

FROM THE ROUTINE TO THE UNEXPECTED, WE PROVIDE OUR SCHOOL CLIENTS WITH SOUND COUNSEL EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.



MARIBEL MEDINA

Chair, Education Law Practice Group

Maribel advises school clients in a wide spectrum of issues, including public contracts, real estate, environmental law, bonds and finance, governance and compliance, labor and employment, workers compensation and tort litigation. She is the Assistant General Counsel of the Fontana Unified School District. Prior to joining Meyers Nave, Maribel served as the General Counsel for the San Francisco Unified School District—the highest performing largest urban school district in California—and as Special Counsel to the Los Angeles Unified School District’s Board of Education—the second largest school district in the country.

The *Daily Journal* has recognized Maribel as a “Top 20 Under 40” attorney in California. She has also been selected as one of Southern California’s “Super Lawyers,” the “Latina Lawyer of the Year” from the Hispanic National Bar Association and the “Benito Juarez Lawyer of the Year” from the Mexican American Bar Association.

Meyers Nave represents some of California’s largest school districts and educational institutions including the school districts for Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco and the University of California Regents as well as mid-size and small school districts and educational institutions. In all our engagements, we draw from our collective public law expertise to benefit our school law clients with timely and efficient counsel.

Meyers Nave attorneys understand the nuances of education law and just how crucial it is to stay abreast of best practices. Our school district clients can rely on the Meyers Nave team to provide the most up-to-date legal advice, creative solutions and proactive recommendations. We instill in our clients confidence to address legal issues appropriately.

Just as we are incisive at responding to the day-to-day legal challenges, our attorneys are also capable at handling matters that are high-profile and politically and legally sensitive. Our school clients have come to us to undertake investigations regarding alleged fraud and employee and elected official’s misconduct to claims ranging from Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) violations to accidents occurring on and off school grounds.

GENERAL COUNSEL

We advise staff and school board members on governance and conflicts of interest; how to respond to California Public Records Act requests; California’s Open Meeting Laws; and the proper application, interpretation, and implementation of Board policies and procedures. Our aim is to provide advice that is clear and concise so clients feel informed in their decisions on how to address such sensitive issues as complex litigation and related settlements, construction projects and student records.

SPECIAL COUNSEL

Since Meyers Nave has tremendous depth in public law, we have readily available a team of attorneys to handle specialized matters in such areas as labor and employment law (including labor negotiations and harassment investigations), public contracting and construction, eminent domain, school real estate, and public finance. We see this depth in various areas of law as the key strength of our model for providing legal services.

For example, our Land Use Practice Group represents the University of California in multiple campus expansion projects while our Public Finance team has helped clients such as the San Jose Unified School District on complex finance matters. Our Public Contracts and Construction Group routinely advises school districts on public procurement, including drafting RFPs and RFQs, responding to construction claims up to litigation, prevailing wage compliance, and review of front-end specifications.

FACILITIES

We frequently handle school construction matters, including alternative construction agreements such as lease/leaseback arrangements, school facilities management, real estate (including disposition of school district property through surplus property sales), and complex procurements. We have counseled on the construction and close-out of such multimillion dollar projects as the

Education Law Services

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
- Robert's Rules of Order
- California Public Records Act
- Brown Act
- First Amendment
- California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) regulations
- Title IX
- Technology Procurement
- Charter Schools
- School Construction
- Competitive Bidding
- Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property
- Eminent Domain
- Environmental review, including CEQA, for campus expansion
- Risk Management
- Bond Counsel
- Investigations
- Litigation and Appeals
- Voting Rights

San Francisco Unified School District's New Bessie Carmichael Elementary School and the John O'Connell High School of Technology. We have also advised and negotiated complex technology procurements with AT&T, Oracle, and other major technology companies on behalf of school districts.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

We understand the challenges school districts face in responding to and overseeing charter schools.

Our attorneys have a firm grasp on the legal requirements of charter petition approval/denial including drafting the mandatory findings supporting a denial. We provide legal and practical guidance on compliance with Proposition 39 facilities requests, including drafting Memoranda of Understanding for alternatives to traditional Proposition 39 agreements.

LITIGATION

We have represented clients in lawsuits involving virtually all areas of public sector law. Some of the school cases our team has handled include First Amendment complaints, catastrophic injury claims, premises liability, and employee misconduct.

We also represent clients in negotiations of corrective actions with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Our overarching objective is to vigorously represent our clients in their efforts to implement their educational missions within

their budgetary, political and labor relation parameters.

TRAINING

As a full-service law firm, Meyers Nave offers core concept training in a wide range of legal topics that our school clients face, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)/Public Records Act, human resources, public contracts and procurement regulations, and risk management. Upon request of our clients, we can design a specific training program for their staff and/or officials

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