



**September 17, 2019**

**TO:** Illinois Council of School Attorneys  
**FROM:** Phil Hartley, Chair, NSBA Council of School Attorneys (COSA)  
**RE:** Illinois Membership Update

Greetings, Illinois COSA. I am very pleased to update you on the goings-on at the National School Boards Association's Council of School Attorneys.

As I write, COSA is busy planning the 2020 School Law Seminar in Chicago. We are also holding meetings and providing programming to keep our members informed, up-to-date with current law, and in touch with one another. We are excited to announce our final webinars scheduled for 2019. COSA webinars are an extraordinary opportunity to get up-to-date on critical issues, while earning CLE credit from your desk! Our holiday webinar bundle, detailed below, also offers you the chance to purchase multiple webinars at a discounted rate. Registration is available online at: <https://www.nsba.org/services/council-school-attorneys/seminars-webinars/upcoming-cosa-webinars>.

***Holiday Webinar Bundle***

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019 12:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. (Eastern)**

- 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Free Speech 101
- 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. Thou Shall Not DIBBEL – Responding to Requests for Religious Accommodation in School Curriculum
- 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Happy Holidays for All – Balancing Observance and Objections

***Ethics Bundle***

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

More information is available online at <https://www.nsba.org/Services/Council-of-School-Attorneys/School-Law-Seminars-and-Webinars>.

I am particularly excited that our new membership database is up and running! The new database requires that all members (COSA and NSBA) reset their passwords to access members-only content. Instructions to reset your password are available online at <https://www.nsba.org/My-NSBA>.

Year after year, Illinois continues to be one of the largest affiliated state councils, and one of the most active. There are currently 239 members of the Illinois CSA who are members of COSA. NSBA COSA currently enjoys the support of 39 affiliated state councils, including the recent addition of Wisconsin. Our national membership is currently just over 3200.

We are grateful for these attorneys who have actively contributed to the governance and programming of COSA this past year:

**Nicki Bazer**, Franczek Radelet P.C., co-presented a general session at the 2019 School Law Seminar in Philadelphia with Nancy Krent, *The Public Inquiry Process: A New and Innovative Way to Address Difficult Conflicts*.

**John Borkowski**, Husch Blackwell, presented a breakfast discussion at the 2019 School Law Seminar with Tom Wheeler, *Changes to ED and DOJ and What They Mean for School Lawyers*.

**Heather Brickman**, Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn LLP, is an active member of COSA's 2019-2020 Membership Committee.

**Nancy Fredman Krent**, Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn (retired), is a past COSA Chair, and a recipient of a COSA Distinguished Service and Lifetime Achievement Awards. Nancy has presented at numerous COSA seminars, including most recently at the 2019 School Law Seminar in Philadelphia. She co-presented *The Public Inquiry Process: A New and Innovative Way to Address Difficult Conflicts* with Nicki Bazer. Nancy is also an active participant in COSA's IDEA Reauthorization Working Group and the 2019-2020 Awards Committee.

**Justin Petrarca**, Scariano, Himes & Petrarca, is a past COSA Chair and an active member of the Labor Relations and 2019 School Law Practice Seminar Committees.

**Bennett Rodick**, Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn, is an active member of COSA's IDEA Reauthorization Working Group.

**Kimberly Small**, General Counsel, Illinois Association of School Boards, is serving on the 2020 COSA School Law Seminar Planning Committee.

**Jennifer Smith**, Franczek Radelet, P.C., is a member of the COSA Board of Directors. She regularly speaks for COSA events on the issue of transgender student litigation. Most recently Jennifer presented a webinar, *Mental Health Support for Students: The Legal Framework*. She also is an active member of several COSA committees: 2020 COSA School Law Seminar Planning Committee, Online Content Committee, and IDEA Reauthorization Working Group.

**Jackie Gharapour Wernz**, Franczek Radelet, P.C., is an active member of COSA's 2019-2020 Amicus Advocacy Committee.

COSA depends on contributions from its members to sustain the high level of programming you have come to expect. We are thankful for the considerable contributions of the Illinois Council.

