



ELC EDUCATION
LAW CENTER

15TH ANNUAL

Education Justice Lecture

THE EDUCATION BEAT: JOURNALISM, EDUCATION EQUITY,
AND HOW TO GET THE EDUCATION MESSAGE ACROSS

Wednesday, June 5, 2024



Education Justice Webinar

The Education Beat: Journalism, Education Equity, and
How to Get the Education Message Across

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Keynote Speaker

Valerie Strauss

Former Washington Post Columnist

Respondents

John Mooney

NJ Spotlight, Founding Editor

Ashley Burns

Principal, RALLY

Moderator

Robert Kim, Esq.

Education Law Center, Executive Director



About Education Law Center

Education Law Center pursues justice and equity for public school students by enforcing their right to a high-quality education in safe, equitable, non-discriminatory, integrated, and well-funded learning environments. We seek to support and improve public schools as the center of communities and the foundation of a multicultural and multiracial democratic society. We strive to secure and protect the rights of students who are underserved, experience inadequate learning opportunities, or face discrimination based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, language, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigrant or migrant status, or disability. To achieve these goals, we engage in litigation, research and data analysis, policy advocacy, communications, and strategic partnerships and collaborations.

The work of Education Law Center has expanded greatly over more than half a century. While maintaining a deep commitment to public education in our home state of New Jersey, in states across the country we engage in impactful litigation; in-depth research; extensive policy advocacy and coalition and campaign work; and targeted communications in support of public school funding equity, against education privatization and student discrimination, and to further students' rights.

- Read our [Strategic Workplan for 2023-25](#) for the Key Principles that guide our core areas of work and an outline of our Goals and Activities related to: School Funding Equity and Adequacy; Diversity, Equity, Justice and Non-Discrimination for Public School Students; Policy Advocacy and Communications; and Organizational Management and Health.
- Interact with [Making the Grade](#), the highly anticipated, annual report from our Research Team about school funding in the 50 states, as well as our reports on [Resource Equity in the States](#) and our multiple, [Interactive Tools](#).
- Learn about our [Public Funds Public Schools](#) campaign, which opposes the diversion of public money for private education uses and has achieved a series of important victories through litigation, policy advocacy and research.
- Visit our [News](#) page frequently for up-to-date communications about our work across states and areas of focus.
- Refer to the menu bar at the top of every web page to access information about our work, and Join our Network to receive ELC communications directly to your inbox.

Read a brief history of ELC [here](#).



Board of Trustees

Ellen Frede, Ph.D.

*Senior Co-Director,
National Institute for Early
Education Research*

Kevin Kelleher

*Executive Director,
New Jersey Education Association*

Rebecca Spar, Esq.

Special Education Attorney

Kevin Welner, Ph.D.

*Professor,
University of Colorado,
School of Education*

Janel George, Esq.

*Georgetown University
Law Center*

Gregory Little, Esq.

ELC Chief Trial Counsel

Justice Gary Stein

Pashman Stein

Lindsay Heck, Esq.

U.S. Government

David Long, Esq.

Attorney

Clifford G. Stewart, Esq.

The Law Office of C. Gregory Stewart

Jacqueline Jones, Ph.D.

*Former President & CEO,
Foundation for Child Development*

Janelle Scott, Ph.D.

*Professor & Chair,
University of California at Berkeley*

Jamal Watson, Ph.D.

*Associate Dean,
Trinity Washington University, School
of Professional and Graduate Studies*

Staff

Elizabeth Athos, Esq.

*Senior Attorney,
Educational Equity*

Nicole Ciullo

Research & Policy Associate

Kaitlyn Comesañas

Program Assistant

Jennifer Doeren

*Director, Partnership for Equity
& Education Rights (PEER)*

Danielle Farrie, Ph.D.

Research Director

Meredith Kilburn, Esq.

Powell Legal Fellow

Robert Kim, Esq.

Executive Director

Sharon Krengel

*Director of Policy, Strategic
Partnerships & Communications*

Wendy Lecker, Esq.

*Senior Attorney, School Finance
& Resource Equity*

Jessica Levin, Esq.

*Litigation Director/Director,
Public Funds Public Schools*

Gregory Little, Esq.

Chief Trial Counsel

Theresa Luhm, Esq.

*Director of Finance, Operations,
& Development*

Mary McKillip, Ph.D.

Senior Researcher

Aimee Roche

Intake Coordinator

Ann Romero

Finance & Operations Manager



Supporters

ELC would like to thank these foundations, corporations and organizations for their generous support.

