

**Key Trends In Education Law for 2015:
What You Need to Know**

Crowne Plaza Hartford Hotel
100 Berlin Road
Cromwell, CT
February 27, 2015

7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. – Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:15 a.m. - 8:25 a.m. – Welcome and Introduction–*William Connon*

8:25 a.m. - 9:05 a.m. – **"Recent Developments in the FOIA and Avoiding Fines"**

We will discuss recent cases in which the FOIC and the courts have balanced privacy rights with the public's "right to know." We will provide guidance for school districts trying to navigate the FOIA.
Speakers: Mark Sommaruga, John Shea

9:05 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. – **Recent Developments In Collective Bargaining**

We will review the most recent round of negotiations involving both certified and non-certified employees, and point to further trends and strategies as we navigate tight fiscal times and the upcoming Cadillac tax.
Speaker: William Connon

9:50 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. – Coffee Break

10:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. – **Legal Issues Presented by Student "Sexting" and Related Misconduct**

We will examine state and federal criminal laws that concern sexual misconduct committed by or against students. Among the topics to be addressed are: "sexting," cellphone search and seizure dos and don'ts, cyber bullying, and sexual assault.
Speakers: Alan Sobol

10:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. – **Latest Developments Regarding Bullying, Harassment and School Climate Issues**

We will provide the latest on statutory and policy changes governing "bullying" and "school climate" issues, along with tips that can minimize school district legal liability.
Speakers: Susan Scott, Zachary Schurin

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11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.– **Life at the Top: The Board-Superintendent Dynamic**

The perfect world may elude us in terms of the balance of power between schools boards and school administrators. We will provide a primer on the proper roles for these two important stakeholders.

Speaker: Michael McKeon

12:15 - lunch

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.– **Common Core Testing: A Smarter, Balanced Approach to Opting Out**

What are a school board's options when parents request that their children be allowed to opt out of the Smarter Balanced Assessments that are an integral part of the Common Core? Are opt outs permissible under Connecticut law, and, if so, how should they be handled? We will discuss the current law regarding Common Core testing and possible options for districts when confronted with requests to opt out.

Speakers: Mark Sommaruga, Michael McKeon, Zachary Schurin

