Congressional staffs on Capitol Hill, and convene back at the conference site to discuss future strategies for special education legislative advocacy.

Intended Audience: Open to all attendees

Seminar Leaders: Holly Minch, Robert Berlow, Esq., Jessica Butler, Esq., Denise Marshall, and Wendy Byrnes

Limit: 50 participants

Federal Litigation: What to Do When Your Slam Dunk Case Crashes

This workshop is for attorneys who have at a minimum some IDEA due process litigation experience. The program is skills-based, focusing on litigation strategies for use in federal court. Topics include standards of review, additional evidence, developing the record, complaint drafting, dispositive motions, techniques of cross-examination, alternative dispute resolution, and attorneys' fees. The course features use of an actual case for learning purposes. This course is designed for "graduates" of COPAA's IEP and Due Process courses. Exceptions to the graduation requirements for experienced attorneys will be made on an individual basis. Registrants will be asked to complete a pre-conference questionnaire to determine their level of experience as well as to review a due process order prior to the conference.

Intended Audience: Open to attorneys

Seminar Leaders: Selene A. Almazan, Esq., Mark B. Martin, Esq., Alice K. Nelson, Esq., and Jonathan Zimring, Esq.

Limit: 50 participants

Advocate Training: Translating the Law into Real Life

This training is for experienced advocates (more than 4 years) who have a good working knowledge of the IDEA and its procedures. The first half of the session will be substantive case law explanation so that participants will learn and understand the necessary case law that will be helpful "at the IEP table." Participants will be provided up-to-date information about U.S. Supreme Court, circuit court, and federal/state cases on various "hot topics" such as and including: 1) evaluation and eligibility; 2) discipline; 3) appropriateness; 4) ESY; 5) payment for private programs, i.e. private schools, ABA, tutoring, etc. The second half of the session will be a discussion about the differences and approaches and options for advocating: 1) pre-lawyer stage; 2) when the parents have a lawyer; 3) before, during and after due process hearings; and 4) during litigation times, as well as 5) picking up the pieces after the parents have been doing unsuccessful self-help.

Intended Audience: Open to experienced advocates

Seminar Leaders: Sonja Kerr, Esq. and Pat Howey, Advocate Indiana

Limit: 50 participants

New Attorney Survival Guide: From the First Call Forward

Participants will learn basic law for handling special education cases. Program will include an intensive review of IDEA and Section 504 with an emphasis on recent amendments, key cases, and practical skills in taking the case from initial client interview to due process hearing. Much of the work will be done in small groups of not more than 10 participants, led by experienced practitioners in special education. This program is designed to assist attorneys who are just beginning their special education practice.

Intended Audience: Open to attorneys

Seminar Leaders: Torin Togut, Esq. and Craig Goodmark, Esq.

Limit: 30 participants

Two Day Pre-Conference Sessions - March 5th & 6th

Skills Training for Due Process Hearings

This program is designed for attorneys familiar with the basics of IDEA who want to focus on practice skills for due process hearings. Participants will review records, identify key issues, and establish a trial plan with a selection of witnesses and exhibits. There will be discussion and demonstration of how to prepare and organize direct and cross examinations, including guidelines on cross-examining expert witnesses. Each participant will complete an opening statement, direct examination, and cross examination. Participants will be given individual critique during each exercise by experienced special education attorneys.

Intended Audience: Open to attorneys

Seminar Leaders: Franklin J. Hickman, Esq., Barbara Ebenstein, Esq., and Stephen Rosenbaum, Esq.

Limit: 30 participants

Advanced Training for IDEA Cases

Designed for attorneys who are familiar with IDEA basics, this program focuses on strategic analysis and development of effective due process strategies. Included in this training is an identification of non-traditional or alternative strategies (e.g., political, media, community based and/or administrative) which may supplement or substitute for due process hearings. Participants will identify systemic issues and review alternatives for establishing a record for possible appeal in state and federal court. Registrants must have participated in at least two due process hearings in order to qualify for this session.

Intended Audience: Open to experienced attorneys

Seminar Leader: Matthew Cohen, Esq.

Limit: 20 participants

Law Student Special Education Law Training Conference

This two day conference is designed for the law student who is interested in practicing special education law. The presentation style is interactive and seeks maximum participant involvement. The written materials will provide participants with a thorough background for the presentation, but we will not attempt to cover all the written material in detail. The focus of this training will be on preparing for and conducting a due process hearing under the IDEA.

