

Call for Proposals

Deadline: Friday, March 18

NSBA Council of School Attorneys

2016 School Law Practice Seminar

October 20-22, 2016

Portland, Oregon

NSBA'S Council of School Attorneys invites its members to submit proposals for our 2016 School Law Practice Seminar to be held October 20-22 in Portland, Oregon. The Practice Seminar provides opportunities for school attorneys to delve deep into the legal issues facing their school board clients, and to discuss strategies and tips with colleagues. This year, we'll be providing even more opportunities for active discussion, a feature our attendees have found tremendously helpful.

Answers to frequently asked questions appear below. Please feel free to contact Sonja Trainor (strainor@nsba.org) if you have others.

What do I need to know about the seminar before submitting my proposal?

The School Law Practice Seminar attracts 160+ school attorneys from the U.S. and Canada. These attorneys are employed by firms, directly by school districts, and by state school boards associations. They are an engaged, energetic audience with important questions and examples to share from their practices. For the most part, our attendees have many years of experience in the school law field. They are looking for in-depth materials and discussion, not an introduction to your subject. For example, a presentation on public school student searches should not focus on the standard articulated in *New Jersey v. TLO*, but rather should provide detailed case analysis from recent decisions, sample policy language, and the like. Our most highly-rated speakers present prepared, interactive, and entertaining sessions with plenty of audience participation.

COSA applies for CLE credit in all states with a mandatory CLE requirement. This seminar will offer at least 1 hour of ethics credit and 10-11 hours of CLE in total.

Although the program format is subject to change based on the proposals received, space and time have been set aside for general (entire seminar audience) and concurrent (break-out) sessions. General sessions will include the entire seminar audience of 160+ attendees. Concurrent sessions will offer in depth experiences for 50-100 participants. These sessions ideally are held in more of a "workshop" format rather than a lecture format and should be designed to involve participants in a meaningful way. Anticipated session slots, which are subject to change, include:

- Six general sessions of 50-60 minutes.

- One opening general session of 90 minutes.
- One Ethics general session of 60-90 minutes.
- Two early bird concurrent sessions of two hours each (two 60-minute sessions, or one 120-minute session).
- Two concurrent sessions of 3 hours each (three 60-minute sessions).

If my proposal is accepted, what materials will I be required to submit?

Because COSA seeks approval of our Seminar for CLE credit, all sessions must be supported by a written papers (annotated outline or law journal style article), in addition to a visual presentation such as Power Point slides. If your proposal is accepted, your written paper and visual presentation will be due Friday, August 12, 2016. Your paper must be submitted in final, edited and proofed form. We will not edit or proofread the papers before publication. COSA reserves the right to withdraw an invitation to present at the 2016 School Law Practice Seminar if written materials are not received in a timely fashion or are inappropriate for publication.

If my proposal is accepted, which of my expenses does COSA cover?

COSA offers a complimentary registration and airfare for one presenter per session. Additional presenters who wish to attend the Seminar will be required to register and cover their individual travel expenses.

May I submit my name and speaking resume, rather than a formal proposal?

Yes. You may submit a resume listing areas of expertise, prior speaking experience, and references. Speaker resumes may be used by the Committee to fill speaking slots at the School Law Practice Seminar, and will be retained by COSA for three years. Future Seminar committees and COSA staff may refer to resumes to fill other speaking opportunities, including the spring School Law Seminar and webinars.

If you would like to be considered in this manner, please complete the attached Presenter Resume form.

What is the proposal/speaker approval process?

Please use the attached Session Proposal or Presenter Resume form.

All proposals/resumes received by Friday, March 18, 2016 will be evaluated by the 2016 School Law Practice Seminar Committee. Each firm or organization may submit up to three (3) proposals. The Committee will make every effort to contact members whose proposals have been accepted by late May, 2016.

Please do not submit audio or videotapes, or materials of an extensive length with your proposal, as the selection committee will not be able to review them.

What topics would the Seminar Committee like to see on the Seminar program?

