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## **FIRM RESUME**

### **SCHOOL LAW PRACTICE**

The firm is engaged in the general practice of law with substantial emphasis on representation of public school districts and other public bodies.

The firm has represented Illinois public school districts in a wide variety of legal matters, including:

- Defense of civil rights litigation, including race, sex, age and disability discrimination, First Amendment free speech claims, lay-off of union employees and due process issues;
- Dismissal, discharge and suspension of personnel;
- Evaluation and remediation plans;
- Labor relations and collective bargaining, both traditional and interest-based;
- Grievance/arbitration and IELRB election and unfair labor practice proceedings;
- School finance, voted, non-voted and limited tax bonds, warrants, notes, tax objections and tax assessment hearings;
- Sale and acquisition of property, tax division and exemption proceedings;
- Architect, construction manager, and construction contracts/litigation;
- Review and development of bid specifications, leases and contract documents;
- Detachment, annexation and consolidation proceedings;
- Referenda for increased tax rate and bond authority and related election matters;
- Review and revision of board policies and regulations;
- Liability, property, medical and other insurance programs;
- Special education, due process hearings, and cooperative matters;
- Tax abatement negotiations and agreements;
- Tax increment financing districts.

The firm has extensive experience in litigation of school matters, including injunctions, civil rights and employment litigation in the Illinois and Federal courts, as well as Federal and State administrative agencies, including various regional boards of school trustees, representation and unfair labor practice proceedings before the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board, and special education due process hearings. In addition, the firm has represented school districts in numerous teacher dismissal cases and arbitrations.

### **INSURANCE DEFENSE WORK**

The firm has acted as defense counsel in litigations and administrative proceedings for various insurance companies (including Indiana Insurance, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, Tudor Insurance Company, St. Paul Insurance Company, S.J. Bashen Corporation, Great American Insurance Company and General Casualty Company of Illinois) and via the School Board Legal Liability Program offered by the Illinois Association of School Boards. The United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois also has appointed the firm to act as counsel in civil rights and employment litigation.

## ATTORNEYS

### JOHN F. CANNA

Mr. Canna's principal areas of practice are in school, municipal and private and public sector labor relations law, and related litigation.

Mr. Canna is a charter member of the Illinois Council of School Attorneys and the Council of School Attorneys of the National Association of School Boards. He is a past member of the Education Law Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association and a past member of the School Law Committee of the Chicago Bar Association. He also has been a member attorney of the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation.

Mr. Canna has been an instructor in school law for Western Illinois University and in labor law for Prairie State College. He has lectured in school legal matters for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education and at institute and inservice programs for teachers, administrators and school board members. He is a contributing author of *School Law*, 1980, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education. Mr. Canna is a frequent speaker on school law issues at the conventions and conferences of the Illinois Association of School Boards and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials. He regularly addresses school administrators on teacher evaluation/remediation.

Mr. Canna has served as Special Assistant Attorney General of the State of Illinois and Special Assistant State's Attorney. He is a member of the Trial Bar of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the bar of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He is licensed to practice before Illinois and Federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Canna is a 1974 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and received his law degree in 1977 from Northwestern University School of Law.

### THOMAS J. CANNA

Mr. Canna's principal areas of practice are school and public library law. He also has extensive experience in residential and commercial real estate—including real estate development, estate planning, probate, general and limited partnership law, commercial real estate development, zoning, business transactions, creditor collection work and commercial leases.

Mr. Canna is a member of the American Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, and the Illinois Council of School Attorneys. Mr. Canna has lectured in School Law at the DePaul University College of Law, Constitutional Law at Thornton Community College and Labor Law at Prairie State College. He is a contributing author of *School Law*, 1980, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education. He is a member of the Trial Bar of the U.S. District Court for the

Northern District of Illinois and the bar of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and has been appointed by the U.S. District Court to represent pro-bono litigants on several occasions. He is licensed to practice before Illinois and Federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Canna is a 1978 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and received his law degree in 1981 from DePaul University College of Law.

Mr. Canna served as a member and past President of the Board of Commissioners of the Mokena Community Park District for over ten years. He also served as President of the Winterset Condominium Association.

#### DAWN M. HINKLE

Ms. Hinkle's principal areas of practice are in school law, special education law, employment law, litigation, and public sector labor relations law. Ms. Hinkle regularly presents on school legal matters to teachers and school administrators.

Ms. Hinkle is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Illinois Council of School Attorneys. She is licensed to practice before Illinois and Federal courts, including the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. In addition, Ms. Hinkle has served as a Special Assistant State's Attorney.

Ms. Hinkle is a 1991 graduate of Carleton College of Minnesota and received her law degree in 1994 from Northwestern University School of Law.

#### MICHAEL T. CANNA

Mr. Canna's principal areas of practice are school and public library law, residential real estate, estate planning, probate, general and limited partnership law, and creditor collection work.

Mr. Canna is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the South Suburban Bar Association, and the Illinois Council of School Attorneys. He is licensed to practice before Illinois and Federal courts, including the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Mr. Canna is a 2008 graduate of University of Illinois and received his law degree in 2012 from DePaul University College of Law.