American Federation of Teachers

ETS

The Fund for New Jersey

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

Great Schools New Jersey

Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA)

MacMillan Family Foundation

National Education Association

New Jersey Education Association

New York State United Teachers

Prudential Financial

Southern Education Foundation

Spencer Foundation

Taub Foundation

University of Virginia Powell Fellowship

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Law Firms / Co-Counsel

The work we do would not be possible without the tremendous amount of pro bono support we receive from lawyers in private practice. We are honored to have worked in partnership with the firms listed below.

Arnold & Porter

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Gibbons P.C.

Holland & Hart LLP

Latham & Watkins

Lowenstein Sandler

Pashman Stein

Paul Hastings LLP

Ropes & Gray LLP

White & Case

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Proud of
Education Law Center's
Work Since 1973

Ellen Frede, Ph.D.
Janel George, Esq.
Lindsay Heck, Esq.
Jacqueline Jones, Esq.
Kevin Kelleher
Gregory Little, Esq.
David Long, Esq.
Janelle Scott, Ph.D.
Rebecca Spar, Esq.
Justice Gary Stein
Clifford G. Stewart, Esq.
Jamal Watson, Ph.D.
Kevin Welner, Ph.D.





NJEA members

proudly salute the

Education Law Center

as it continues to work for educational opportunity,
equity and justice for all public school students.

Pictured above:

Sean M. Spiller, President (center)

Steve Beatty, Vice President (left)

Petal Robertson, Secretary-Treasurer (right)

Congratulations & continued success

White & Case is proud to support the **Education Law Center**.

As a pioneering international law firm, we help our clients achieve their ambitions across the world's developed and emerging markets.

WHITE & CASE

whitecase.com/citizenship

Keynote Speaker



Valerie Strauss

Former Washington Post Columnist

Valerie Strauss is an education writer. She wrote at The Washington Post on local and national education for 30 years and authored The Answer Sheet blog, which chronicles the most vital issues in the world of education. She is currently working on a book about education and journalism. Ms. Strauss started at the Post as assistant foreign editor for Asia after stints at Reuters serving as national security editor, and at United Press International as assistant foreign editor and reporter. She was also an editor at the Los Angeles Times. Born and raised in Miami, she lives in Washington D.C. with her husband, Marc, an attorney. They have two daughters. One teaches students with autism in Maryland and the other is a music therapist and musician in Los Angeles.

Respondents



John Mooney

Founding Editor, NJ Spotlight

John Mooney is the founding editor of NJ Spotlight News, starting the non-profit news site in 2009 after more than 30 years in print journalism. A decade later, NJ Spotlight News was acquired in 2019 by WNET/NJ PBS and is currently its digital news team in New Jersey. Before NJ Spotlight News, John was an education reporter and covered school equity issues in depth with the Newark Star-Ledger and the Bergen Record, as well as with The New York Times as a contributing writer. John received his BA from Wesleyan University.



Ashley Burns

Principal, RALLY

A passionate communications strategist, Ashley focuses on racial and/or gender equity in education, health, housing, economic empowerment, and other social issues. From listening sessions with community matriarchs to focus groups in conservative rural communities, Ashley's work across the country helps fuel positive change through capacity building, community engagement, and messaging analysis. In short, she helps organizations and coalitions refine their voice to break through "noisy" landscapes and reach ambivalent audiences in unexpected ways. Prior to RALLY, Ashley led communications and media events for international product launches at Microsoft, Minecraft Education, Skype in the Classroom, LEGO, NASA, and various startups.

Great Schools of New Jersey

The association of high need school districts

is proud to support



Education Law Center's 2024 Education Justice Lecture

GSNJ Officers:

J. Kenyon Kummings, President
Tony Trongone, Vice President
Peter E. Genovese III, RSBO, OPA, Treasurer
Robert Kim, Esq., Executive Director, ELC
Richard Bozza, Ed.D., Executive Director, NJASA

GSNJ Executive Committee:

Raymond Boccuti
Trisha Camp, Ed.D.
John Giacchi
Peter Koza, Ed.D.

Lorise Goeke, Ed.D.
Jeffrey Havers
Michelle Rosenberg
George J. Softer, Ed.D.