Intended Audience: Open to law students, experienced advocates and parents

Seminar Leaders: Mark Kamleiter, Esq. and Wayne Steedman, Esq.

Limit: 50 participants



Continuing Education Credit

COPAA is an approved Continuing Legal Education (CLE) provider in Illinois and Alaska.

We have also submitted an application and are awaiting approval in Ohio and New York. COPAA provides a certificate of attendance upon completion of the training. Participants are required to submit their requests for CLE credit individually to their applicable state bar or other licensing organization. Please visit the information desk onsite to obtain the appropriate forms.

One Day Pre-Conference Sessions - Thursday, March 5th

Advanced Attorney Seminar: Is Rowley Dead or Dying?

This one day seminar is designed for attorneys who have participated in the Advanced Attorney Skills Pre-Conference Workshop. This seminar will focus on the standard for FAPE in light of IDEA 2004 and NCLB. Participants will work together to develop effective litigation strategies that advance the interests of our clients. Current case law and evidentiary issues will be discussed. Participants will receive materials to review before the workshop.

Intended Audience: Open to experienced attorneys
Seminar Leaders: Michele Kule-Korgood, Esq. and Jonathan Zimring, Esq.
Limit: 25 participants

The Pragmatics of Post-Secondary Transition

Pragmatics of Transition is a practical look at the transition process aimed at advocates. The first portion of the training will review the need for transition services for people with disabilities as well as the basic legal requirements for transition. We review the domains of transition such as education, employment, recreation, and life skills. The seminar will then spend time unpacking two of these domains – education and employment – exploring the types of options available as well as advocacy concerns. The final section will look at incorporating goals for these areas into the IEP of the transitioning student.

Intended Audience: Advocates and Parents
Seminar Leaders: Eileen Crumm, Ph.D., M.P.A., Nina Ghiselli, Psy.D., and Wendy Byrnes
Limit: 50 participants

One Day Pre-Conference Sessions - Friday, March 6th

Compensatory Education: Getting Back to Even

Compensatory education is a vital remedy for students with disabilities who have been denied appropriate services over time. This new advanced level all-day session for experienced attorneys will explore the law of compensatory education and types of compensatory education services available by circuit. Participants will work together to develop effective litigation strategies involving a wide range of potential types of compensatory education relief. Current case law, evidentiary issues, and settlement strategies will be discussed as well.

Intended Audience: Open to experienced attorneys
Seminar Leaders: Dawn Smith, Esq. and Jodi Siegel, Esq.
Limit: 40 participants

Conducting Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) and Designing Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs): Basic Elements and Effective Practices

When students exhibit challenging behavior, the result can be not only interference with learning, but also removal from the general education classroom and recommendation of a more restrictive placement. A functional behavior assessment allows the team to develop a behavior intervention plan designed to (a) teach the student new skills and “replacement” behaviors, (b) rearrange the environment to eliminate the need for the student to resort to challenging behavior, and (c) prescribe emergency procedures to ensure safety and the de-escalation of dangerous behaviors. In this session, the presenters will explain how to conduct and write useful FBAs, design effective BIPs, write meaningful IEP goals, and evaluate the effectiveness of such plans. Possible suggestions for due process preparation will also be discussed.

Intended Audience: Open to all attendees
Seminar Leaders: Carol Quirk, Ed. D. and Kirsty MacIver, M.S.
Limit: 50 participants

Saturday, March 7, 2009

Breakout Session I

10:30 am – 11:45 am

1. A Method to the Madness: Deciphering Methodology Under the IDEA

This session will explore common issues that arise when educational methodology is in dispute. Participants will be given an overview of the body of law related to IDEA methodology, focusing on how the deference typically granted to school districts' choice of methodology factors in when other rights and obligations are involved.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Carolina Watts, Esq. and Mandy S.L. Favaloro, Esq.

2. Effective Transition Planning for Successful Outcomes

This session will focus on assessments, goal writing, and developing a fuller understanding of and strategies for creation of transition plans.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Charles P. Fox, Esq.

