



EVENT SCHEDULE

All workshop sessions and lunch will be held in the Zambezi and Nile River Rooms

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration (outside Zambezi)
Continental breakfast (included in program fee)

8:30 – 8:40 a.m.

Welcoming remarks, introductions and administrative announcements
Benjamin L. Pratt, Esq., President, Pennsylvania School Board Solicitors Association, Saxton & Stump, Lancaster PA
Carmen J. Bloom, Esq., PSBA Chief Legal Officer

8:40 – 9:40 a.m.

PDE – Friend, Foe or Neutral? Adventures in Handling the Special Education PDE Complaint

Special education attorneys will walk you through their experiences and share the ins and outs of handling the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) complaints, the outcomes of which are unreported. They will share the legal framework and strategies for responding to complaints as well as their experiences with PDE advisors. Discussion will include possible outcomes, navigating the path to a resolution, when and how to appeal, and ways they have been able to use decisions to their advantage. You will be invited to share your experiences, too! (1 substantive CLE credit)

Amy T. Brooks, Esq., Wisler Pearlstine, and PSBSA President-Elect
Elizabeth H. Blass, Esq., Wisler Pearlstine

9:40 – 10:00 a.m.

Refreshment break

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

School Law Update

PSBA General Counsel Michael Levin provides an overview of developments directly impacting public school operations and liability exposures, including new statutes and regulations, what is happening in the courts and his comprehensive written summary of the past year's legal developments in school law. (1.5 substantive CLE credits)

Michael I. Levin, Esq., Levin Legal Group

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PA School Board Solicitors Association (PSBSA) Annual Business Meeting

This will include the 2023 PSBSA President's Award presentation to Michael W. King, Esq., from York, PA and recognition of the outgoing 2023 PSBSA President, Benjamin L. Pratt, Esq. of Saxton and Stump, in addition to the nomination and board vote for the 2024 PSBSA officers and directors.



12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch (on site, included in program fee)

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Navigating Book Challenges

This session will explore legal, policy and practical considerations for navigating challenges to books in the school setting. In addition to a review of the applicable legal precedent, topics covered will include drafting of policies, administrative procedures, and review of committee reports, along with suggestions for successfully guiding school boards and administrators through this challenging process.
(1 substantive CLE credit)

David M. Walker, Esq., Stock and Leader

Dr. Leigh Dalton, Esq., Stock and Leader

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

To Early Bird or Not to Early Bird – That Is the Question

More and more teacher and support unions are seeking to engage in “early bird” negotiations, which follow an earlier, more compressed time schedule than required by Act 88, and traditionally cover fewer topics beyond wages and benefits. What are the advantages to school districts to engage in early bird negotiations? What are the disadvantages? How can you decide whether early bird negotiations are good for your district? Experienced labor negotiator Peter Amuso will cover these topics, as well as review the Act 88 deadlines from which early bird negotiations differ.
(1 substantive CLE credit)

Peter C. Amuso, Esq., Rudolph Clarke

3:00 – 3:20 p.m.

Refreshment break

3:20 – 4:20 p.m.

Title IX and the New Rule on Transgender Athletes: What school solicitors need to know and consider when advising school boards in developing potential policies

The U.S. Department of Education announced a final rule will be published this fall addressing permissible restrictions educational institutions may impose on transgender students participating in athletics. This program will discuss how the new Title IX rule, federal court cases challenging state laws restricting transgender students’ participation in athletics, and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission’s new regulation expanding the definition of “sex” may impact what school boards do.
(1 substantive CLE credit)

Jeffrey D. Litts, Esq., Saxton & Stump

4:20 – 4:30 p.m.

Closing remarks; program adjourns

