

2015 Louisiana School Law Workshop Agenda and Session Description

Thursday, September 10th

General Session: Acts of 2015 Legislature and Act 1 Litigation Summary

Robert L. Hammonds - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. (Premier II & III)

Join Bob Hammonds as he dissects the Acts of the 2015 Legislature and summarizes Act 1 Litigation for all attendees. The updates provided in this session will help keep all educators on the right side of all new legislation laid out by the State of Louisiana.

Sexual Harrassment Claims – How to Avoid & Defend

Pamela W. Dill - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (Premier II & III)

In this session, attorney Pam Dill lays out what you need to know regarding a topic at the forefront of today's schools, sexual harassment. With increased media coverage, keeping yourself informed of how to avoid such claims is more important than ever.

Public Records Issues in the Digital Age

Charles F. Hardie, VI & Evan M. Alvarez - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (Cypress II)

Charles Hardie and Evan Alvarez tackle an old subject with new updates on how to handle public records requests in modern times. Email, texting, and social media are becoming more prevalent leading to many questions. Join our duo as they bring to light these issues.

Section 504–The Nitty Gritty for Administrators

Pamela DeLaune - 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. (Premier II & III)

Examine basic principles to ensure compliance with Section 504 regulations and assist your staff in proactively avoiding discriminatory practices. This session will review requirements for Section 504 eligibility and equal access to programs and services, including extracurricular activities. Participants will be provided information regarding new warnings and expectations from the Office for Civil Rights and Department of Justice, as well as tips for dealing with parental complaints.

What Principals May do with School Activity Funds

Kenneth F. Sills - 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. (Cypress II)

Ken Sills, HSAG's managing partner, changes gears and discusses school finances in this session about what Principals can and cannot spend school activity funds on.

School Discipline Issues, Laws, Policies & Cases

Jon K. Guice - 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. (Premier II & III)

Welcome Jon Guice as he imparts his knowledge with a session on school discipline. What discipline is legal? What is over-the-line? Jon will interpret the laws and policies that affect educators today and give you the do's and don't's, as well as drawing upon past cases for real world examples.

Purchasing, Public Contracts and Leasing

Charles F. Hardie, VI - 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. (Cypress II)

Charles Hardie, one of HSAG's attorneys with extensive experience in the construction and contracts sector, discuss the rules, policies, and laws that apply to purchasing, leasing, and public contracts. This hour-long session will aid you as choose and deal with various products and properties.

Social Media Issues Affecting Public Education

Courtney T. Joiner - 1:45 - 2:45 p.m. (Premier II & III)

Pulling from years of legal experience in Louisiana and Illinois, Courtney Joiner tackles a hot-button issue in schools today; social media. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are just a few of the sites that students spend time on. How does this affect education? What are you required to do? Join us in the main ballroom to find out.

Privacy of Student Information: FERPA, Act 837 & Beyond

Evan M. Alvarez & Wayne T. Stewart - 1:45 - 2:45 p.m. (Cypress II)

At no time in Louisiana's educational history have the issues of security of and access to student information been more pressing. For years, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, set forth the parameters applicable to student information. Recently, the Louisiana Legislature, through Act 837 of 2014 Session, altered the landscape. The important intersections and scope of these laws will be discussed as well as critical issues school district need to consider in handling and allowing access to student information.

LHSAA - Understanding Rules & Procedures

Vic Bonnafee & Eddie Bonnine - 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Premier II & III)

Vic Bonnafee and Eddie Bonine of the LHSAA will share rules and procedures on high school athletics.

Minimizing “Big Brother” Scrutiny: Avoiding and Defending EEOC and OCR Complaints
Melissa S. Losch - 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Cypress II)

This session is designed to inform school districts of necessary steps to ensure compliance with Federal laws and regulations that are subject to review and oversight by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Office of Civil Rights and to limit exposure to EEOC and OCR complaints. Because such complaints cannot always be avoided, this session will also explore best practices and provide practical tips for responding to EEOC and OCR complaints when they do arise.

Friday, September 11th

Student Field Trips – Have you covered all the bases?

Evan M. Alvarez & Pamela DeLaune - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. (Premier II & III)

Advanced planning, organization, and shared responsibilities are critical to field trip safety and risk management. Learn about laws and regulations that affect school-sponsored trips, as well as procedures for effectively addressing the safety needs of students with and without disabilities during field trips and other off campus excursions. Tips and tools will also be provided to assist participants in developing and implementing appropriate field trip safeguards.

Handling Discipline of Employees

Jon K. Guice - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (Premier II & III)

From HSAG’s Monroe office, Jon Guice brings his experience and wisdom from many years of school law to aid in disciplining employees the right way and avoiding litigation.

Year in Review in Disability Law

Wayne T. Stewart, J.D., Ph.D. - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (Cypress II)

The past year has produced a many interesting decisions at the administrative and court levels regarding important issues for students with disabilities in public schools. This session will review many of these decisions and discuss the relevance of the issues as applied to your day-to-day activities in schools. These issues include retaliation, discrimination, service delivery, and placement.

General Session: Time to Stump the Lawyer

Robert L. Hammonds & Jon K. Guice - 10:45 - 12:30 p.m. (Premier II & III)

This hour and forty-five minute Q&A session will close out our workshop. Jon and Bob field your general questions that you've been saving up. Have that question from Session 3 that didn't get answered? This is the time to ask.