



Jennifer Baldassari

Partner

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Overview

Jennifer Baldassari is a Partner in Lozano Smith's Walnut Creek office and co-chair of the firm's Special Education Practice Group. She represents public school districts, county offices of education, and special education local plan areas throughout California, with a practice focused on student issues and special education. Ms. Baldassari advises clients on complex compliance matters and works closely with district leadership to proactively identify and address systemic issues, with the goal of avoiding costly disputes and strengthening legally sound educational practices.

Experience

Ms. Baldassari represents school districts in civil rights litigation before California administrative courts involving the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. She regularly counsels and represents clients in IEP meetings, resolution sessions, mediations, due process hearings, and Office for Civil Rights investigations, providing strategic guidance on both individual student matters and broader programmatic concerns.

Presentations

Ms. Baldassari is a frequent speaker for statewide and regional professional organizations, including the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO). She regularly presents on topics such as ERMHS assessments, inclusion of students with disabilities, mental health, and school avoidance, and is a recurring presenter for Lozano Smith's Special Education Legal Consortium.

Additional Experience

Ms. Baldassari has taught school law and public policy at Mills College in Oakland and served for two years on the Office of Administrative Hearings' Advisory Committee. Her background also includes hands-on classroom experience as a teacher's aide and work as a summer associate with the California Department of Education's Legal Office while attending law school.

Education

Ms. Baldassari earned her Juris Doctor from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, where she received Pro Bono Honors. During law school, she served as a Graduate Student Assistant, Judicial Extern, and Certified Legal Intern, gaining experience in education law, special education, and civil litigation. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Managerial Economics and Statistics from the University of California, Davis, and received Honors Internship recognition in Education.

Practices

Special Education
Student

Education

J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School
of Law

B.S., University of California, Davis

Admissions

California