

MORRISON MAHONEY LLP

Special Education Law Practice Group provides the following services:

- Initial consultation and case evaluation (evening appointments available)
- Advice and assistance with special education eligibility issues
- Assistance with transition services
- Negotiation of settlements
- Representation at mediations
- Filing and litigating special education due process hearings and Section 504 claims
- Handling appeals to state and federal courts
- Providing referrals to educational advocates and other professionals when appropriate



You may have many more questions and issues. Please contact Attorney Seckler or Attorney Scannell for help in navigating the special education maze. They may be reached by calling (508)757-7777 or by email:

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MORRISON MAHONEY LLP

Established in 1948, the law firm of **Morrison Mahoney LLP** has been committed to working with its clients to achieve their desired goals and objectives for over 60 years. With more than 150 lawyers in 10 offices in the United States and London, **Morrison Mahoney LLP** has established itself as one of the country's leading litigation and trial firms.

Our focus is to understand the personal, professional, business and litigation needs of our clients and to respond to those needs efficiently, effectively and economically.

We look forward to serving you.

*Mark P. Harty, Esq.
Managing Partner*

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and learn about our firm's more than 60 years of efficient, cost effective service to our clients.

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Mission Statement

Morrison Mahoney LLP is committed to advocating for families and their children to obtain appropriate educational services.

Joseph A. Seckler

Joseph A. Seckler, a Partner in the Worcester office of **Morrison Mahoney LLP**, has 20 years of experience in trial practice and litigation management. Since joining the firm in 1987 and opening the Worcester office in 1989, Attorney Seckler's practice has concentrated in the litigation of general liability, products liability and construction actions. He has also authored numerous insurance related articles.



Joseph A. Seckler
Attorney at Law

In addition to his tort defense work, Attorney Seckler's practice includes Education Law, the representation of parents of children with special needs in Massachusetts and the representation of institutions of higher education. He is a member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA).

Attorney Seckler is a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Defense Research Institute, the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers association and the Worcester County, Hampden County, Hampshire County and Franklin County Bar Associations. He is also a member of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) and the Special Needs Advocacy Network (SPAN). Attorney Seckler carries Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating of "AV".

Attorney Seckler is admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States District Court of Massachusetts and the United States Court of Appeals, First Circuit.

Attorney Seckler is a graduate of Westfield State College (B.S.) and Suffolk University Law School (J.D., cum laude).

Special Education Law is a complex and fast changing area of the law. It encompasses federal statutes (the IDEA and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act), state statutes and various regulations, as well as procedural requirements that must be strictly followed.

If you have a child that you suspect has a disability, you have a right to have your child assessed by the school district at no cost to you.



A child with a disability means a child with hearing or visual impairment, speech or language impairment, mental retardation or serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment or specific learning disabilities; and who by reason thereof needs special education and related services.

We recognize that, most of the time, it is best for all involved to resolve the matter amicably and maintain a good working relationship with the school district. We will work tirelessly to negotiate an amicable settlement.

Whereas most cases are resolved prior to hearing, there are times when the parties simply cannot agree. At those times, you can count on **Morrison Mahoney LLP** to work with you to put forth the strongest case possible in order to obtain the appropriate services for your child.

Ann F. Scannell

Ann F. Scannell has been practicing law for the past 18 years. She is a graduate of Harvard University and Suffolk University Law School. At Harvard, she was an Honorable Mention All Ivy League basketball player and an active member of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization.



Ann F. Scannell
Attorney at Law

Attorney Scannell is admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States District Court of Massachusetts, and the United States Court of Appeals, First Circuit, as well as the Supreme Court of California, and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. She is a member of the Worcester County, Hampden County, Hampshire County and Franklin County Bar Associations and the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA).

Prior to joining **Morrison Mahoney LLP**, Attorney Scannell maintained a solo private practice dedicated to handling special education cases on behalf of families. She has also worked in both the public and private sector as a trial attorney. Attorney Scannell has handled hundreds of civil litigation cases in both the Massachusetts and California courts.

Attorney Scannell's current legal practice is focused on special education law. She represents children and their families in obtaining appropriate educational services from the school district. Attorney Scannell is committed to providing her clients with prompt and personalized service. She is sensitive to the needs of her clients and offers evening consultations if needed. Attorney Scannell is an excellent negotiator and an aggressive litigator when necessary.