3. Special Needs Planning for Families of Children with Disabilities

This presentation provides participants with an overview of estate planning for families of children with special needs. Topics include discussion of special needs trusts, health care proxies, living wills, powers of attorney, and HIPAA releases. Also addressed are guardianship issues, the need for an adequate life care plan, and the importance of a letter of intent. The presentation also includes a discussion of the ways life insurance may be used to fund the special needs trust.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Novice

Presenter: Adrienne J. Arkontaky/Littman Krooks LLP

4. Getting Paid for Kicking Butt

A comprehensive review of the law regarding the recovery of IDEA attorneys' fees, including practical tips for writing time entries and the mechanics of filing for fees

Audience: Attorneys

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Alice K. Nelson, Esq. and Jodi Siegel, Esq.

5. Medicaid in the Schools: Accessing Federal Funding for Necessary Services

An overview of Medicaid and how Medicaid funding can be used to supplement what schools are required to provide under IDEA. Includes a review of recent litigation using EPSDT under Medicaid as a payment source for ABA services.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Novice

Presenters: Franklin J. Hickman, Esq.

6. Strategies for Systemic Reform: A Practical Approach for Obtaining Systemic Relief

Discussion of various strategies used by attorneys from the Protection and Advocacy, Inc. to obtain systemic relief for students with disabilities who exhibit severe behavior. This session seeks to provide specific guidance to attendees who are looking to organize for purposes of filing class complaints.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Candis Watson Bowles, Esq. and Jennifer Williams, Esq.

7. When Worlds Collide: Impact of LRE

A special education attorney and a neuropsychologist describe the essential issues surrounding Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and its impact on the social and emotional development of children with special needs. The talk covers the regulations, case law, and assessment issues related to LRE.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Ann Simun, Psy.D. and N. Jane DuBovy, M.A., J.D.

8. Litigating Damages Claims for the Special Needs Child

This session will be a roundtable discussion for attorneys to share experiences and insights on litigating topics such as physical/sexual abuse, peer-to-peer harassment/injury, injuries during restraints/discipline, general negligence, etc. The topics include administrative exhaustion issues (with a case law review), using due process to develop evidence for the federal case, use of experts to get beyond immunity, use of state and federal complaint mechanisms, pleadings (causes of action, dealing with limitations, ADA, 504), viability of 1983 claims (with a case law review), state claims, use of publicity, and more.

Audience: Attorneys
Experience Level: Intermediate/Advanced
Presenters: Marty Cirkel, Esq.

Saturday, March 7, 2009

Breakout Session II 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

9. End Abuse of Children with Disabilities in our Nation's Schools

COPAA is concerned about the use of restraints, seclusion, and aversive interventions as part of educational programs for children with disabilities. Restraints, seclusion, and aversive interventions are neither educational nor effective. Instead, their harms and dangers are well-documented. Inappropriately used, they amount to child abuse. This session includes discussion of COPAA's Declaration of Principles and other elements of COPAA's ongoing initiative to prevent the use of restraints and aversive interventions on children.

Audience: All Attendees
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Denise Marshall, M.S., Jessica Butler, Esq., and Leslie Seid Margolis, Esq.

10. Needing More Than "Doing Well": Dramatic Strategies, Objective Success

What does "progress" mean? How can you be sure your child is progressing? This presentation will focus on giving you real strategies to make sure your child's IEP keeps you in the loop and your child moving forward.

Audience: Advocates and Parents
Experience Level: Novice
Presenters: Philip Carter Strother, Esq. and Audrey J. Burges, Esq.

11. Supplementing the Administrative Record on Appeal: Strategies and Pitfalls

IDEA indicates that courts shall receive the administrative record and hear additional evidence at a party's request, but this directive is not automatic. Explore case law regarding types of supplemental evidence and strategies for admission in IDEA appeals.

Audience: Attorneys
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Courtney N. Stillman, Esq.

12. The Whens, Whys, Hows and How Longs of IEEs

This session will provide an overview of the requirements under the IDEA for obtaining an Independent Education Evaluation (IEE). We will explore the statutes, OSEP interpretations, case law in various circuits, and policy considerations to delve into the issues related to IEEs. The presentation will include interactive discussion about how to pursue an IEE and how the district should respond.

Audience: All Attendees
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Mandy Favalaro, Esq. and Carolina D. Watts, Esq.

