

**Virtual Event
November 9 - 10, 2021 ~ 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST**

**AGENDA & PRESENTER INFORMATION**

**Tuesday, November 9th**

**1. Session Title**: [Case Law Update](https://www.cadreworks.org/resources/symposium/professional-development-idea-hearing-officers/sessions/case-law-update) 12:00PM-1:15PM CDT

This session will discuss leading cases on issues that special education hearing officers confront day to day. The focus will be on precedential opinions in the last twelve months from the U.S. Courts of Appeals, but some unpublished federal appellate opinions and a number of significant decisions from other courts will be covered as well.

**Presenter:** [Mark Weber](https://www.cadreworks.org/about-us/hearing-officer-speaker/mark-weber) has worked in the field of special education law for forty years. He is the author of four books: *Special Education Law: Cases and Materials* (previous editions with Mawdsley and Redfield), *Special Education Law and Litigation Treatise*, *Understanding Disability Law*, and *Disability Harassment*. He frequently speaks on disability law issues at national and international programs, and is active in community service and legislative initiatives. Before joining the DePaul University College of Law faculty in 1986, he worked as a staff attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago and as a clinical fellow and lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School. He was named Vincent de Paul Professor of Law in 2004. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Yale Law School.

**2. Session Title**: [Current Hot Topics in Special Education Law: Perspectives from “Both Sides”](https://www.cadreworks.org/resources/symposium/professional-development-idea-hearing-officers/sessions/current-hot-topics) 1:30PM-2:45PM CDT

This presentation--designed for administrative law judges who preside over special education due process matters--will address current hot topics in special education law. Perspectives will be shared by two seasoned attorneys from both the parent/student and the school agency “side.”

**Presenter:** [Deborah Mattison](https://www.cadreworks.org/about-us/hearing-officer-speaker/deborah-mattison) is a shareholder at Wiggins, Childs, Pantazis, Fisher & Goldfarb in Birmingham, Alabama.  Deb represents students with disabilities in special education matters that arise under IDEA and other relevant laws.  Prior to her current position, Deb was the Director of Legal Services for Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service where she pursued impact litigation on behalf of persons with disabilities.  She is a frequent lecturer regarding special education and employment law under the Americans with Disabilities Act.  In 1993, Deb was appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of the National Disabilities Law Reporter, the American Bar Association’s Mental and Physical Disability Law Reporter Editorial Advisory Board, and to the Michigan State Bar Standing Committee on Mental Disabilities. She has been the recipient of the “Distinguished Individual Contributing to Non-Averse Behavioral Interventions” award presented by TASH and was recognized via two legislative resolutions from the Michigan legislature honoring her work on behalf of persons with disabilities. In 2017 and again in 2020, Deb was recognized as one of the Top Lawyers in B-Metro Magazine, and she has consistently received Martin Hubbell’s highest rating, Preeminent (AV), since 2000.

**Presenter:** [Julie Weatherly](https://www.cadreworks.org/about-us/hearing-officer-speaker/julie-weatherly) is the owner of Resolutions in Special Education, Inc., a special education law firm in Alabama with offices in Mobile and Birmingham. Julie is a member of the State Bars of Alabama and Georgia and for more than thirty-five years has provided legal representation and consultation to school agencies across the country in the area of educating students with disabilities. She has been a member of the faculty for many national and state special education legal institutes and is a frequent speaker at special education law conferences and professional development sessions. Julie has developed a number of training programs that support special education legal compliance and has been published nationally as a part of her trainings, workshops and seminars. In June of 1996, Julie appeared with Leslie Stahl on CBS news program “60 Minutes” to discuss the cost of meeting the legal requirements of IDEA and in 1998, she was honored by Georgia’s Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) as the Individual who had Contributed Most to Students with Disabilities. In April 2012, Julie received the Award for Outstanding Service from the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE).

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**3. Session Title**: [Judicial Ethics for Hearing Officials](https://www.cadreworks.org/resources/symposium/professional-development-idea-hearing-officers/sessions/judicial-ethics-hearing) 3:00PM-4:00PM CDT

ALJ’s (executive branch judges) may be subject to the same ethical standards as judges in the judicial branch of government. This will depend on the jurisdiction. For our purposes, we will assume that ALJ’s are subject to the same standards and will discuss judicial ethics standards based upon the ABA Model Code of Judicial conduct as well as statutory law governing disqualification of judges.

