



School District Liability: Evolving Standards Nine Years After the Adoption of Anti-Bullying Legislation

Tuesday, May 14, 2019
Oak Crest Cove facility
34 Quaker Meeting House Rd, Forestdale, MA 02644
9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
Registration and Light Continental Breakfast 9:00 a.m.



This workshop will explore the changing landscape of School Board liability in the nine years since passage of the Massachusetts Bullying Prevention Law.

- It will explore the evolving legal standard for teacher-on-student harassment from one favorable to School Districts under federal law to one that is stricter for Districts under Massachusetts law, and it will consider how plaintiffs combine student-on-student bullying claims with state and federal civil rights claims in order to seek monetary relief.
- It will revisit **an overview** of School Districts' duties and responsibilities in light of these changes, including to report incidents, to conduct student safety assessments and implement interim safety measures, to investigate complaints and to implement corrective measures.
- It will offer suggestions about best practices for School Districts to mitigate and avoid liability.
- It will offer insights from Georgetown Superintendent Carol Jacobs who will share her experiences having personally dealt with many of these issues in litigation in her district

Who should attend? - Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Title IX Coordinators, HR Directors and Lead Teachers.

Attendance at this seminar qualifies the MIIA member for .5% credit under the FY19 MIIA Rewards Program under Public Officials Liability, School Board Liability or Law Enforcement Liability categories.



AND BEYOND



Trainer

JUDY A. LEVENSON is a partner with Brody, Hardoon, Perkins and Kesten, LLP. She has appeared extensively in state and federal courts, and has substantial experience successfully representing clients before government agencies such as the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD), the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the U.S. Office for Civil Rights, the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission and the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission. A significant portion of her practice involves representing municipalities, and school districts.

Judy also has substantial experience conducting investigations of claims of bullying, discrimination, harassment, sexual abuse and Title IX violations. Additionally, she provides training on state and federal anti-discrimination and anti-harassment laws, bullying prevention laws, school laws and related best practices. She is included on the MCAD's referral list of trained investigators and its list for trained trainers.