13. Compensatory Education: Getting Back to Even

Compensatory education is a vital remedy for students with disabilities who have been denied appropriate services over time. This session will provide an overview of the law of compensatory education and the types of compensatory education services available. Current case law, evidentiary issues, and settlement strategies will be discussed as well.

Audience: All Attendees
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Dawn Smith, Esq. and Jodi Siegel, Esq.

14. Making the Most of the Attorney/Client Relationship for Parents

By the time parents have made the decision to hire an attorney, they are frustrated with the school district and overwhelmed by the process. This workshop will help parents make the most of the attorney/client relationship, including helpful hints for effective communication with legal counsel to keep costs down and increase the likelihood for positive outcomes.

Audience: Advocates and Parents
Experience Level: Novice
Presenters: Dana A. Johnson, Esq. and Jennifer D. Laviano, Esq.

15. Functional Behavior Assessments: An Introduction for Parents

Despite clearly stating a presumption in favor of positive behavior intervention methods and requiring the completion of a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) for any student whose interfering behavior is determined to be a manifestation of his/her disability, the 2004 IDEA regulations are silent as to what a meaningful and valid FBA includes, and who is qualified to complete one. What's a parent to do? This presentation will help demystify the FBA process and prepare participants to effectively take part in an FBA process in the future.

Audience: Advocates and Parents

Experience Level: Novice

Presenters: Missy Alexander and Siobhan Ponder, LCSW, M.A.

16. Advocacy to Stop "Passive Aggressive" Discipline

This presentation provides a clear overview of IDEA's protective provisions regarding school discipline and illustrates the creative ways that school districts illegally sidestep these provisions without obviously appearing to do so. In this session we discuss how these "passive aggressive" tactics result in denials of FAPE, and we then outline successful strategies to combat such tactics.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Candis Watson Bowles, Esq. and Keith Sakimura, Esq.

Saturday, March 7, 2009

Breakout Session III

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm

17. Differences Among Reading Programs

Many reading programs are suggested - few are appropriate. Fit the reading program to the child, not the child to the program. Learn the differences and make the correct choice.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Elaine Holden, Ph.D.

18. Making the Most of the Attorney/Client Relationship for Attorneys

The limited availability of qualified attorneys in special education often means that those who do practice in this field are overworked and therefore vulnerable to complaints from and disputes with clients. This workshop will provide guidance and practical tools that will allow you to simultaneously protect your clients' interests and your reputation.

Audience: Attorneys

Experience Level: Novice

Presenters: Jennifer D. Laviano, Esq. and Dana A. Jonson, Esq.

19. IDEA Reauthorization: How to Impact Congress

IDEA Reauthorization is around the corner. Come learn about hot issues and effective Congressional advocacy techniques. We will discuss crafting messages with impact, building networks, and developing relationships with Congress. IDEA 2004 taught us it's important for everyone—parents, advocates, and attorneys—to get involved!

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Jessica Butler, Esq. and Denise Marshall, M.S.

20. Nuts and Bullies: Using Section 504 to Protect Students

This presentation will explore the legal issues related to the creation and enforcement of effective Section 504 Accommodation Plans for students with peanut and other hazardous food allergies, and the use of Section 504 to protect against chronic disability-related harassment at school, including a review of the latest court and hearing decisions in these two hot areas of anti-discrimination law.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Richard L. O'Meara, Esq. and Nicole L. Bradick

21. The Anachronism of Rowley - Using a Chisel & Stone Tablet in the Digital Age

Is the Rowley decision the seminal standard it is often made out to be, or is it more than the Supreme Court Justices bargained for? Is it still good law or an outdated standard? This session will explore the evolution of the "appropriateness" standard and provide alternative arguments and definitions of the Rowley standard.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Michele Kule-Korgood, Esq.

22. Transition: From Law to Implementation

This is an advanced workshop that moves beyond the strengthened IDEA transition mandate to innovative strategies to implement it. Highlights will include the legal standard for transition, case law, transition plans for college-bound students, solutions to interesting transition problems, and transition resources.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Advanced

Presenters: Barbara J. Ebenstein, Esq.

23. Using Alternative Means to Get What the Student Needs

For many families, Due Process is simply not an option. The court system has been anything but helpful to special education kids and their families. This presentation will discuss alternative means of asserting your student's rights without the need for legal counsel.