As a member of the Illinois Council of School Attorneys, an affiliated council of COSA, you have access to tangible benefits, such as the resources listed below. Your state council's partnership with NSBA provides numerous intangible benefits as well. Every school attorney member in your state has a direct connection to *the* national legal advocate for school boards.

- **COSA Community & Research Database** – Your internet-based connection to your school attorney peers. Through our private, easy-to-use networking platform, you can keep current

on the hottest legal issues your colleagues are addressing throughout the country, solicit advice for a sticky or novel problem you are facing, and offer your own wise words to those seeking input. Tap into their collective knowledge and wisdom at [community.nsba.org/cosa/home](http://community.nsba.org/cosa/home), which is your COSA research platform and home to all member resources, including Legal Clips, in one easy searchable and browsable location.

- **Annual Notices** – Yearly, NSBA compiles a document on the annual notices required by federal law. Topics include ESEA, FERPA, PPR, Child Nutrition Programs, AHERA, McKinney Vento Act, Notice of Non-Discrimination under a variety of federal statutes, and IDEA. Go to [community.nsba.org/cosa/home](http://community.nsba.org/cosa/home), login, and type in “2019 Annual Notices” into the search box.
- **Policies Required by Federal Law** – This chart, updated annually, lists policies, written procedures and forms school districts are required to have in place by federal law and regulation. Search “Policies Required by Federal Law – August 2019” on [community.nsba.org/cosa/home](http://community.nsba.org/cosa/home).
- Online issues of *Federal Regulations & Resources, Inquiry & Analysis, School Law Primer* series, and **School Law Practice Seminar Presentation Papers** – are also now available at [community.nsba.org/cosa/home](http://community.nsba.org/cosa/home).
- **Legal Clips** is a daily blog that is a definitive compilation and analytical summary of key legal cases, “hot button” issues, and news stories. The blog is complemented with a weekly edition every Thursday. This is a premium resource about school law for attorneys, legal scholars, law students, paralegals, school administrators, policymakers, education scholars and members of the media covering issues that impact K-12 schools.

We thank you for your membership and wish you a great meeting. Please don’t hesitate to contact NSBA’s Office of General Counsel or COSA staff for assistance.

P.S. We hope to see you at the **2020 School Law Seminar** to be held **April 2-4, 2020** at the Chicago Hilton. Program and registration information is available at <https://www.nsba.org/Events/COSA-School-Law-Seminar>.



<https://www.nsba.org/services/council-school-attorneys-cosa>

## What We Do

The mission of the NSBA Council of School Attorneys is to **support school attorneys** in their representation of public school boards by providing **leadership in legal advocacy for public schools.**

## The purposes of COSA are to....

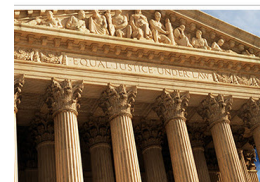
- (a) Provide a **national forum** for the discussion of legal issues and problems encountered by school attorneys in providing legal counsel, advice, and representation to school boards and school board associations;
- (b) Promote and develop a **closer relationship and better understanding** between school attorneys and their clients, school boards and school board association;
- (c) To provide a **means** by which school attorneys can **advocate** on behalf of public schools; and
- (d) To be the leader and nationally recognized educator and **authority on school law.**

## COSA Membership

- **3200+** members in 39 affiliated state councils and individual states such as OH, WA, DC, UT,VT, NJ,AK, HI, and Canada.
- **553** are in house, **16.8%** of total membership, up from 505 in 2018, 410 in 2015, and 317 in 2010.
- Largest membership states:
  - TX: 342
  - IL: 239
  - CA: 228
  - NY: 173
  - PA: 162

## The Value of COSA Membership

- 3000+ school attorneys
- Resources
- Discussion/Networking platforms
- Live Seminars
- Webinars
- Professional Growth
- Public School Advocacy



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## COSA supports members in their work on behalf of public schools.