**Presenter:** [Greg Ogden](https://www.cadreworks.org/about-us/hearing-officer-speaker/greg-ogden) is a professor of law at Pepperdine University where he has taught since 1978. He teaches administrative law, civil procedure, professional responsibility, and remedies. He is a graduate of UCLA, (BA, cum laude) UC Davis school of Law (JD, Law Review Editor), and he has two LLM’s, one from Temple University in legal education, and one from Columbia University in administrative law. He has been an administrative law consultant to the Administrative Conference of the United States, and to the California Law Revision Commission. He has taught administrative law for 40 years, and was the principal author of California Public Agency Practice, (three volumes, Matthew, Bender & Co.,Inc..1989), and California Public Administrative Law (two volumes, Matthew Bender & Co., Inc. 1997), the leading treatise on California administrative law. He prepares treatise updates two times per year and the treatise is available both in print version, and online on Lexis-Nexis. He has authored several articles in the administrative law field, including most recently the following article in the Journal of the NAALJ: Ogden, Gregory L., The Role of Demeanor Evidence in Determining Credibility of Witnesses in Fact Finding: The Views of ALJ’s, 20 Journal of NAALJ 1 (2000). Professor Ogden was the 1999 NAALJ Fellowship recipient, and he presented his fellowship paper on demeanor evidence at the 1999 NAALJ Conference in Asheville, North Carolina.

Professor Ogden has been the faculty editor of the Journal of the NAALJ for 20 years starting with the 2000-2001 academic year, when the Journal editorial responsibilities was taken over by Pepperdine University School of Law. He was on the planning committee for the Evidence for ALJ’s program hosted at Pepperdine Law School in May, 2001. He co-chaired the planning committee for the 2010 NAALJ annual conference that was hosted by Pepperdine University. Professor Ogden has spoken at numerous continuing judicial education conferences on current developments in administrative law, evidence basics for administrative law judges, demeanor evidence and credibility determinations, and judicial ethics for ALJ’s. His topics have been presented at programs sponsored by the California Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), the National Association of Hearing Officials (NAHO), the Association for Administrative Law Judges (AALJ), the National Association of Administrative Law Judges (NAALJ), the IDEA National Academy, and the Arkansas, Iowa, and South Carolina NAALJ affiliate organizations. He has also presented programs on legal ethics for government attorneys for the SEC and for the state administrative law section of the Arkansas State Bar Association. Ogden has been retained as a consultant to several law firms needing administrative law expertise. In 2006, Ogden was appointed Reporter for the Drafting Committee for the Model State Administrative Procedure Act revision project sponsored by the National Conference of Commissioners for Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL). Ogden completed his service in that capacity when the 2010 Model act was adopted by the Uniform Law Commission in July, 2010.

**Wednesday, November 10th**

**4. Session Title**: [Decision Writing Workshop](https://www.cadreworks.org/resources/symposium/professional-development-idea-hearing-officers/sessions/decision-writing) 12:00PM-1:15PM CDT

Writing a decision after a hearing is an important skill for IDEA hearing officers. This session will include a brief discussion of what goes into writing a good decision, followed by a detailed analysis one particular decision by an experienced IDEA hearing officer.

**Presenter**: [Jim Gerl](https://www.cadreworks.org/about-us/hearing-officer-speaker/jim-gerl) has a BA from the University of Illinois-Urbana with departmental distinction in political science; a master’s degree in public policy analysis from the University of Illinois-Chicago; and a law degree from the University of San Francisco. He is an IDEA hearing officer for Pennsylvania. He previously served as an IDEA mediator and a hearing officer for West Virginia for twenty nine years, and has been an IDEA hearing officer for Utah, Washington D.C., South Dakota and the U. S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, he has served as a state complaint investigator for New Mexico and Kentucky. Jim has spoken on special education law topics at numerous state, regional and national conferences, and he is a regular faculty member for the conferences of the National Association of Hearing Officials. Jim has attended the Administrative Law: Fair Hearing session at the National Judicial College, and he is a certified Hearing Official.

**5. Session Title**: [Approaches and Strategies to Improve Hearing Efficiency](https://www.cadreworks.org/resources/symposium/professional-development-idea-hearing-officers/sessions/approaches-and) 1:30PM-2:45PM CDT

A panel of experienced Pennsylvania hearing officers will suggest and discuss a number of techniques that make the IDEA hearing process more efficient. Among the topics that will be covered are the following: standard prehearing directions, electronic exhibits, page limits, time allocations for witness testimony, and the use of virtual/video platforms for due process hearings.

**Presenter:** [Brian Ford](https://www.cadreworks.org/about-us/hearing-officer-speaker/brian-ford-0) Attorney Brian Jason Ford received a B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College and a J.D. from Penn State Law (Dickinson). While at Penn State, working as a research assistant, Attorney Ford studied ODR’s mediation system while completing a state-by-state analysis of special education dispute resolution systems. Attorney Ford also holds a certificate in advocacy and dispute resolution from Penn State and received the CALI award for excellent achievement in the study of mediation. After law school, Attorney Ford practiced special education law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey for six years, representing both families and educational agencies at various points in his career. In 2010, he was named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Star. He left the private practice of law the same year to become a Hearing Officer. In 2014, Attorney Ford became a Certified Hearing Official by the National Association of Hearing Officials.