Audience: Advocates and Parents

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Louis H. Geigerman and David Beinke

24. What to Expect When You're Expecting Charges: Navigating Juvenile Justice

Navigating the disciplinary process in school is hard enough under the IDEA, but even harder when criminal charges result from the same behavior. Where do you go from here? This presentation will help guide your way.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Novice

Presenters: Audrey J. Burges, Esq. and Philip Carter Strother, Esq.

Sunday, March 8, 2009

Breakout Session IV

8:30 am – 9:45 am

25. Advocating for the Needs of the Oral Deaf Student

Oral deaf children choose to communicate with their hearing and voice. This presentation will address common issues associated with placement and services unique to the oral deaf student.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: David M. Grey, Esq.

26. Tools of the Trade for the IEP Process - Basic Rights, Entitlements and Tasks to Manage All IEP Meetings

This presentation addresses parental rights in the IEP process; its regulation and rulings which may positively impact the position of advocates and attorneys. Rights in the planning and preparation for IEP meeting, obtaining documents, IEP participation, content requirements and discussion mandates, use of the meetings to review and provide timely comprehensive evaluations and IEEs, the role of parental consent, and post-IEP activities to amend, correct, or enforce IEP documents and IEP Team meeting commitments will be addressed in a practical approach. These rights will be identified with specific support for accomplishing many of the common issues which arise for the goal of full parental participation. Materials and discussion are intended to be a checklist for IEP management of the IEP meeting process.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Novice/Intermediate

Presenters: Jon Zimring, Esq.

27. Making Mediation Magic

Learn how to make the right choices to get the most out of mediation. What is mediation supposed to look like? How can you get what you need? How can you plan an effective course of action? This session will provide practical information and techniques for successful mediation.

Audience: All Attendees

Experience Level: Intermediate

Presenters: Rochelle Marcus, M.Ed. and Sarah Wallerstein Koren

28. Oh, My Gosh! I Thought The School Would Take Care of That!

Designing an IEP for a child with a disability is often a best-guess attempt by the IEP Team to address all of the child's needs. IEP Teams almost never address issues that are potentially life-threatening for the child, such as providing an evacuation plan for a child who uses a wheelchair in a multi-level school in the event of a fire. This session will help you prepare to identify all of your child's needs at the IEP team meeting.

Audience: All Attendees
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Patricia Howey

29. Qualifying Experts in Due Process Hearings

In the wake of the Daubert decision, federal courts have established a raft of requirements to be met before a witness may render an expert opinion. Should similar requirements be established in special education hearings? If so, what would they look like?

Audience: Attorneys
Experience Level: Advanced
Presenters: Andrew A. Feinstein, Esq.

30. Life Planning: A Primer for Families with Special Children

Life Planning is a guide to help families plan effectively for their special needs children by introducing the Letter of Intent and the Life Planning Notebook. These tools allow families to communicate their choices and dreams for their children on such issues as guardianship, housing, and finances.

Audience: Advocates and Parents
Experience Level: Novice
Presenters: Michael Beloff, CFP®

31. Shared Challenges, Shared Solutions: Stakeholders' Collaborations in South Carolina

This session involves a presentation on South Carolina's recent movement towards more collaborative efforts in handling all aspects of special education cases. This presentation will include several case studies indicating how the referrals and exchange of information in Stakeholder's Meetings have worked in several SC cases, and can serve as a guideline for other states to develop similar programs.

Audience: Attorneys
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Elizabeth Robinson, Esq. and Amanda Adler, Esq.

32. There Are No IEPs in College: Transition from High School to College

The mission of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, is to ensure equal access to education. An important priority is increasing access to higher education for students with disabilities. This presentation discusses the differing rights and responsibilities of students and schools under federal laws at high school and college.

Audience: All Attendees
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Howard Kallem, Esq. and Selena Samm Fox, Esq.

Sunday, March 8, 2009

Breakout Session V

10:00 am – 11:15 am

33. The Road To Reality: Autism Special Education Advocacy

"The Road To Reality: Autism Special Education Advocacy"© will strengthen the competence and confidence of parents of children with autism spectrum disorders as they advocate for their children in school. Practical advocacy strategies and "real life" situations will help teach parents how to access the information and results they need.