The Seminar Committee encourages proposals for sessions that address current and relevant school law issues in an in-depth and interactive manner. This year, the Committee would like to see presentations on the following topics in particular:

- Forum analysis after *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*
- Online threats of violence against schools: the law and the attorney's role
- Medical/recreational marijuana use by students/employees
- Top 10 student health issues and associated legal requirements
- Teacher tenure and dismissal actions and litigation
- Union strikes and the threat of strikes as a strategy to press for economic gains in the aftermath of the "great recession"
- Unilateral implementation and the "status quo" obligation under collective bargaining agreements
- Union fees after *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Assoc.*
- ESSA update
- IDEA reauthorization
- Update on transgender student rights
- Issues associated with Muslim students/employees
- Working effectively with law enforcement in schools
- FERPA update (if there is a new statute)
- Issues facing attorneys new to the practice of school law (lunch time discussion, not for CLE)

The Committee also is interested in reviewing proposals on the topics listed below, which have been requested by prior seminar attendees:

- Bullying & cyberbullying
- Religion
- Student discipline
- Free speech
- Parent rights
- Student/employee privacy
- Employee discrimination/termination
- School board governance
- Charter school authority and oversight
- Students with disabilities (outside of special education)
- Violence in schools
- Sexual harassment/discrimination

What are the proposal evaluation criteria?

The Committee will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Topic is of high interest and relevance to school attorneys and addresses the needs of the experienced school law practitioner or the attorney new to the practice (if a “boot camp” session).
- Presenter provides evidence of previous experience in presenting school law topics to attorneys at the state or national level.
- Proposal gives a clear, concise picture of what the session will include.
- Session objectives are clear and can be met realistically in the time allowed.
- Presentation will provide solid, practical “how-to” information such as a sample policy or procedural check list.
- Presentation will allow for audience involvement – not just Q&A.
- Program is not wholly based on state law, but is national in scope.

What are the presenter resume evaluation criteria?

The Committee will evaluate presenter resumes, as needed, based on the following criteria:

- Presenter provides evidence of previous successful experience in presenting school law topics to attorneys at the state or national level.
- Presenter provides references for prior speaking experience. The Committee will give preference to speakers with strong references from his or her state school boards association.

Note: In accordance with state CLE requirements, COSA has a “Financial Hardship Policy” in order to afford all of its members the opportunity to participate in COSA CLE offerings. Contact the COSA Director for a complete copy of the policy which will be linked to the seminar registration materials online.

NSBA Council of School Attorneys * 1680 Duke St., 2nd Floor * Alexandria, VA 22314 * 703.838.6722

**NSBA Council of School Attorneys
2016 School Law Practice Seminar
October 20-22, 2016
Portland, Oregon**

SESSION PROPOSAL

Proposal deadline: **Friday, March 18, 2016**

Send to: Laura Kisthardt by e-mail at lkisthardt@nsba.org or by FAX 703.683.7590.

Contact Information:

*Name of Primary Presenter/Session Leader: _____

Other Presenters: _____

Law Firm/Organization Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Website _____

E-Mail Address for Primary Presenter/Session Leader: _____

Attach bio or background information about each presenter or provide web link to bio.

*(COSA will offer a complimentary registration and airfare for one presenter per session, normally the session leader. Additional presenters are required to register for the 2016 School Law Practice Seminar and cover their personal travel expenses.)

Session Information:

- Time required for presentation/session: ☐ 50-60 minutes ☐ 75 minutes
☐ 90 minutes ☐ Other - please describe:

- ☐ Concurrent (break-out) session ☐ General session ☐ Ethics session ☐ Other: please describe

Proposed title of presentation/session:

50-word synopsis of session (to be used in promotional materials):

Objectives of session:

What practical “tool” will you provide (e.g. sample policy, procedural check list, etc.)?

Amplified Description of Session – You may attach up to two pages of supporting information.

Please list below or attach your state and national-level presentations to attorneys.

Proposal deadline: **Friday, March 18, 2016** – Send to: **Laura Kisthardt** by e-mail at **lkisthardt@nsba.org** or send by **FAX 703.683.7590**. Call Laura Kisthardt at 703.838.6154 with questions about proposal submissions.

NSBA Council of School Attorneys * 1680 Duke St., 2nd Floor * Alexandria, VA 22314 * 703.838.6722

**NSBA Council of School Attorneys
2016 School Law Practice Seminar
October 20-22, 2016
Portland, Oregon**

PRESENTER RESUME

Deadline: Friday, March 18, 2016

Send to: **Laura Kisthardt** by e-mail at lkisthardt@nsba.org or by FAX 703.683.7590.

The Seminar Committee will refer to submitted Presenter Resumes to fill sessions. COSA will retain submitted resumes for three years and use them as a bank for potential speakers for future programs.

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Law Firm/Organization Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Website _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please attach bio or background information or provide link for bio.

Topics of expertise:

Speaking experience: (please complete table on next page or provide comparable information)

Conference/event and date	Sponsoring Organization	Presentation Title	Reference (name, title, contact info)