Welcome to the Presentation

Update on COVID-19
School Closure and Special Education Rights

With:
Dan Heffernan, Esq.,
Lisa Lapinski, Esq.,
Tim Sindelar, Esq., and
Janine Solomon, Esq.

Presentation Coordinated by:
Lisa Lapinski, Beth Tremblay Hall, Pam Nourse,
Jennie DunKley
This event is being recorded

It is our intention to share this recording online. The Live webinar is taking place on 3/27/2020.

The information shared this morning, is our best effort to keep you informed with the information we have at this point in time.

This presentation should not be considered legal advice for any specific case, as each case needs to be considered individually.

Zoom Settings

- **Technical problems**
  - Audio: After checking all your settings, try connecting with your phone. Go to the audio icon and follow the dial-in instructions and remember to turn off the sound on your computer.
  - Submit a chat for technical support

- **Submit Questions**
  - A Q&A session will follow the presentation
  - Submit your questions using the Q&A icon throughout the webinar
  - We will attempt to get to as many questions as possible and may combine questions for efficiency

Special Needs Advocacy Network, Inc. info@spanmass.org
Lisa Lapinski Esq. Lisa Lapinski’s practice is informed both by her experience as a corporate litigator and by her personal journey with a child through the complexities of the special education process. She knows the joys and pain of witnessing the successes and struggles of a child who is doing their best every day but can’t seem to reach their goals. She also understands that busy parents can find the special education process and regulations bewildering.

Ms. Lapinski received her J.D. with honors from the Georgetown University Law Center and a Bachelor’s degree with high honors from Regis College. She completed the Parent Consultant Training Institute at the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN) in 2015, including the 50-hour internship component, and attended the Summer 2018 Institute for Special Education Advocacy at William & Mary Law School.

Ms. Lapinski is currently the Vice President of Programming for the Special Needs Advocacy Network (SPaN), an organization of advocates and special education attorneys that provides professional development, education and training for members and parents to promote more effective advocacy for the students and families with whom they work.

She also serves as a trainer for the Federation for Children with Special Needs, and has presented workshops on Basic Rights in Special Education for numerous school district Special Education Parent Advisory Councils. Ms. Lapinski is licensed to practice law in Massachusetts and Washington D.C.

Daniel T.S. Heffernan is a partner with Kotin, Crabtree & Strong and concentrates his practice on representing families of children with special needs in education and civil rights matters. He is a 1987 cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School. From 1995 to the present he has served on the board of directors of the Federation for Children with Special Needs and was board president from 1995 to 2007.

He received the 2014 President’s Award from the Federation for Children with Special Needs. In 2002, he and his wife, Julie, received the Dr. Allen C. Crocker Award for Excellence from the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress. He writes and lectures frequently on special education law and advocacy. Mr. Heffernan has been named a Super Lawyer in special education law every year since 2005 and was named as a Top Rated Lawyer in Education by The Boston Globe. From 1995 to 2000, he served as the president of the board of directors of Community Legal Services and Counseling Center. He also serves on the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress Education Task Force. He has two daughters, Maggie and Evie, and a twenty-seven year old son, Brian, who has Down syndrome.
Tim Sindelar Esq. worked in public interest law for 25 years, working in legal aid programs in Nebraska, West Virginia, Worcester and Fitchburg.

While working at the Disability Law Center he discovered a deep and abiding interest in special education, and a love for the families of children with disabilities that he represented.

Tim left DLC in 2002 to concentrate on the representation of children with disabilities. “Over the years” he says, “my life has been enriched by the families that I have met. I work hard to repay what I have learned over the years to the community of parents and individuals with disabilities.”

Janine Solomon, Esq. is MAC’s Managing Attorney and Children’s Law Support Project (CLSP) Director. Janine has significant work experience in the fields of special education and disability discrimination law and policy.

She has represented numerous children and their families in efforts to obtain appropriate special education services and placements. She was lead counsel in the matter of In Re: Dracut Public Schools, representing a student with autism in a ground-breaking decision on the rights and obligations that arise under the transitional service provisions of the IDEA. Janine has trained extensively on a wide range of special education issues. She has also testified on proposed amendments to M.G.L. Chapter 71B to enhance protections for students with disabilities.

Prior to joining MAC, Janine was Of Counsel at the Boston law firm of Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP (KCS), where she practiced in the area of Special Education & Disability Rights. Janine represented and advised parents in all aspects of special education, including at education team meetings, mediations, administrative hearings before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA), and federal court proceedings in matters involving violations of federal and state special education law. Before joining KCS in 2013, Janine worked for eighteen years at the Disability Law Center (DLC) in Boston on matters involving special education and discrimination against persons with disabilities. She began at DLC in 1995 with a primary focus on general discrimination law, and starting in 2002, she concentrated her practice exclusively in special education law.
Mental Health First Aid
April 17, 2020
Full Day Event

SPaN is pleased to partner with the Federation for Children with Special Needs to offer this program.

Space is limited
offered to SPaN Members and SESP's

Annual Same Side of the Table Panel
Tuesday Evening, May 19, 2020
6:30-7:00pm Networking and refreshments
7:00-9:30pm Panel discussion - case review

Tentatively Scheduled:

Online Case Discussion Groups (in response to COVID-19)

- Thursday March 26th from 12:00 to 2:00 pm
- Thursday April 2nd from 12:00 to 2:00 pm
  - Register with your member login

IEP Clinic Opportunity

- Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School’s SEPAC
  RESCHEDULED to Saturday September 26, 2020
  - You must be a current SPaN member

More information available under Networking on the website.
SPaN COVID-19

- Visit: SPaNmass.org/covid-19.html
- Email covid19@spanmass.org with resources, for Advocates, Parents, and Special Education Teachers
- Public outreach such as programs like this one today
- Online Case Discussion Groups
- Partnering with the Federation for Children with Special Needs and The Arc of Massachusetts

How to contact us:

Special Needs Advocacy Network, Inc.

www.spanmass.org
info@spanmass.org
Phone: 508-655-7999

Ask us about the following volunteer opportunities:

SPaN Committees
IEP Clinics/Mentorship Program
SPaN Exhibit tables
School Fair
Our Call Center is open and taking calls! Fill out the intake form on our website, www.fcsn.org

Family TIES is providing information about and referrals to early intervention programs. Call 800-905-TIES (8437)

Check out the FCSN website for FAQs and other important resources, fcsn.org. New information is provided daily

FCSN daily Facebook Live events at 2:00pm. All sessions are recorded and can be accessed at any time:

- MassPAC Mondays
- Transition Tuesdays
- Wellness Wednesdays
- Thriving Thursdays
- Facts and Family Fridays
Starting Tuesday, March 31, FCSN will begin posting webinars of our most popular trainings on our website, fcsn.org. Keep checking as more webinars will be added.

- Basic Rights
- Basic Rights Transitions
- Planning a Life
- How to Advocate for Your Child
- Let’s Get Organized
- Health Care Transitions

How to contact us:

Federation For Children with Special Needs
www.fcsn.org
fcsninfo@fcsn.org

Phone: 617 236-7210 or 800 331 0688

Parent Training and Information Center
Family Support Center
Health Advocacy Center
Recruitment Training and Support Center for Special Education Surrogate Parents
Thank you for your continued Support!

Beth Tremblay Hall
President, SPaN, Inc.

Pam Nourse
Executive Director, FCSN