Audience: Advocates and Parents
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Debra I. Schafer

34. Cross-Examining District Experts: Slaying a Beautiful Hypothesis Using An Awful Truth

As Thomas Huxley said, "The greatest tragedy of science [is] the slaying of a beautiful hypothesis by an ugly fact." School district employees act as in-house experts and enjoy great deference when testifying at hearing. This presentation discusses using cross-examination to bring out facts that disprove the "beautiful hypotheses" offered by school district experts.

Audience: Attorneys
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Judith Gran, Esq. and Catherine Merino Reisman, Esq.

35. Bringing FAPE to the Reservation: Representing Native American Children with Disabilities

This workshop will focus on the fundamentals of providing legal representation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to Native American children with disabilities.

Audience: All Attendees
Experience Level: Novice
Presenters: Jerri Katzerman, Esq. and Debra D. Poulin, Esq.

36. Gifted Advocacy for Your 2-e Student

Many parents of twice-exceptional (2-e) students are so busy dealing with their child's learning difficulties they don't have time to learn how to advocate for their child's gifted strengths. This session will review the essentials of gifted education that you need to know to better advocate for the gifted side of your 2e student. Emphasis will be placed on the key resources the speaker has found to be most useful over the past ten years as she has advocated for her own gifted and 2-e children.

Audience: All Attendees
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Marilyn Thomas, BSN

37. Reasonable Accommodations and Admissions Testing? The Stakes are High and So is the Anxiety

Would Mel Brooks have received testing accommodations? Students, parents, guidance counselors, disability service providers, clinicians - everyone wants to know how to apply for accommodations on the admissions and licensing exams. Why does the approach taken differ so much from that of most educational institutions? Why does the list of what's required seem to grow weekly? Learn from the leading attorney in this area of practice as she shares her knowledge

of how the laws are interpreted by the standardized testing industry and how to secure accommodations on admissions and licensing exams.

Audience: All Attendees
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Jo Anne Simon, Esq.

38. When a FAPE Isn't Enough

Both the IDEA and §504 require the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education ("FAPE"). The statutes are complementary, but they address two very separate injuries, which require different explanations of FAPE. §504, a civil rights law, offers relief from discrimination, whereas the IDEA offers relief from inappropriate educational placement, regardless of discrimination.

Audience: Attorneys
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Jesse Foley, Esq.

39. When They Say "No!"

An effective advocate must know what to do when an IEP team refuses to draft the IEP needed by the child. Too often the efforts of parents and advocates are stymied by a recalcitrant IEP team. This presentation explores some essential strategies for dealing with IEP refusals. This workshop is interactive and designed to develop effective advocacy and problem-solving skills through a case-study and inquiry process. It covers important advocacy competencies, communications, ethics, and strategies.

Audience: All Attendees
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Mark S. Kamleter, Esq.

40. The Stay-Put Provision: The Law, the Realities, and the Strategies.

The stay-put provision prevents school districts from unilaterally changing a student's placement during the pendency of dispute resolution proceedings. What is considered the student's placement for purposes of stay-put? What proceedings trigger the stay-put provision? Are there exceptions to stay-put? This break-out session will cover the basics as well as the advanced nuances of the stay-put provision. We will explore how the stay-put provision affects cases at various stages in the proceedings, review case law, and discuss strategies on how to best use the stay-put provision to your client's benefit.

Audience: Attorneys
Experience Level: Intermediate
Presenters: Mary Broadhurst, Esq.

Membership Application

Membership Categories and Annual Dues (Select One)

Advocate - Works in a paid or volunteer capacity to assist parents of children with disabilities in special education matters.
Annual Dues: \$50.00___

Attorney - has passed the bar regardless of the extent of their practice. Annual Dues: \$150___

Parent - has a child with a disability and does not fall into any of the other categories. Annual Dues: \$50 ___

Other - please specify _____. Annual Dues: \$50___

Applicants who work for the same organization may join at the individual rate or together at the organizational rate of \$400. Each individual member must complete an individual application and submit it with the organization's payment.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

If you want to use an e-mail address other than the one above for the COPAA Listservs, please

Indicate. Listserv Email: _____

Is the information listed your: _____ Home address/phone _____ Work address/phone

COPAA's information and activities are communicated through the Internet. We cannot ensure you will receive notice of all COPAA events if you do not have an email address.

