

CHAIRPERSON

HOPE KIRSCH is a licensed special education teacher and special education attorney. She is licensed in NY, NJ, AZ and the 9th Circuit. Hope advises and represents students and their families throughout Arizona in all school related matters and disputes, and consults to attorneys around the country in special education matters. Prior to her law career, Hope was a special education teacher and school administrator for nearly 20 years in NYC public schools working with the most challenging behavioral students. She supervised and trained special education teachers in teaching strategies, curriculum development, IEPs and behavior management. She has a B.S. in special education from Boston University, an M.A.(Ed.) in special education from New York University, 30+ post-graduate credits in educational supervision and administration, and her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. She is AV® Preeminent™ rated (5.0 out of 5.0) and also serves as a Judge Pro Tem.

FACULTY

LORI KIRSCH-GOODWIN, Esq., is a 30+ year litigation attorney. She concentrates in the areas of education and special education matters on behalf of students and their families as well as insurance matters. Lori has a Bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and her law degree from Bridgeport (now Quinnipiac) University. Lori began advocating for special needs students when her own son, now 22 years old, was found eligible for special education when he was in Kindergarten. Lori is regularly involved in eligibility and IEP meetings, MDRs, disciplinary due process hearings, OCR, IDEA Due Process, and DDD appeals. She is admitted to practice in state and federal courts in NY, NJ and AZ, and the 9th Circuit, and is AV-rated (5.0 out of 5.0).



Heather R. Pierson

Partner

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480.461.5384

Areas of Practice

- Education Law

Heather R. Pierson joined Udall Shumway PLC in 2009. She is a member of the School Law section, representing the firm's education law clients throughout the State.

Ms. Pierson comes to Udall Shumway PLC uniquely qualified in the area of education law. Prior to joining Udall Shumway, Ms. Pierson taught behavior disordered students. During her teaching career, Ms. Pierson was involved in the development and implementation of Individualized Education Plans ("IEP") and behavior plans and attended several trainings on special education and regular education interventions and strategies. While in law school, Ms. Pierson provided in-home ABA services for autistic children under the age of three and participated in the Whittier Law School Special Education Clinic, which provided special education advocacy services for children with developmental disabilities. Additionally, Ms. Pierson earned her Master's Degree in Special Education in 2004.

Ms. Pierson primarily focuses her School Law practice on special education and disability related matters. She routinely defends school districts and other public educational institutions in matters related to disability law matters, such as special education due process hearings, Office of Civil Rights ("OCR") complaints, Section 504 due process hearings, mediation, and special education state complaints. She provides daily advice and assistance in matters related to special education, Section 504, the Americans with Disabilities Act, student discipline, personnel issues and student records. Ms. Pierson taught Contemporary Developments in Special Education Law through Northern Arizona University during the Spring of 2014. She has also given in-service workshops to district personnel on a wide range of special education and disability related topics and speaks at state-wide conferences.

Education

- J.D., Whittier Law School, 2008
- M.Ed., Arizona State University, 2004 (Special Education)
- B.A., Arizona State University, 2001 (Elementary Education)

Jurisdictions Admitted to Practice

- Arizona

Professional & Bar Association Memberships

- State Bar of Arizona
- Arizona School Boards Association
- National School Boards Association
- Arizona Council of School Attorneys
- Special Education Administrators Association



Erin H. Walz

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Areas of Practice

- School Law Litigation
- Commercial Litigation

Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Rating

AV[®] Preeminent[™] - Martindale Hubbell

Attorney Erin H. Walz practices in the representation of school districts and charter schools in all manner of legal issues, including litigation, special education, and student rights. Ms. Walz also represents businesses in litigation matters at the trial and appellate levels. Ms. Walz began practicing law in 1996. She holds an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell. She is licensed to practice in Arizona, Illinois, and Michigan state courts, and numerous federal trial and appellate courts.

Education

- J.D., Michigan State University College of Law, 1996
- B.A., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1991

Jurisdictions Admitted to Practice

- Michigan, 1996
- Illinois, 2000
- Arizona, 2005

Professional & Bar Association Memberships

- State Bar of Michigan
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Arizona State Bar Association - Fee Arbitration Committee, Vice-Chair
- State Bar of Arizona