### Live Seminars twice per year

- \* Over 20 hours of CLE
- \* Late March/Early April with NSBA Conference
- \* Mid-October

### Ongoing hot topic webinars

- \* 2-3 each month



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## COSA supports members in their work on behalf of public schools (cont'd)

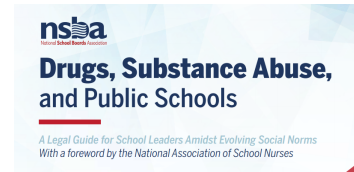
**COSA's Online Community** is COSA's private professional discussion/networking platform.

- \* Share strategies, documents, struggles, answers, wisdom
- \* [community.nsba.org/cosa](http://community.nsba.org/cosa)

**School Law Jobs** listings

Opportunities for **Professional Growth**

- \* Presenting
- \* Writing
- \* Working Group/Committee participation
- \* Inform NSBA Advocacy Positions
  - white papers, guides, FAQs



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## COSA's NEW Online Community & Resource Database

[community.nsba.org/cosa](http://community.nsba.org/cosa)

- Browse Resources
  - By type or topic
- Submit Resources
  - Will be automatically added to the library
- Get the latest Seminar updates
- Search Legal Clips
- Discussion Board
  - Post a question or response

The screenshot shows the COSA website with a dark blue header containing the COSA logo and navigation links: Home, Browse Resources, Submit Resources, School Law Practice Seminar, FAQs, Legal Clips, and Connect & Discuss. Below the header is a search bar and a featured section for 'Federal Insider' podcast. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'BROWSE RESOURCES' with buttons for 'Browse by Type', 'Browse by Topic', 'Search', 'Browse All', and 'Legal Clips'; 'SHARE RESOURCES' with instructions for submitting resources and a note about screening; and 'RECENTLY ADDED RESOURCES' with a list of recent additions like 'U.S. Department of Commerce v. State of New York, No. ...' and 'USSC 2018 Term Charts - Update'.

## NSBA's NEW Website and Membership Database

[nsba.org](http://nsba.org)

The new membership database requires that everyone reset their password. To do this:

- Go to [community.nsba.org](http://community.nsba.org)
- Click "Sign in for Member Content" on the top right of the page
- Follow the steps provided
- Contact [info@nsba.org](mailto:info@nsba.org) or call 703-838-6722 for help

nsba

About Advocacy Services Events News Resources

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The leading advocate for public education.

STRENGTH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

nsba Connect

Looking to log in to your community?

As a member, you can update your company address, your community page, COSA School Law Practice Seminars registration and the handbook will close on August 27 at 5:00 pm. Teachers Standard Time and English-Speaking Time. When the computer closes.

Home > Services > Council of School Attorneys

### Council of School Attorneys

#### Supporting Leadership in Legal Advocacy for Public Schools

The Council of School Attorneys (COSA) supports school attorneys in their representation of public school boards by providing leadership in legal advocacy for public schools.

COSA provides a national forum for the discussion of legal issues and problems encountered by school attorneys in providing legal counsel, advice, and representation to school boards and school boards associations. It also promotes and helps develop a closer relationship and better understanding between school attorneys and their clients, school boards and school boards associations.

The Council provides information and practical assistance to more than 3,000 attorneys representing K-12 public school districts and state school boards associations.

#### 2019 COSA School Law Practice Seminar

COSA will be hosting its annual fall seminar at the Eldorado Hotel & Spa in Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 17-19. Come join your school law colleagues for an excellent professional development and networking opportunity. More details, including the draft program and registration information, are available on the Event page.

#### Member Benefits & Resources

Member benefits include Legal Clips, Federal Regulations and Resources, access to COSA's vast library of school law articles and the opportunity to network with other legal professional school attorneys from across the country.

Learn More



## How do I join COSA?

- ✓ Contact Bridget Trojan ([btrojan@iasb.com](mailto:btrojan@iasb.com)) or Ummehani Faizullabhoj ([ufaizullabhoj@iasb.com](mailto:ufaizullabhoj@iasb.com)).
- ✓ They can walk you through the membership process.





COSA's School Law Seminar  
April 2-4, 2020  
Chicago, IL