

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**School
Solicitors
Symposium**
The Penn Stater Hotel
and Conference Center
JULY 7 & 8, 2022



CARL D. BEARD, ESQ.

Beard Legal Group, Altoona, PA

Carl Deren Beard is an associate with Beard Legal Group PC. He graduated from Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law in 2014. Beard is licensed to practice before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the United States Middle District and Western District Courts of Pennsylvania. He concentrates his practice in education law and labor and employment law. Beard represents school districts in negotiations with teachers, support staff (ESPA, SEIU, AFSCME, USW, etc.) as well as day-to-day issues surrounding policy, employment and student matters, including expulsion hearings and local agency hearings.



JARRETT J. FERENTINO, ESQ.

Pugliese Finnegan, Shaffer & Ferentino LLC, Kingston, PA

Jarrett J. Ferentino is a partner in the law firm of Pugliese, Finnegan, Shaffer & Ferentino LLC. Ferentino has mediated school district disputes, conducted personnel investigations and authored reports of investigations. He is a federal and state trial lawyer handling many different types of matters representing individual, corporate and government clients. He has secured many successful verdicts including a 2017 verdict of \$5.4 million. Ferentino serves as a Luzerne County assistant district attorney. In 2017, Ferentino was the primary featured legal analyst in the ID Network worldwide broadcast documentary *Cosby: An American Scandal*. In 2019, He co-hosted the nationally broadcast documentary *Capturing Chris Watts* and also appeared as an expert in *Aaron Hernandez's Killing Fields* on Reelz network. He is set to appear in several national network broadcasts. He also is a co-host of the *Lawyering Up* podcast featuring interviews and analysis on national, state and local law matters. Ferentino was named a Rising Star in *Philadelphia Magazine's* "Super Lawyers" publication. He has received recognition in the local and national media and has been the recipient of several awards.



STUART L. KNADE, ESQ.

PSBA Chief Legal Officer, Mechanicsburg, PA

Stuart L. Knade is the chief legal officer for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), leading the association's legal team and its judicial advocacy, member legal information and other legal services since 1998. Knade is an experienced public school solicitor, defense litigator and appellate advocate who in the past represented public school entities and their officials in numerous state and federal lawsuits involving a wide variety of civil rights, employment, contract, local taxation and other school governance issues. Prior to joining PSBA, Knade's private practice was devoted almost exclusively to public school law and municipal law, advising and representing local school districts, intermediate units and other municipal entities in general matters as well as in litigation as a member of defense panels for several school insurance programs. While in private practice, he also represented PSBA as *amicus curiae* in a number of appellate and trial-level cases, including several successful PSBA-sponsored lawsuits involving complex school funding issues. Knade began his law practice on active duty in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, and in 2012 retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel after nearly 32 years of military service, including a tour of duty in Iraq. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics at Gettysburg College and received his Juris Doctor at Dickinson School of Law, where he was a founding member of the *Dickinson Journal of International Law*. Knade also previously served as general counsel to the Pennsylvania League of Urban Schools and the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees and is a past regional director of the Pennsylvania School Board Solicitors Association. He is a frequent speaker on school law topics at workshops, seminars and conferences, and has written numerous articles on education law topics.



MICHAEL I. LEVIN, ESQ.

PSBA General Counsel, Levin Legal Group, PC, Huntingdon Valley, PA

Michael I. Levin is a founder and president of the Levin Legal Group, PC, a firm concentrating in the representation of public school districts, labor and employment law, and civil rights litigation. Levin is general counsel to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, Pennsylvania School Boards Association Insurance and the Pennsylvania Principals Association. He represents school districts as solicitor, labor law counsel, litigation counsel and special education counsel. He is a frequent lecturer at national and statewide seminars in school law. He is the author and editor of several books, including *Pennsylvania School Personnel Actions*, *Municipal Liability: An Analysis of the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act*, *Pennsylvania School Laws and Rules*, and *United States School Laws and Rules*. He is past chair of the Education Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, a past director of COSA, and is the inventor of the two-player rules of the popular board game Risk.



RACHEL K. LOZOSKY, ESQ.

Peacock Keller LLP, Washington, PA

2022 PSBSA President

Rachel K. Lozosky is a partner with the firm of Peacock Keller, LLP. She is passionate about educating, counseling and advocating for her clients. Hailing from a family of educators and having grown up as the daughter of a school superintendent, her personal appreciation of the challenges and rewards of work in the Pennsylvania public school system has greatly benefited her clients in her work for over a decade as a school solicitor. Lozosky is experienced in the broad range of issues involved in representing school districts, including special education, student discipline, and compliance with Pennsylvania's Sunshine Act and Right-to-Know Law. She is well-versed in the laws governing personnel actions, an expertise that she also brings to bear in her employment law practice. Lozosky is experienced in representing small, mid-size and large employers in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors as well as individual employees. While Lozosky works hard to keep her clients out of litigation, should a controversy arise, she is experienced in successfully advocating on their behalf. She is particularly well-versed in defending public school districts in the complex area of special education due process litigation as well as representing clients in proceedings before the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Her knowledge, experience and relatable style make her a sought-after and frequent speaker on an extensive array of employment and school law topics.



LINDA J. RANDBY, ESQ.

PSBA Senior Director of Legal Services, Mechanicsburg, PA

Linda J. Randby is the senior director of legal services for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), joining the association's legal team in March 2020. She provides advice and guidance regarding judicial advocacy, member legal information and other legal services to PSBA. Randby is an experienced litigator and appellate advocate who previously represented government officials and entities in numerous state and federal lawsuits involving a wide variety of civil rights, employment, contract, administrative and criminal law issues. Prior to joining PSBA, Randby advised and represented the Governor's Office of General Counsel at the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and the Pennsylvania State Police. She also advised and represented the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency before state and federal agencies and courts in matters related to consumer finance, privacy, higher education, intellectual property, contracts and other matters related to quasi-corporate entities. During her time in private practice, she was an associate at McNees, Wallace & Nurick, representing clients in intellectual property and contract matters. She received her Juris Doctor at Widener University Commonwealth Law School, where she currently serves as a member of the alumni association's board of directors. She also is a Master in the James S. Bowman American Inns of Court.



KENNETH A. ROOS, ESQ.

Wisler Pearlstine LLP, Blue Bell, PA

Kenneth A. Roos is known throughout the state for his expertise in education law. Having provided legal counsel to multiple school districts for more than 25 years and as a veteran of well over 2,000 public school board meetings, there are few education law issues Roos has not confronted and handled in his career. Currently, he serves as the solicitor for several public school districts in southeastern Pennsylvania and provides legal advice and representation to numerous other public school districts and other educational and governmental entities. He regularly is asked to create or revise policies and provide advice to school district clients regarding the myriad of legal issues facing public school districts, such as board governance, district operations, regulatory compliance, naming rights and advertising, and daily student and staff issues. Roos is a past president (2006) of the Pennsylvania School Board Solicitors Association and is a frequent speaker at educational law seminars throughout the state. For 15 consecutive years, he has been selected to the Pennsylvania "Super Lawyers" list. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Roos is former chair of the Ambler Area YMCA Board of Directors and current president of the Ambler Theater Board of Directors.