**Thanks to the Education Law Center
for caring, showing up
and fighting for all of us.**



American Federation of Teachers New Jersey, AFL-CIO

720 King Georges Road / Suite 300

Fords, N.J. 08863

(732) 661-9393 / www.aftnj.org

Executive Officers

Donna M. Chiera *President*

Dr. Susanna Tardi *Executive Vice President Higher Education*

Pat Paradiso *Executive Vice President Prekindergarten to 12*

Jennifer S. Higgins *Treasurer*

Leigh-Anne Cobb *Secretary*

Higher Education Vice Presidents

Elaine Bobrove

James Castiglione

Lynne Cummins

Tim Haresign

Laurie LeFever

Christine O'Connell

Robert Russo

Darlene Smith

Bill Sullivan

Todd Vachon

Leonard Winogora

Todd Wolfson

Prekindergarten to 12 Vice Presidents

Lynn Audet

Michael Backo

Nelson Baiza

Suzanne Carey

Timothy D. Carr

Leslie Correa

Theresa Guerriere

Michael Iovino

Silvia Pereira

Robin Pinckney-St. John

Margaret Roberts

Ryan Sandor

CONGRATULATIONS
Education Law Center!

institute25

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE | 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**Arnold & Porter congratulates
the Education Law Center on
more than 50 years of
innovative advocacy on
behalf of the nation's most
underserved children.**

We are proud to partner with ELC in its
groundbreaking work to promote fair and
equitable school funding, racial justice,
and effective school reform.



Arnold & Porter

©2024 Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP. All Rights Reserved.



Ellen Frede and Steve Barnett deeply appreciate the Education Law Center for tirelessly fighting for equitable funding and education rights in NJ and throughout the US. As Senior Co-Directors at the National Institute for Early Education Research, we applaud the ELC's relentless focus on providing young children with access to early education as a fundamental right.

John M. Abeigon
President
Dir. Of Organization

Michael R. Iovino
Secretary-Treasurer



NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

American Federation of Teachers
Local 481/AFL-CIO
1019 Broad Street · Newark, N.J. 07102-2426
Voice (973) 643-8430 · FAX (973) 643-8435
Home Page - <http://newark.nj.aft.org>



