



Family Law and Public Schools

ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATE

May 6, 2026

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

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DESCRIPTION

Join us on-demand for a fast-paced practical guide of law in our schools from 3 legal perspectives – parents advocating for their children, with Kathy George, Schools educating children with Holly Ferguson, and Parenting Plan and Custodial issues with Christopher Rao.

AGENDA

1 Helping Parents Advocate for their Children

An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) establishes how a public school will provide a free appropriate education to meet the unique needs of a child with disabilities, a right established by federal laws. During this session, participants will briefly examine how to navigate the IEP process, how to appeal IEP results and how to get necessary information from schools including through public records requests.

Kathy George – Johnston George LLP, Seattle, WA

2 Challenges in Educating Children in Public Schools

During this session, participants will review how schools address thorny issues such as working with divorced parents who have a 50/50 split in educational decision making, pick up and drop off issues, mandatory CPS reporting, parents volunteering in schools, and providing school records to parents.

Holly Ferguson – Highline School District, Burien, WA

3 Drafting and Implementing Parenting Plans that Work in Schools

Many parenting plans are hurriedly drafted, creating unnecessary ambiguities that lead to litigation costs. We'll look at how to draft parenting plans with schools in mind, minimizing confusion regarding: scheduling, communication online school accounts, protection/restraining orders, decision-making. We'll also look at the relocation statute, the IEP/504 process during custody litigation, how to effectively use school records in litigation, and using teachers as potential trial witnesses.

Christopher Rao – Beacon Attorneys PLLC, Seattle, WA