**Presenter:** [Cathy Skidmore](https://www.cadreworks.org/about-us/hearing-officer-speaker/cathy-skidmore-0) has been a full-time hearing officer in Pennsylvania for 11 years. She has been active in the field of special education dispute resolution in Pennsylvania for over 25 years, currently as a hearing officer and previously as an appellate officer. She has also had training in basic and special education mediation and had served as a mediator in Pennsylvania. Hearing Officer Skidmore has degrees and experience in special and elementary education, was formerly engaged in private law practice, and taught as an adjunct university professor in special education.

**Presenter:** [Charles Jelley](https://www.cadreworks.org/about-us/hearing-officer-speaker/charles-jelley) received his undergraduate and master degree from Slippery Rock State University. Attorney Jelley received his first law degree from Duquesne Law School, and received his second law degree, an LL.M. in Health Law, from the University of Loyola School of Law, Institute for Health Law in Chicago, Illinois. From 1980–1991, Attorney Jelley worked for Westmoreland County ARC as a lay advocate, then as the Director of Educational and Legislative Advocacy, and then for a short period of time after graduating from law school as the Executive Director. Attorney Jelley was the co-editor of the Health Law Institute’s first health law journal, The Annuals of Health Law. In 1991, Attorney Jelley’s LLM thesis focused on the application of the anti-discrimination provision in Section 504, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Action (ERISA) as applied to persons with disabilities accessing health insurance. After graduating from Loyola, Attorney Jelley worked as a consultant to the Chiropractic Legal Defense Fund in Englewood Colorado. In April 1993, Attorney Jelley joined the Law Office of Margaret Tremba and resumed his school law practice in Westmoreland County. Attorney Jelley’s practice focused on children’s issues, school law, juvenile justice, children and youth services, health law, disability law, medical assistance issues, community services, estate planning for families of persons with disabilities, civil rights litigation, ERISA litigation and legislative/policy analyses for persons with disabilities. Attorney Jelley served as the solicitor for the Parent Education Network, a Pennsylvania Parent Training initiative. Attorney Jelley is the past co-chairman of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Exceptional Children’s Committee. He is a past member of the Westmoreland County Academy of Trial Lawyers and the Ned Nakles Inns of Court.

**Presenter:** [Jake McElligott](https://www.cadreworks.org/about-us/hearing-officer-speaker/jake-mcelligott-0)  has been a full-time hearing officer in Pennsylvania for 12 years. He has been involved in special education dispute resolution, as a hearing officer and an appellate officer for over 25 years, and is a trained special education mediator. Hearing Officer McElligott has taught English and social studies in public and private high schools, and teaches university classes in school law. He has published book chapters in school law and school counseling.

**6. Session Title**: [Name it to Tame It: Overcoming Implicit Bias in Hearings](https://www.cadreworks.org/resources/symposium/professional-development-idea-hearing-officers/sessions/name-it-tame-it) 3:0PM-4:15PM CDT

Implicit bias is a human trait that is a result of the brain's need to categorize information in order to make quick decisions. One of the unintended consequences of implicit bias is that it can lead to marginalized groups remaining disadvantaged. In the case of the hearing officer, this unintended consequence can negatively impact fairness within the testimony of parents and districts. In order to be your most effective self as a hearing officer, you must be able to acknowledge where those biases arise. This presentation will address ways that implicit bias can surface in hearing decisions as well as tools to mitigate those biases in an effort to provide decisions that are truly just.

**Presenter:** [Jason Harper](https://www.cadreworks.org/about-us/hearing-officer-speaker/jason-harper) is the founder of Harper Conflict Resolution, LLC. He specializes in Education and Employment mediation utilizing a collaborative approach. In addition, Jason is an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) consultant, conflict management coach, adjunct professor, and trainer.

Most notably, Jason is the ADR Consultant for the Los Angeles County Office of Education, providing mediation and conflict resolution services to over 50 school districts and charter schools. He is a Lecturer in Law at the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law teaching on Cross-Cultural Dispute Resolution and an Adjunct Professor of Mediation at Pacific Coast University, School of Law. Jason has also provided mediation and conflict resolution training for organizations such as the Western Justice Center and the International Visitors Council, training adults from over twenty different countries. Jason has been recognized by the California State Senate and the United States Congress for his mediation trainings.

Jason served as the President of SCMA, one of the largest associations of mediators in the U.S. He is one of the founding directors of Kids Managing Conflict, a non-profit dedicated to promoting conflict resolution programs for K-12th grade students. Further, Jason serves as the Vice President of MC3, a mediator certification organization that is professionalizing the field of mediation. Jason received his Master’s Degree in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding from California State University, Dominguez Hills and his mediation training from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California.