



Landmark Attorneys in Disability Education Rights

Recognizing national leaders in advancing educational rights for students with disabilities.

Hilary D. Freeman, Esq.

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Hilary Freeman is a renowned special education attorney with a long record of advocacy and numerous legal victories on behalf of students with disabilities—including the landmark case *O.R. v. Clark County School District*.

Landmark Case: *O.R. v. Clark County School District*

In this pivotal dyslexia case, Hilary Freeman appeared pro hac vice on behalf of the parents. The U.S. District Court found that the district had 'substantially and procedurally' violated IDEA laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other important standards, awarding the family \$456,990.60 for private education and services. The court ruled that the district ignored professional evaluations and failed to provide Orton-Gillingham instruction, setting a precedent that schools must follow evaluation recommendations when essential for FAPE.

This case is often cited in discussions about school districts' obligations under IDEA to follow professional evaluation recommendations and tailor support.

Keith Peck, Esq.

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“Keith Peck is nationally recognized as a leading ‘legal strategist’ in special education law on appeal and trial-level proceedings. Mr. Peck has worked on well-over a thousand matters on behalf of children with disabilities. He co-authored and presented the American Bar Association’s Continuing Legal Education instruction on Special Education Law. He has been lead counsel in approximately 100 United States District cases involving IDEA and Constitutional issues. Co-counsel in Hawaii’s class action for special education rights and original lead counsel on Hawaii’s Olmstead action, he also participated in establishing a right to damages under Section 504 in the 9th Circuit. In cross-examination and oral argument, he excels,”

Landmark Case: R.E.B. v. Hawaii Department of Education (870 F.3d 1025, 9th Cir. 2017)

The Ninth Circuit held that when a particular instructional methodology plays a 'critical role' in a student’s education, it must be specified and written into the IEP. This principle, originally applied to Applied Behavior Analysis for autism, extends to structured literacy for dyslexia. Schools cannot hide behind 'methodology discretion' when a specific method is essential to FAPE.

Jack Robinson, Esq.

Robinson Disability Law, LLC

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Jack Robinson is a nationally respected attorney who has devoted his career to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities. His work in *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District* transformed the IDEA standard for educational benefit. Law Week recognized Mr. Robinson as Colorado’s Top Litigator in 2018.

Landmark Case: Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District (U.S. Supreme Court, 2017)

Representing Endrew and his parents, Jack Robinson successfully argued that schools must offer IEPs that are 'appropriately ambitious' with 'challenging objectives.' The Supreme Court unanimously rejected minimal progress as acceptable under IDEA, setting a new “markedly more demanding” national standard.

Trusted Special Education Consultants

Julie Hagy-Hancock, M.S.Ed. —

Founder, Success by Design Education

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Julie Hagy-Hancock is a Special Education Consultant, Child Advocate. She holds a B.A. in Communications Studies, mediation training, and a Master's in Special Education. Over the last 19 years, Julie held various roles in the field – from classroom teacher and special education administrator to adjunct professor, research presenter, and expert witness. She opened her IEP and 504 consulting practice in 2010 to help empower parents navigating the often tedious and complex 504 and IEP process.

Julie is highly experienced in supporting families through referral, eligibility, IEP or 504 development, progress monitoring, and (if needed) disagreement process. In this role, she has empowered parents, collaborated with schools, and helped hundreds of children nationwide receive appropriate, research-based reading and related services, programming, and accommodations within the public school system.

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