The applicant/member understands that any use or reproduction of documents provided on the COPAA listserv or website without COPAA permission is restricted to the individual's personal use or for use on behalf of a client to promote advocacy on behalf of a child with a disability.

I am not employed by, or receive more than 50% of my income from state, intermediate or local education agencies, nor am I an attorney who represents or has represented such an agency within the past five years.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail completed application and check made payable to COPAA to:

COPAA
PO BOX 6767
Towson, Maryland 21285

Questions on COPAA Membership? Email: membership@copaa.org

COPAA Registration Form (page 1)

Registration Category	Rate
Two Day (Thurs & Fri) Pre-Conference Skills Training (includes registration for main conference) <i>Choose this category for all two day courses; or to attend both Th and Fri one day pre-conference session.</i>	\$495 for participants who are Advocates, Parents, or Other Professional attendees \$695 for Attorneys
One Day (Thursday or Fri) Pre-Conference Training (includes registration for main conference) Choose this category if you are attending <i>either</i> a T or F one day Pre-Conference session.	\$425 for participants who are Advocates, Parents, or Other Professional attendees \$525 for (Attorneys)
Law Student	\$125 for Law Student Pre-Conference Only \$350 for Law Student Pre-Conference and Main Conference \$225 for conference only
Main Conference Only	\$375 for Advocates/Parents/Other \$425 for Attorneys

Registration Discounts

For registrations received by COPAA on or before February 1, 2009: \$50.00

Active COPAA members (including those who are applying for or renewing their membership with their registration): \$50.00

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

COPAA Membership Status Join Now and Save \$50 on the Conference Registration Fee!

I am a current dues paid member of COPAA.

I wish to join COPAA or renew my membership. For online registration information go to www.COPAA.org and click on "Join Us". Mail-in form is at the back of this brochure.

I am not currently a member of COPAA and I do not wish to join at this time.

Applying for a Registration Scholarship:

A limited number of registration scholarships are available to waive the conference registration fee.

YOU MUST MAIL IN YOUR REGISTRATION BY February 25, 2008. Please check off the following statement and include proof of income or a short letter explaining financial hardship.

I certify that my income is at or below the federal poverty level. The current federal poverty level is \$10,210 for a single person, \$13,690 for a family of two, \$17,170 for a family of three and \$20,650 for a family of four. For a family of more than four, add \$3,468 for each additional person. Members with extraordinary expenses that effectively reduce their family income to the poverty level may also qualify for the \$5 membership fee.

COPAA Registration Form (page 2)

Please note: The information above is for a waiver of fees only. Full information and application instructions for COPAA's Beth Goodman, Ken Archibald, and Dana Taylor Scholarships are available on our web site.

Select	Day	Session Title
	Th, Fri	Connecting with Congress, Effective Disability Advocacy
	Th, Fri	Federal Litigation: What to Do When Your Slam Dunk Case Crashes
	Th, Fri	Advocate Training: Translating the Law Into Real Life
	Th, Fri	Law Student Special Education Law Training Conference
	Th, Fri	New Attorney Survival Guide: From the First Call Forward
	Th, Fri	Skills Training for Due Process Hearings
	Th, Fri	Advanced Training for IDEA Cases
	Th	Advanced Attorney Seminar: Is Rowley Dead or Dying?
	Th	The Pragmatics of Post-Secondary Transition
	Fri	Compensatory Education: Getting Back to Even
	Fri	Conducting Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) and Designing Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs): Basic Elements and Effective Practices
	Fri- Sun	Main Conference Only (Begins Friday at 5:00 PM)

Applicable Conference Fee (see page 1 of Registration Form) _____

Add (+) Membership Fee if Joining or renewing now _____

Subtract (-) Member Discount (\$50 if applicable) _____

Subtract (-) Early Discount (\$50 if received before 2/1/09) _____

Total Enclosed _____

Payment Method Check Enclosed Master Card Visa

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Card Holder Name and Billing Address (if Different Than Registrant)

Please indicate your experience level (Number of years in practice as an attorney or special education advocate; for parents please tell us how long your child has been receiving special education services)

Attorney _____ years ♦ Special Education Advocate _____ years ♦ Parent _____ years

If you register after February 28, 2009 we cannot guarantee that you will receive the conference materials at the time of registration check-in. You will receive a full refund of your registration fee if we receive notice of your cancellation on or before February, 28, 2009. Thereafter cancellations will be subject to a \$75 administrative fee.



