

Angela Brancato is Legal Counsel with the Illinois State Board of Education, where she investigates and adjudicates allegations of educator misconduct. Angela's work experiences include serving as superintendent of Illinois Youth Center, Chicago, a facility within the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, and as Assistant State's Attorney in Winnebago County, where she specialized in the prosecution juvenile abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency cases. Before joining the legal profession, Angela worked as a reading specialist and elementary teacher in California and Illinois.

Daniel Hofmann graduated from Jerry Spence Trial Lawyers College. He now works at Donahue & Walsh. Donahue & Walsh is a 15-attorney firm concentrating in Criminal Law with offices in McHenry, Sycamore, Rockford, Palatine, and Elgin.

Maureen A. Lemon represents school districts and other educational entities in all aspects of school law including school board governance and policy development, special education law, boundary changes, Freedom of Information Act requests, Open Meetings Act obligations, student discipline, school board elections, and constitutional issues. She works closely with school boards and administrators on matters relating to the rights and responsibilities of school boards, students, and employees.

In the field of employment law, Ms. Lemon advises and represents clients in discipline, discharge, employment-at-will, disability matters and discrimination cases. Her labor experience includes negotiating collective bargaining agreements, handling grievance and interest arbitrations, and coordinating strike management.

Ms. Lemon defends clients on claims before the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board, the Illinois Department of Human Rights, the U.S. Department of Education OCR, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She has defended school districts in federal and state courts including the Illinois Appellate Courts and the Illinois Supreme Court.

Ms. Lemon has been an adjunct professor of Education Law at the Northern Illinois University College of Law. She is a frequent speaker and author on labor, employment, sexual harassment, special education and student-related topics. Ms. Lemon is an Illinois Association of School Boards approved provider of professional development leadership training to new Illinois school board members.

Robert P. Lyons has been an attorney at the Illinois Education Association since 1991. He is a graduate of the John Marshall Law School and Loyola University Chicago. His practice focuses on labor and employment law.

Margot A. Nikitas is Associate General Counsel at the Illinois Education Association-NEA, a labor union representing over 130,000 teachers and educational support professionals in K-12 public schools and public and private higher education institutions throughout Illinois. As Associate General Counsel, Ms. Nikitas provides advice and counsel on a wide variety of collective bargaining, labor relations and employment matters. Prior to working with the IEA-NEA, Ms. Nikitas was Associate General Counsel at the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) in Pittsburgh. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago and Chicago-Kent College of Law.