

## **Pullman & Comley Attorneys Speak at CABE/CAPSS Annual Convention**

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### **Education Law Notes**

11.24.2015

By Mark Sommaruga and Susan Scott

Mark J. Sommaruga, Susan L. Scott, and Michael P. McKeon of Pullman & Comley's School Law Section spoke on a number of education law topics at the annual joint convention of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents [CABE/CAPSS]. The convention was held on November 20 and 21, 2015 in Groton, Connecticut.

Drawing on his book, *Understanding the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act and Access to Public Meetings and Records* -- the fourth edition of which is published by and available from CABE -- Attorney Sommaruga discussed the Freedom of Information Act as it pertains to public bodies such as school boards, including a review of recent cases. Attorney Sommaruga was joined in his presentation by Thomas Hennick of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission. Also on November 20, Attorney Scott spoke on "Civil Rights in Our Schools: What You Need to know," and Attorney McKeon presented on "Transforming Equity: The Law and Transgender Students."

The following day, November 21, Attorney McKeon gave a presentation entitled: "Speak No Evil: The Legal Contours of Board Member Speech," discussing the applicable law pertaining to board members' free speech rights, pitfalls that board members should avoid when speaking as elected officials, and possible steps that school boards can take to address inappropriate comments or actions by its members.

If board members or school administrators are interested in learning more about any of these topics, or related school law issues, please feel free to contact our attorneys at [mmckeon@pullcom.com](mailto:mmckeon@pullcom.com); [msommaruga@pullcom.com](mailto:msommaruga@pullcom.com); or [sscott@pullcom.com](mailto:sscott@pullcom.com).

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