



CSBA's Education Legal Alliance

30 years of Fighting for public schools

// Who we are

The California School Boards Association's Education Legal Alliance is a consortium of school districts, county offices of education, and Regional Occupational Centers/Programs that have voluntarily joined together for the past 30 years to create a powerful force to pursue and defend a broad spectrum of statewide public education interests before state and federal courts, state agencies and the Legislature.

// What we do

- » Initiate litigation on issues of statewide importance, such as Proposition 98 funding
- » File amicus briefs and letters supporting school districts and county offices of education on issues of statewide importance to public schools
- » Advocate for education-related legislation
- » Provide information to members on ELA issues

// How we work

An advisory committee of experienced school law attorneys assists in providing legal analysis and recommendations for ELA involvement to the Steering Committee.

ELA involvement is reviewed by a broad-based Steering Committee consisting of school board members, superintendents, and statewide education leaders.

// Recent activities

The ELA is appealing the ongoing miscalculation of the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF), pursuant to the State Controller's guidance, which may result in an estimated compounding loss of \$1 billion dollars over a 3-year period. The Superior Court denied the ELA's Writ of Mandate seeking to require county auditors to include charter school ADA in their ERAF calculations. The ELA continues to work on this issue as it moves through the courts.

Amicus Support: The ELA's amicus work ensures courts understand the impact their decisions will have on districts and county offices of education throughout the state, including:

- » *Brennon B. v. West Contra Costa USD*: protecting LEAs against excessive damages awards under the misapplication of the Unruh Act, where the Supreme Court held in favor of the District and in line with the amicus briefs filed by the ELA. The Court's opinion found that the Unruh Civil Rights Act does not apply to LEAs because the Act applies only to "business establishments," and LEAs are not business establishments as defined by the Act.
- » *CP V Walnut v. Fremont USD*: ensuring LEAs can assess appropriate developer fees to build and modernize school facilities, where the appellate court cited to the ELA's amicus brief in making its favorable ruling for Fremont USD.
- » *Fellowship of Christian Athletes, et al. v. San Jose USD*: safeguarding a school district's application of nondiscrimination policies to a student club that excludes students in certain protected classes from holding leadership positions.

THANK YOU for your support!

Your annual contribution to Education Legal Alliance ensures that we can continue this vital work. For more information about your membership, please contact the CSBA legal department at **(800) 266-3382** or legal@csba.org.