We Appreciate

THE EDUCATION LAW CENTER'S CONTINUED STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL EDUCATION

~~~~~

*MUCH SUCCESS ON ALL FUTURE ENDEAVORS*

**“Solidarity Forever”**



### Vice-Presidents

Victor Afonso  
Noor Alam  
Cristina Balboa  
Ronnie D. Carney  
Timothy Carr  
Cassandra Chapman-Talmadge  
John Cunha  
Mark Donetz  
Josephine Donnellan

Kristyn Faison  
Joicki Floyd  
Love Gaillard  
Francisco Garcia  
Nancy Gianni  
Yvette Jordan  
Carmen Lopez-Wolf  
Eliana Maffucci  
Kathleen Murphy-Butler

Qy-Deera Nathan  
Silvia Pereira  
Jennifer Ramos  
Marisa Rodriguez  
Ryan Sandor  
Larry Sullivan  
Janae Taylor-Loyas  
Tennille Wasek



*We are proud to support ELC*


## Education Law Center

*Thank you for being the leading voice  
for public school children in  
New Jersey and across the nation.*


**Novak | Francella**  
LLC CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

BOSTON | CONNECTICUT | NEW YORK | PHILADELPHIA | WASHINGTON, DC

[www.novakfrancella.com](http://www.novakfrancella.com)



Through progressive research and advocacy, the North Carolina Justice Center works to eliminate poverty in our state by ensuring every household has access to the resources, services and fair treatment it needs to achieve economic security.

  
NORTH CAROLINA  
**JUSTICE CENTER**  
[www.ncjustice.org](http://www.ncjustice.org)



Anthony M. Rizzo, *President*  
Christopher Bowman, *1st Vice President*  
Brenda Martin-Lee, *2nd Vice President*  
Catherine MacManiman, *Secretary*  
Andrew Jacobs, *Treasurer*  
Deborah Fitzpatrick, *Office Manager*  
Tamara Beatty,  
*NJEA Executive Committee Member*





# A Commitment to Education and Equity

We believe in the life-changing power of learning and are driven by a vision of what's possible when all people can improve their lives through education. This vision has propelled the educational progress and assessments that provide fairness and equity along the journey.

**To learn how ETS supports learners on the journey to what's possible, visit [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)**

Copyright © 2022 by ETS. All rights reserved. ETS and the ETS logo are registered trademarks of ETS.

# WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK



Wisconsin Public Education Network unites public school champions statewide to demand and deliver the conditions every student needs to thrive in every public school. Learn more at [WisconsinNetwork.org](https://WisconsinNetwork.org) and join us this summer in Madison for our annual summit!

Follow this QR code to support our work and be the reason Wisconsin kids thrive!



**JULY 30-31, 2024  
MADISON**

WISCONSIN  
PUBLIC  
EDUCATION  
NETWORK

WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC  
INSTRUCTION

MADISON METROPOLITAN  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



**LEARN MORE AT**  
**[WisconsinNetwork.org/Summit](https://WisconsinNetwork.org/Summit)**

## YOUR PARTNER IN *IMPROVING* EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

**The Region II Equity Assistance Center-South** at the Southern Education Foundation (EAC-South) advises, assists, and serves public schools and districts in their work to provide more equitable opportunities for students in the areas of race, national origin, sex, and religion, as required by law.

**Our goal** is to promote educational access and opportunity for all students through evidence-based technical assistance (TA) and training to public school districts and other responsible governmental agencies at no cost.

**We support 11 states** — Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia — and the District of Columbia. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, we are one of four centers in the nation that serves our public education systems by addressing issues of equity.

TO REQUEST SERVICES, VISIT [EACSOUTH.ORG](https://EACSOUTH.ORG) OR EMAIL [EACSOUTH@SOUTHERNEDUCATION.ORG](mailto:EACSOUTH@SOUTHERNEDUCATION.ORG)

SUBSCRIBE



STAY  
CONNECTED







## PROUD TO SUPPORT EDUCATION LAW CENTER

*& their mission to promote fair and  
equitable school funding, racial justice,  
and effective school reform.*

### CBIZ BORDEN PERLMAN INSURANCE SERVICES:

**Personal | Commercial | Specialty**

**609.896.3434 | 800.932.4476**

**[CBIZ.com/BordenPerlman](https://www.cbiz.com/BordenPerlman)**



*Many Thanks to the  
Education Law Center  
for its tireless advocacy  
on behalf of New Jersey's schools.*



*Your Friends at*  
**DEVCO**

*The new Blanquita B. Valenti Community School  
Developed by DEVCO in partnership with the  
New Brunswick Public School District and funded by RWJBarnabas Health.*





Latham & Watkins is proud to support

---

## Education Law Center's (ELC) 2024 Education Justice Lecture

ELC's work ensures high quality and equitable education for all public school students through litigation, research and data analysis, policy advocacy, and more.

**LW.com**



David B. Rubin, P.C.  
*Attorney at Law*

450 Main Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840  
[www.rubinlaw.net](http://www.rubinlaw.net)

PROUD TO SUPPORT  
EDUCATION LAW CENTER

Education Association of Passaic  
124 Gregory Avenue  
Suite 302  
Passaic, New Jersey 07055

~  
*Excellence in Education*  
*Advocacy for our Profession*  
*Promoting the Advancement of our Students*



Over fifteen-hundred teachers and educational  
support professional members of the EAP  
salute the noble performance of the  
Education Law Center  
for their work on behalf of our  
public school students!

~  
*Francis (Frank) Koterba, President*  
*Karen Cawthern, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*  