Please indicate any special needs (physical accommodations, communication needs, or dietary restrictions) or other accommodation requirements. _____

Mail :

COPAA Conference Registration
PO BOX 6767
Towson, Maryland 21285

Questions? Please email conference@copaa.org

Phone: 410-372-0208

COPAA Registration Form (page 3) Please select one workshop each session.

Saturday, March 7, 2009 Breakout Session I - 10:30 am – 11:45 am

- 1. A Method to the Madness: Deciphering Methodology Under the IDEA (All)
- 2. Effective Transition Planning for Successful Outcomes (All)
- 3. Special Needs Planning for Families of Children with Disabilities (All)
- 4. Getting Paid for Kicking Butt (Attorneys)
- 5. Medicaid in the Schools: Accessing Federal Funding for Necessary Services (All)
- 6. Strategies for Systemic Reform: A Practical Approach for Obtaining Systemic Relief (All)
- 7. When Worlds Collide: Impact of LRE (All)
- 8. Litigating Damages Claims for the Special Needs Child (Attorneys)

Saturday, March 7, 2009 Breakout Session II - 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

- 9. End Abuse of Children with Disabilities in our Nation's Schools (All)
- 10. Needing More Than "Doing Well": Dramatic Strategies, Objective Success (Advocates and Parents)
- 11. Supplementing the Administrative Record on Appeal: Strategies and Pitfalls (Attorneys)
- 12. The Whens, Whys, Hows and How Longs of IEEs (All)
- 13. Compensatory Education: Getting Back to Even (All)
- 14. Making the Most of the Attorney/Client Relationship I- for Parents (Advocates and Parents)
- 15. Functional Behavior Assessments: An Introduction for Parents (Advocates and Parents)
- 16. Advocacy to Stop "Passive Aggressive" Discipline (All)

Saturday, March 7, 2009 Breakout Session III - 4:15 pm -5:30 pm

- 17. Differences Among Reading Programs (All)
- 18. Making the Most of the Attorney/Client Relationship for Attorneys (Attorneys)
- 19. IDEA Reauthorization: How to Impact Congress (All)
- 20. Nuts and Bullies: Using Section 504 to Protect Students (All)
- 21. The Anachronism of Rowley - Using a Chisel & Stone Tablet in the Digital Age (All)
- 22. Transition: From Law to Implementation (All)
- 23. Using Alternative Means to Get What the Student Needs (Advocates and Parents)
- 24. What to Expect When You're Expecting Charges: Navigating Juvenile Justice (All)

Sunday, March 8, 2009 Breakout Session IV - 8:30 am -- 9:45 am

- 25. Advocating for the Needs of the Oral Deaf Student (All)
- 26. Tools of the Trade for the IEP Process (All)
- 27. Making Mediation Magic (All)
- 28. Oh, My Gosh! I Thought The School Would Take Care of That! (All)
- 29. Qualifying Experts in Due Process Hearings (Attorneys)
- 30. Life Planning: A Primer for Families with Special Children (Advocates and Parents)
- 31. Shared Challenges, Shared Solutions: Stakeholders' Collaborations in South Carolina (Attorneys)
- 32. There Are No IEPs in College: Transition from High School to College (All)

Sunday, March 8, 2009 Breakout Session V - 10:00 am – 11:15 am

- 33. The Road To Reality: Autism Special Education Advocacy (Advocates and Parents)
- 34. Cross-Examining District Experts: Slaying a Beautiful Hypothesis Using An Awful Truth (Attorneys)
- 35. Bringing FAPE to the Reservation: Representing Native American Children with Disabilities (All)
- 36. Gifted Advocacy for Your 2-e Student (All)
- 37. Reasonable Accommodations and Admissions Testing? The Stakes are High and So is the Anxiety (All)
- 38. When a FAPE Isn't Enough (Attorneys)
- 39. When They Say "No!" (All)
- 40. The Stay-Put Provision: The Law, the Realities, and the Strategies (Attorneys)