#### PATRICK J. CANNA

Mr. Canna's principal areas of practice are school law, employment law, litigation, and public sector labor relations law.

Mr. Canna is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association. He is licensed to practice before Illinois and Federal courts, including the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Mr. Canna is a 2008 graduate of University of Notre Dame and received his law degree in 2012 from the University of Georgia.

## CLIENTS OF THE FIRM

### REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS (General)

Bensenville Elementary School District No. 2  
Bensenville, Illinois

Manteno Community Unit School District No. 5  
Manteno, Illinois

Marquardt School District No. 15  
Glendale Heights, Illinois

Streator Township High School District No. 40  
Streator, Illinois

Mt. Vernon City Schools, District No. 80  
Mt. Vernon, Illinois

Fairmont School District No. 89  
Lockport, Illinois

Lockport Elementary School District No. 91  
Will County

Community Consolidated School District No. 93  
Carol Stream, Illinois

Minooka Community High School District No. 111  
Grundy, Kendall and Will Counties

South Holland School District No. 151  
Cook County

Indian Prairie Community Unit School District No. 204  
Aurora, Naperville, Illinois

Philip J. Rock Center and School  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Nancy L. McConathy Public Library District  
Sauk Village, Illinois

City of Morris, Illinois

County of Grundy

**PAST CLIENTS (Special Matters)**

Jasper County Community Unit School District No. 1  
Jasper County

Glenbard Township High School District No. 87  
DuPage County

Community Consolidated School District No. 89  
DuPage County

Community Unit School District No. 95  
Lake Zurich, Illinois

Frankfort School District No. 157-C  
Frankfort, Illinois

Community Consolidated School District No. 181  
Burr Ridge, Illinois

Minooka Community Consolidated School District No. 201  
Grundy, Kendall and Will Counties

Thornton Township High School District No. 205  
Thornton, Illinois

West Central Community Unit School District No. 235  
Biggsville, Illinois

Dallas Community Unit School District No. 336  
Hancock County

City of Chicago Heights  
Cook County

City of Fairfield  
Wayne County

Oak Forest Park District  
Cook County

## REFERENCES

### Administrators

Dr. James Stelter, Superintendent, Bensenville Elementary School District No. 2, 210 South Church Road, Bensenville, IL 60106, (630) 766-5940

Mrs. Lisa Harrod, Superintendent, Manteno Community Unit School District No. 5, 84 North Oak Street, Manteno, IL 60950, (815) 928-7000

Dr. Loren May, Superintendent, Marquardt School District No. 15, DuPage County, 1860 Glen Ellyn Road, Glendale Heights, IL 60139, (630) 469-7615

Mr. Michael Green, Superintendent, Mt. Vernon City Schools, District No. 80, 2710 North Street, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864, (618) 244-8080

Dr. William Shields, Superintendent, Community Consolidated, District No. 93, DuPage County, Box 88093, Carol Stream, IL 60188, (630) 539-3000

Dr. Karen Sullivan, Superintendent, Indian Prairie Community Unit School District No. 204, P.O. Box 3990, Naperville, IL 60567 (630) 375-3010

Mayor Richard Kopczick, City of Morris, 320 Wauponsee St., Morris, IL 60450 (815) 942-0103

### Board Members

Mr. Bruce Barreras, President of the Board of Education of Marquardt School District No. 15, 1860 Glen Ellyn Road, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

Mr. Mark Metzger, Past President of the Board of Education of Indian Prairie Community Unit School District No. 204, and Past President of the Illinois Association of School Boards, 34 West Chicago Avenue, Suite B, Naperville, IL 60540

Mr. Larry Larson, Past President of the Board of Education of Minooka Community High School District No. 111, P.O. Box 401, Minooka, IL 60447

Mr. Anthony Cicero, President of the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District No. 93, 230 Covington Drive, Bloomingdale IL 60108

Board Member phone numbers and additional Board Member references available upon request.



Others

Dr. Hank Gmitro, Former Superintendent (Retired) of Community Consolidated School District No. 93, DuPage County, Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd., 1151 Waukegan Road, Suite 200, Glenview, Illinois 60025, (847) 724-8465

Dr. David Middleton, Former Superintendent (Retired) of Minooka Community High School District No. 111, Interim Business Manager at Lemont High School District No. 210, 25529 Chipwood Drive, Minooka, Illinois 60447, (815) 467-1644

Dr. Kevin Settle, Former Superintendent (Retired) of Mt. Vernon City Schools, District No. 80, 4225 Fox Creek Road, Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864, (618) 242-7931

Dr. Douglas Hamilton, Former Superintendent (Retired) of School District No. 151, 645 East Brookside Drive, Crown Point, IN 46303, (219) 663-7157

Mr. Howard Crouse, Former Superintendent Indian Prairie Community Unit School District No. 204, PMA Securities, Inc., 2135 CityGate Lane, 7th Floor, Naperville, IL 60563

Dr. Kathryn Birkett, Former Superintendent Indian Prairie Community Unit School District No. 204, 221 South 2nd Street, Geneva, Illinois 60134