*Carolyn McKinney-Croix, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
*Jason Karpowich, Treasurer*  
*Sunnie Allen-Henderson, Secretary*



Lowenstein Sandler is proud to support the

## **EDUCATION LAW CENTER'S ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY & EDUCATION JUSTICE LECTURE**

Special thanks to this year's keynote speaker, **Valerie Strauss**, former Washington Post columnist, who will deliver remarks.





**SPAN is proud to partner with ELC in  
the fight for equal educational  
opportunity and justice for public  
school children in New Jersey!**

**SPAN Parent Advocacy Network**

570 Broad Street, Suite 702

Newark, NJ 07102

800-654-SPAN

[spanadvocacy.org](http://spanadvocacy.org)

@parentadvocacynetwork

@SPANadvocacy

@spanadvocacy



*Empowered Parents: Educated, Engaged, Effective!*



## **WEISSMAN & MINTZ LLC**

**SUPPORTS**

### **Education Law Center**

One of the most effective advocates for equal educational  
opportunity and education justice

**220 Davidson Avenue, Suite 410**

**Somerset, NJ 08873**

**(732) 563-4565**

[www.weissmanmintz.com](http://www.weissmanmintz.com)

**A Law Firm Representing Unions, Employees and Social Justice  
Organizations For Over 30 Years**



## Create Your Legacy and Support ELC With FreeWill

ELC has worked tirelessly to protect and strengthen the constitutional rights of the nation's school children to public education. As we look toward our future, we invite you to build a legacy in support of equal educational opportunity and education justice in the United States.

To help you get started, we're highlighting our partnership with FreeWill, a secure, online estate planning resource that allows you to plan for your future, protect your loved ones, and even create a legacy with ELC.

You can support our vital work by designating a gift to ELC. This gift costs nothing today, but ensures we can continue our fight for fair and equitable school funding, racial justice, and students' rights for generations to come. Visit [FreeWill.com/EdLawCenter](https://FreeWill.com/EdLawCenter) or scan the QR code below to get started.



We're also excited to share a simple and tax-efficient way for our community to continue to make an impact and support our work by donating stock to ELC. We ask that you please consider giving through this non-cash donation method.

By donating stock directly to ELC, you can maximize your impact at less cost to you! This secure, online resource makes it easy to learn more and create your gift in less than 10 minutes. Donate stock today by scanning the QR code or visiting [FreeWill.com/Stocks/EdLawCenter](https://FreeWill.com/Stocks/EdLawCenter).



Please contact Kaitlyn Comesanas at [kcomesanas@edlawcenter.org](mailto:kcomesanas@edlawcenter.org) with any questions.

*Note: FreeWill is not a law firm, and its services are not substitutes for legal advice. You should see an attorney for any specific questions of concerns regarding your estate plan.*



REISMAN ■ CAROLLA ■ GRAN ■ ZUBA LLP

CONGRATULATES  
EDUCATION LAW CENTER  
ON ITS 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LECTURE

ELC thanks the following individuals and  
organizations for supporting this event!

**Learning Policy Institute**

**Zahavah Levine**

**Jessica Limbacher**

**Matthew Stoloff**

**Julie Underwood**

**Jennifer Waldron**

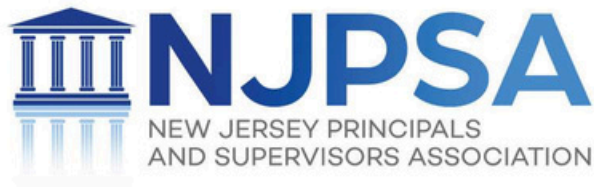


# Proud Sponsor of the Education Law Center

[pashmanstein.com](https://pashmanstein.com)

Hackensack NJ ■ Holmdel NJ ■ Purchase NY ■ New York NY ■ Wilmington DE

A description of the selection methodology can be found at <https://www.event.law.com/njlawjournal-njlegalawards/methodology>.  
No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.



[www.njpsa.org](https://www.njpsa.org)



**NJPSA is committed to providing an excellent education for every student and is proud to celebrate our partnership with the Education Law Center in all of its advocacy efforts.**

Mercer Street Friends is proud  
to support ELC's 15th annual  
Education Justice Lecture.

**Bernie Flynn**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**James "Butter" Allen**  
*Chief Operating Officer / Director of Food Bank*

**Karen Hoppock**  
*Director of Parenting and  
Adult Services*

**Lisa Banks**  
*Director of The Center for Early  
Childhood Education*

**Bernadette Trapp**  
*Director of Community Schools*

**Xiumei Chen**  
*Director of Finance*

**Vicki Bixel**  
*Strategic Development &  
Community Partner*

**Maureen Prout Alvidrez**  
*Strategic Development &  
Community Partner*



*Phone:*  
609-396-1506

*Email:*  
[info@mercerstreetsfriends.org](mailto:info@mercerstreetsfriends.org)

*Location:*  
151 Mercer Street  
Trenton, NJ 08611



### Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

congratulates the Education Law Center on its 15th annual Education Justice Lecture, continuing their vital work to advance education equity and racial justice in New Jersey and across the country.

Volunteer Lawyers  
for Justice  
Taking Cases. Changing Lives.

[WWW.VLJNJ.ORG](http://WWW.VLJNJ.ORG)



**LOCAL 68**  
OPERATING ENGINEERS  
ATLANTIC CITY WEST CALDWELL

**PARLESREKEM**<sup>LLP</sup>  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Representing  
Children & Adults  
with Special Needs  
& Their Families

77 Valley Road  
Clark, NJ 07066  
973-564-0055

[www.ParlesRekem.com](http://www.ParlesRekem.com)

**ELC** EDUCATION  
LAW CENTER

**You can continue to support ELC by making a  
tax-deductible contribution now.**



If you prefer, you can mail a check, made out to "Education Law Center," Attention to:  
Kaitlyn Comesañas, Program Assistant, 60 Park Place, Suite 300, Newark, NJ 07102.