

PATRICIA S. PHELAN

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Special Education Legal Experience:

- 08/10-Present **IMPARTIAL HEARING OFFICER, New York State**
Certified by the University of the State of New York Education Department Office of Special Education to conduct impartial hearings for children with disabilities, as prescribed by the State of New York Education Department
- 03/02-Present **SPECIAL EDUCATION ATTORNEY, the law office of Patricia S. Phelan, P.C.**
Assist parents and guardians in all aspects of mediation and/or due process proceedings in an effort to secure a free and appropriate public education for their students with disabilities; attend IEP and 504 meetings; handle disciplinary matters; collaborate and negotiate with school districts; empower parents to understand their rights and navigate the special education system; participate in all aspects of advocacy for appropriate educational services on behalf of my own child with a disability as well as other students with special needs

Legal Experience Public Sector:

- 01/95-07/96 **SENIOR ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY**
08/89-01/95 **ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY**
Kings County District Attorney's Office, Brooklyn, New York
Assigned to Felony Trial, Major Narcotics Investigations, Appeals, Grand Jury, Investigations, Complaint Room and Criminal Court Bureaus. Handled all phases of prosecution ranging from initial screening and presentation of cases to grand juries, to the investigation and trial of felony cases, including homicides and complex narcotics related crimes; wrote appellate briefs and conducted oral arguments before the Appellate Division and Appellate Term
- 06/88-08/88 **SUMMER INTERN, United States Attorney's Office**, Eastern District of New York
Assisted attorneys in all aspects of criminal litigation; prepared complaints, motions, jury instructions, trial briefs and memoranda of law; handled arraignments and other court appearances; prepared witnesses for trial testimony

Legal Experience Private Sector:

- 01/99-10/06 Performed legal work on freelance basis for outside law firms on civil and criminal matters
- 07/96-01/99 **ASSOCIATE, Reisman, Peirez, Reisman & Calica, L.L.P.**, Garden City, New York
Focused on matrimonial and family law in Supreme and Family Courts, and criminal defense (including multi-defendant, interstate, economic conspiracies) in State and Federal courts
- 06/87-08/87 **SUMMER ASSOCIATE, White, Fleischner & Fino**, New York, New York
Drafted pleadings and briefs; researched and prepared memoranda of law
- 07/85-06/86 **LEGAL ASSISTANT, Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood**, New York, New York
Assisted attorneys in the WPPSS securities litigation

Education:

Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri, Juris Doctor, 1989
Associate Editor of Law Review, Washington University Law Quarterly
Publication: Challenging the Peremptory Challenge: Sixth Amendment Implications of The Discriminatory Use of Peremptory Challenges, 67 Wash. U.L.Q. 547 (1989)

Union College, Schenectady, New York, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, 1985

Admissions: Bars of the States of New York and Connecticut
United States District Court, Eastern and Southern Districts of New York

Current Affiliations: MEMBER, **COPAA: Council of Parents, Attorneys and Advocates**
MEMBER, **American Bar Association**
MEMBER, **Westchester Woman’s Bar Association**, Educational Law Committee

Community Activities and Awards:

Autism Speaks:
2017: LEAD VOLUNTEER: Greater Hudson Valley Walk Now for Autism Speaks
2015: Awarded the 2014 **Greater Hudson Valley Walk’s Crystal Supporter Award;**
CHAIRPERSON *EMERITUS*
2014: CHAIRPERSON, Greater Hudson Valley Walk Now for Autism Speaks
2013, 2012, 2011 CO-CHAIRPERSON, Greater Hudson Valley Walk Now for Autism Speaks
2008-2010: VOLUNTEER, Greater Hudson Valley Walk Now for Autism Speaks
VOLUNTEER: Westchester/Fairfield Walk Now for Autism Speaks; (various years)
REVIEWED GRANT PROPOSALS for Autism Research/Projects/Camp Grants

2016: **Muscular Dystrophy**
2013: **PULSES Outstanding Service Award ~ Parents’ Category.**

South Orangetown Central SD ~ Participated as volunteer parent member on Interview Committees during public school searches for administrators and special education teachers; volunteer parent member on Co-Teach Special Education Task Force

Special Education Publications:

Inclusive Education ~ Integrating Special Needs and Typical Students in the Classroom by Patricia S. Phelan, ParentGuide News, October 2009, 16-17

Advocating for Your Special Needs Child’s Education by Patricia S. Phelan, ParentGuide News, March 2008, 14-15

Presentations:

05/04/18 Scheduled to present, Special Education Workshop, NBI, Newburgh, NY

05/01/18 Scheduled to present, Special Education Workshop, NBI, Newburgh, NY

01/2018 Scheduled to present, “Parents Rights and the IEP Meeting” Greer Center, Piermont, NY

03/07/17 **“Navigating Alphabet City ~ Helping the IEP Seem as Easy as ABC!”**
By Patricia S. Phelan, Hamaspik, Monsey, NY

02/02/17 **“Navigating Alphabet City ~ Helping the IEP Seem as Easy as ABC!”**
By Patricia S. Phelan, Hamaspik, Monroe, NY

02/27/14 **Panel Discussion on Solo Practitioners**, Pace University Law School, White Plains, NY

05/01/17 **“DIAGNOSIS: WHAT NEXT? Become your Child’s Best Advocate and Conquer the Jungle of Benefits and Entitlements Ages Birth to 13”** By Patricia S. Phelan,
Family Leadership Summit: Pathway to Empowerment, UJA-Federation, New York, NY

- 06/15/10 ***Presentation to Teachers, on SPED Law Basics and Q&A,***
By Patricia S. Phelan, Riverview Nursery School, Nyack, NY
- 02/04/10 ***“Communication with the CSE ~ Effective Strategies for Parents Transitioning
from the CPSE to the CSE”***
By Patricia S. Phelan and Julie P. Passman, Pearl River, NY
- 12/22/09 ***“Communication with the CSE ~ Effective Strategies for Parents”***
By Patricia S. Phelan, Yedei Chesed Mother's Support Group, Spring Valley, NY
- 03/31/09 ***“How to Prepare for Your Child’s IEP Meeting”***
By Patricia S. Phelan and Julie P. Passman, Nanuet Library, Nanuet, NY
- 02/06/09 ***“Transitioning to the CSE, and Tips to Empower Parents on how to Advocate for
their Children” - - a Presentation for parents of the Keller School***
By Patricia S. Phelan and Julie P. Passman, Blauvelt Library, Blauvelt, NY
- 11/20/08 ***“What Every Parent should know if they have Concerns about their Child’s
Development”***
By Patricia S. Phelan, St. Catharine’s School, Blauvelt, NY
- 10/01/08 ***“Navigating Reimbursement in a Private School Unilateral Placement and
Strategies for Effective Advocacy”***
By Patricia S. Phelan and Julie P. Passman, The Sterling School, Brooklyn, NY
- 01/31/08 ***“What Every Parent should know if they have Concerns about their Child’s
Development”*** By Patricia S. Phelan, St. Catharine’s School, Blauvelt, NY