

AMANDA E. RUIZ

SENIOR COUNSEL
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EDUCATION

J.D., University of San Diego
School of Law

B.A., University of California,
Los Angeles

PRACTICE AREAS

Special Education
Students
Labor & Employment
Litigation

BAR ADMISSION

California, 2012

OVERVIEW

Amanda E. Ruiz is Senior Counsel in Lozano Smith's Fresno office and co-chair of the firm's Special Education Practice Group. Ms. Ruiz represents school district clients, focusing on the Special Education, Students, Labor & Employment and Litigation practice areas. Ms. Ruiz assists clients with a wide-variety of Special Education and Student issues, such as expulsion proceedings, IEP meetings, settling cases at resolution sessions and mediations, due process hearings, as well as ensuring compliance with Section 504 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

In employment matters, Ms. Ruiz assists school districts with collective bargaining, employee discipline, grievances and arbitrations. She is a regular presenter on various labor and employment issues. Ms. Ruiz also advises clients in many areas of charter schools, including, drafting MOUs, oversight, and facility requests.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ms. Ruiz has experience as a full-time staff attorney at a County Counsel's Office, where she counseled and represented the County in civil and criminal cases, including civil commitment proceedings, bench trials, and examination of witnesses. Her experience extends to the California Welfare and Institutions Code, California Evidence, Criminal, Probate, Family Law, and Civil Procedure. She has represented county departments of behavioral health, social services and agriculture, and assisted with research and drafting of documents related to a high-profile personnel matter and Public Employment Relations Board appeal.

During law school, Ms. Ruiz was a legal intern for the California Attorney General's Office, Criminal Division and the San Diego Public Defender. She also served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Charles S. Poochigian, California Court of Appeal. These experiences have given her deep experience in analytical and legal research and writing.

EDUCATION

Ms. Ruiz earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles.