Special Needs Advocacy Network, Inc.

Each year, SPaN Listing Members are required to meet 12+ hours of continuing education training and agree to SPaN's Ethics and Standards of Practice.

Metrowest Professional Directory Listing

Ashland
Framingham
Holliston
Hopkinton
Natick
Sherborn
Southborough

SPaN advocates, educational consultants and other professionals are available to work with families, schools, and individuals. Areas of expertise and fees will vary since they are determined by individual advocates, and are not regulated by SPaN. Potential clients are encouraged to make thoughtful, informed decisions based on their own needs. The Special Needs Advocacy Network is not responsible for the performance of individual advocates or service providers.

Published 02.20.2022

P.O. Box 463 Lexinton, MA 02420 info@spanmass.org www.spanmass.org
Abra C Allexenberg
Special Ed Attorney
Allexenberg Law
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Phone: (508) 571-5055
Fax: 508-571-5056
Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles
Languages: English
special-ed@allexenberglaw.com
allexenberglaw.com

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Central, Metrowest, Boston, Northeast, Southeast, West

Attorney Allexenberg has dedicated her practice to helping struggling children and their parents or guardians who are struggling alongside their children. She comes to the table with a different perspective having worked with children with varied disabilities. Her strengths and passions led her to special ed law. She arms parents and guardians with knowledge of their legal rights. She provides tips to advocate effectively for yourself. She guides Teams to recognize the unique needs of the students and how to work creatively and collaboratively toward developing IEPs. She wants what you want.

Jessie Brauer M.S. Ed.
Special Education Consultant and Advocate
Creating Advocacy
PO Box 263
Sherborn, MA 01770
Phone: (248) 808-8174
Fax: () -
Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles
Languages: English
jessiebrauer@mac.com
www.creatingadvocacy.com

SPaN Board: Member-At-Large

Disability Focus: Autism, Developmental Delay, Emotional, Health, Neurological, Specific Learning Disability
Available in these Regions: Boston, Central, Metrowest

Jessie discovered her passion for advocacy working as a special educator. Tasked with supporting a wide variety of ability levels in an inclusive middle school program, she understands the foundations of education and empowerment that are necessary for educational teams to work collaboratively. Jessie has a M.S. Ed. in Literacy Education and a B.S. in Special and Elementary Education. Jessie specializes in SLD including dyslexia, ADD/ADHD, Executive Function, and behavior and health impairments. Jessie is also a statewide trainer for the Federation for Children with Special Needs.
Tara Campbell M.Ed., SLPA
Special Education Advocate/Consultant
Phone: (617) 719-1510
Fax: () -
48 Edward Rd
Newton, MA 02465
Email: taracampbelladvocate@gmail.com
taracampbelladvocacy.com

Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles
Languages: English

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Boston

I have 20 years of experience as a special educator and ten years as an advocate. I specialize in language-based learning disabilities, reading disorders, ADHD, NVLD, ASD, and social skills. I use a collaborative TEAM approach designed to empower families. I am available for consultations, IEP, and educational testing review, team meetings, observations, and home assessments. I am a certified special education teacher, a licensed Speech Therapy Assistant, Wilson trained and LindamoodBell certified.

Cara Cohen M.Ed.
Parent Advocate/Educational Consultant
Phone: (571) 331-5300
Fax: () -
14 Babe Ruth Dr
Sudbury, MA 01776
Email: carajillcohen@gmail.com www.caracohenadvocate.com

Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English, English

Disability Focus: Autism, Developmental Delay, Specific Learning Disability, All Disability Categories, All Disability Categories, All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest, Boston

Masters Special Education, Educational consultant/advocacy, FCSN and Wrightslaw trained. Assisting families of children with disabilities and learning differences + 17 years experience. My goal is to make the special education process as comprehensive as possible and to help families through all aspects including eligibility, IEPs, 504, testing/evaluations and family support. I give a free initial consultation to potentials clients. I work for families to eliminate the stress that surrounds the special education process. I work in a collaborative fashion to maintain child focused meetings.
**Jennie H. DunKley**  
Special Education Consultant and Advocate  
JDK Communications: Special Education Consulting  
9 Meetinghouse Lane  
Easton, MA 02375  
jenniedunkley@gmail.com  

Phone: (508) 230-7357  
Fax: ((88) 8) -274  
Travel Miles: 50+ miles  
Languages: English  
SPaN Board: Member-At-Large

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories  

Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Central, Metrowest, Southeast  

20+ years child-centered, results-focused, collaborative Advocacy, Consulting and Training. William & Mary Law School's ISEA, Suffolk Law program, COPAA SEAT, Federation of Children with Special Needs (FCSN) & Wrightslaw trained; COPAA SEAT Instructor, FCSN Trainer. Past chair and current Parent and SPaN representative to Massachusetts Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP). SpedEx Advisory Committee Member. Founder SPaN School Fair and Same Side of the Table programs.

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**Education Consulting, Advocacy & Legal Services, LLC**  
Phone: (781) 231-4332  
Fax: (781) 231-3272  
Travel Miles: 50+ miles  
Languages: English  
necalsnicole@comcast.net  
www.educationandjuvenilelaw.com

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories  

Available in these Regions: Boston, Southeast, West, Central, Northeast, Metrowest, Cape and the Islands

DEDICATED TO PROVIDING ADVICE AND ADVOCACY IN EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION MATTERS At Education Consulting, Advocacy & Legal Services, we are dedicated to helping you make sure your child receives the education and assistance he or she is entitled to.
Denise Elliott MEd & CAGS
Educational Advocate
Elliott Advocacy and Education
6 Briar Ave
Salem, NH 03079
elliottadvocacyandeducation@gmail.com

Phone: (617) 544-7061
Fax: () -
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English

Disability Focus: Communication, Specific Learning Disability, Health, Neurological, Developmental Delay

Available in these Regions: Northeast, Boston, Metrowest, Cape and the Islands

I have been a special education administrator for many years and I am well versed in special education law and the IEP team process. I have advocated on behalf of many families on the North Shore area. It would be my honor to support your family. References provided upon request.

Andria Entsminger
Special Education Advocate
Elsbridge Family Advocates
57 East Main Street Suite 201-1
Westboro, MA 01581
Andria@elsbridgefamilyadvocates.com
www.elsbridgefamilyadvocates.com

Phone: (774) 286-9273
Fax: () -
Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles
Languages: English

Disability Focus: Autism, Emotional, Health, Specific Learning Disability, Communication, Communication

Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Central

Our approach is to provide parents an understanding of the special education process and provide support so that you can be a part of the team where you feel your voice is heard and valued. My clients today include children from ages 5-22, with challenges including ASD, OCD, trauma, emotional disabilities, ADHD, executive function issues, specific learning disabilities, communication impairments, Tourettes syndrome and behavioral issues. Affordable rates, sliding-scale, call for details.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Travel Miles</th>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angela Ferreira</td>
<td>Special Education Advocate / Consultant</td>
<td>(774) 254-2813</td>
<td>() -</td>
<td>50+ miles</td>
<td>English</td>
<td><a href="mailto:advocacyassociatesMA@gmail.com">advocacyassociatesMA@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:advocacyassociatesMA@gmail.com">advocacyassociatesMA@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, Autism, Communication, Developmental Delay, Emotional, Health, Intellectual, Neurological, Physical, Sensory (Hearing/Vision), Specific Learning Disability

Available in these Regions: Southeast, Central, Boston, Metrowest, Northeast, West

Advocacy Associates of Massachusetts provides special education advocacy support for families who have students in the public school system. As non-lawyer advocates we work directly with students and families to support the disability related needs of the student within the IEP or 504 process. Angela Ferreira is a non-lawyer advocate who brings many years of personal and professional experience to your IEP team. Angela is uniquely qualified due to her involvement in special education advocacy for more than 20 years. Currently serving on SPaN Board of Directors.

| Jayne S. Fisher M.S., M.A. | Special Education Consultant & Advocate | (508) 755-4557 | () -  | Up to 40 miles | English, English | jaynefisher25@gmail.com | [www.jaynefisheradvocate.com](http://www.jaynefisheradvocate.com) |

Disability Focus: Autism, Developmental Delay, Emotional, Specific Learning Disability, Intellectual

Available in these Regions: Metrowest

I have over 30 years experience as a Special Education Consultant & Advocate and have the skills & experience to strategically work with and advise parents. It is deeply satisfying to me to partner with parents as we advocate for their children's unique learning needs. I welcome parents who have children with mild to severe learning needs as a result of Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disorders, Autism or other Developmental Disabilities.
Suzanne Flax M.S., CCC-SLP
Educational Advocate
831 Beacon Street #293
Newton, MA 02459
sflaxslp@gmail.com
www.linkedin.com/in/suzanneflaxslp
Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Northeast, Central, Southeast, Boston
Master's level speech-language pathologist with 30+ years’ experience as an advocate/consultant for students with diverse special education needs of all ages. Experience with multiple school systems, private day schools, and BPS. I can review and interpret clinical evaluations and help develop I.E.P./504 plans. I am available for observations and evaluation of current and proposed classroom/school placements, team meetings, transition, BSEA mediation, and hearing. I am ASHA certified and trained through the Federation for Children's Special Needs PTIC program and Wrights Law.

Lisa A. Gallagher MS, PsyD
Educational Consultant/Advocate/Mediator, Clinical Psychologist
Lisa A. Gallagher, PsyD
46 South Main Street
Sharon, MA 02067
drlgallagher@integrative-practices.net
www.integrative-practices.com
Disability Focus: Autism, Developmental Delay, Emotional, Health, Intellectual, Neurological, Specific Learning Disability, All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Southeast
I first create a student profile based on the findings of all relevant evaluations. I then work with parents, educators, administrators, providers, and district legal counsel to develop evidence-based and trauma-informed IEPs/504 Plans to address the social, emotional, behavioral and academic needs of the student. Experience with: writing 504 Plans/IEPs, team meetings, mediation, providing professional development trainings and evaluations, and consulting to public (Mansfield & Milton Public Schools), private, and residential therapeutic programs, as well as colleges and universities.
Jennifer R Gavin J.D.
Attorney
Jennifer R. Gavin Attorney at Law, P.C.
202 Washington Street Suite 336
Brookline, Massachusett 02445
Phone: (617) 417-0272
Fax: (617) 607-9299
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English
jgavin@educationjustice.com
www.educationjustice.com

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West

Professional law office providing legal services to parents and children in matters regarding the educational access, accommodations, services and placement due to students experiencing disabilities. Over 25 years of experience providing counseling, consultation, advocacy and litigation.

Laura B. Gold Esq.
Special Education Attorney/Advocate
Gold Advocacy
54 Longview Rd.
Reading, MA 01867
Phone: (617) 780-7753
Fax: (781) 942-7907
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English
goldadvocacy@comcast.net
www.goldadvocacy.net

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Northeast, Boston

Attorney (former Prosecutor) and Advocate. FCSN and SESPP trained. Dedicated to offering families advocacy and legal support in Special Education matters from 504/IEP eligibility to Out of District Placements. This includes the entire Team process and any disputes that may arise. Handling all discipline matters- suspension/expulsion, manifestation determination hearings, and Juvenile Court Delinquency cases. Litigating before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals, federal and state court.
Susan L. Haberman M.Ed.
Educational Consultant & Advocate
Susan Haberman, Educational Consultant & Advocate
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Framingham, MA 01701
susan@slhaberman.com
www.slhaberman.com

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, Central, Boston

Susan is a certified special educator with over 20 years experience teaching in public and private special education schools. She has been in practice as a consultant and advocate for 13 years. Susan has taught and advocated for children with a range of challenges including Learning Disabilities, Behavioral Health, Autism, ADHD, Intellectual, neurological and Health Impairments. Susan offers a range of services including advocacy, consultation, transition planning and observations. Susan has accompanied her clients to hundreds of meetings in over 50 districts across Massachusetts.

Eileen M. Hagerty Esq.
Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP
One Bowdoin Square
Boston, MA 02114
ehagerty@kcslegal.com
www.kcslegal.com

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West

Eileen Hagerty is a partner at Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP. She represents parents and students throughout the state regarding a wide variety of special education issues, including the Team process (evaluations, eligibility determinations, IEP development, placement disputes); discipline matters; and litigation before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals and in federal and state court.
Nancy L Hale MSS
Advocate
LindenTree Group
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Worcester, MA 01609
nhale@LindenTreeGroup.com

Phone: (215) 694-8529
Fax: () -
Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles
Languages: English

Disability Focus: Communication, Developmental Delay, Health, Intellectual, Neurological, Physical

Available in these Regions: Central, Boston, Metrowest

Over 30 years working with children/young adults with significant disabilities and their parents/families. Specific areas of expertise include: physical disability, special health care needs, chronic illness, intellectual disability, communication challenges, technology, transition to post-21.

Neiani M. Hartigan M.Ed.
Educational Consultant/Adovcate
32 Howard St.
Arlington, MA 02476
neianih@gmail.com

Phone: (857) 360-5366
Fax: (781) 648-1289
Travel Miles: Up to 20 miles
Languages: English

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories

Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest

Educational Advocate. Social/emotional behavioral issues, autism, developmental delays, dyslexia, ADHD, bi-polar, anxiety, multiply handicapped children, mental health issues. Retired special education teacher. 25 years experience in Special Education.
Daniel T.S. Heffernan Esq.

Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP
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Boston, MA 02114

dheffernan@kcslegal.com
www.kcslegal.com

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories

Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West

Dan Heffernan is a partner at Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP. He represents parents and students throughout the state regarding a wide variety of special education issues, including the Team process (evaluations, eligibility determinations, IEP development, placement disputes); discipline matters; and litigation before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals and in federal and state court.

Jerry S. Jacobs LICSW

Ed. Advocate
Jerry S. Jacobs, LICSW
17 Melrose Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
jerryjacobs@comcast.net
www.jerryjacobsadvocacy.com

Disability Focus: Health, Autism, Emotional, Specific Learning Disability

Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest, Southeast

I am a FCSN trained, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), who provides representation and consultation throughout the special education process. As a social worker, I have a specific interest in helping students on the PDD spectrum as well as students with ADHD and behavioral/ emotional learning disabilities. In addition, I facilitate dads support groups, and lead Advocacy workshops for parents and the professionals who support them.
Metrowest Professional Directory Listing

Annette S Kahn-Arcangeli MS, CDP-IDA
Educational ADVOCATE/ Academic Observer/Cert. Dyslexia Practitioner rtified Dyslexia Practitioner; Phone: (508) 733-1770
AKA Educational Advancement Fax: () -
17 Hastings Road Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Hudson, MASSACHUSETT 01749 Languages: English
akannette@gmail.com

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Central, Southeast, Cape and the Islands

An FCSN trained advocate, w/15 years as a Teacher of Moderate Disabilities, and International Dyslexia Assoc Certification- Parents: Best Practices communication, spot-on IEPs, data-driven goals, and a sliding scale. Challenges of past and current clients: Specific Learning (SLDs/ Dyslexia), Health-ADHD, Communication, Intellectual, Spectrum, Social/Emotional Professionals: *Because of my interest in serving fellow advocates, I offer Academic Observation Services w/ Licensures in Moderate Disabilities, HS English, Biology; MTEL Qualified in K-6 General Curriculum, and Reading Specialis

Marcy Kaplan

Full Potential Consulting Phone: (781) 784-9225
19 Inca Tr. Fax: () -
Sharon, MA 02067 Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles
marcykaplan18@hotmail.com Languages: English, English
www.fullpotentialconsult.com

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, Developmental Delay, Intellectual, Neurological, Emotional, Communication, Specific Learning Disability, Autism
Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest, Southeast

“Working with Marcy has been a game-changer.... Marcy is knowledgeable and empathetic but most importantly she knows how to advocate for children while keeping a productive relationship with school administration. More than once, we’ve received unsolicited feedback from special education teams that Marcy’s approach is respectful and constructive....in many situations Marcy has successfully negotiated far more services and supports for our child than the school was originally prepared to give. I recommend working with Marcy with no qualifications or disclaimers. She’s a true asset.”
Francesca T. Korbas Esq.
Co-Owner & Director of Educational Advocacy
Vested Advocates
45 Pond Street Suite 206
Norwell, MA 02061
fkorbas@vestedadvocates.com
vestedadvocates.com
Phone: (978) 994-0027
Fax: ()
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English, English

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Boston, Southeast, Northeast, MetroWest, West, Cape and the Islands, Central

The Vested Advocates team provides non-legal, professional educational advocacy to parents, guardians, and students. Our experienced advocates help our families navigate the special education processes and offer consulting in a variety of areas and specializations, including: » IEP & 504 Plans » Documentation Review » Effective Resolution » Non-Legal Representation » Autism Advocacy » Dyslexia » Dysgraphia » Learning Disabilities » School Phobia & Anxiety » ADD & ADHD » Specific Learning Disabilities » Executive Functioning

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Phone: (617) 747-7513
Fax: (617) 367-2988
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Central, MetroWest, Northeast, Southeast, West

Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP grew from its founders’ work as professional staff for the Massachusetts Governor’s office and Legislature, drafting Chapter 766 (M.G.L. c. 71B) in 1972. This initiative created comprehensive rights and protections for students with disabilities and served as the model for the federal special education law now known as IDEA. Since its founding in 1981, KC&S has represented thousands of families throughout the state in all aspects of special education matters.
John Krieger M. Ed.
Education Advocate and Consultant
John Krieger, M.ED., Education Consulting/Advocate
300 West Main St. Bldg B
Northborough, MA 01532
Phone: (413) 522-2908
Fax: (508) 393-4270
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English
kriegeredconsult@gmail.com
www.kriegeredconsult.com
Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, All Disability Categories, Autism
Available in these Regions: Central, Boston, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West
Experienced Educator, Consultant and Advocate: ADHD, Anxiety, Autism (high functioning, moderate and severe), Bullying, Depression, Developmental Delay, Discrimination, Early Intervention, Eligibility Disputes, Gender Identity, Mental Health, Specific Learning Disabilities, 18-22 Transitioning, and most cases related to IEPs and Section 504 Accommodation Plans.

Lisa Lapinski Esq.
Special Education Attorney
Lapinski Education Law, LLC
525 Acorn Park Drive
Acton, MA 01720
Phone: (978) 618-9694
Fax: () -
Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles
Languages: English
Lisa@LapinskiEducationLaw.com
www.Lapinskieducationlaw.com
Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Northeast, Boston, Central, Southeast
I provide representation and advocacy for parents of children with special needs in navigating the public education system. I help parents understand the laws and regulations that govern the process and shape access to their rights and the rights of their children to a free and appropriate public education. My goal is to promote a collaborative working relationship between families and schools, so that the needs of each child are met and that every child makes progress toward living a productive adult life. FCSN trained; ISEA 2018. Admitted to Massachusetts Bar and U.S. District Court, MA.
Carla C Leone Esq., M.A., C.A.G.S.
Attorney
Carla C. Leone, Esq.
747 Main St Suite 301
Concord, Massachusetts 01742
Phone: (781) 862-3100
Fax: (781) 862-3114
Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles
Languages: English
leonespedlaw@gmail.com
www.carlaleonelaw.com
Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Northeast, Central, Boston, Southeast
25+ Years Experience representing families in special education matters. All disabilities represented. CAGS from Lesley Univ. in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Prior Curriculum Educator for Tourette Syndrome Assoc. Assist families in navigating the complexities of IEP development, as well as representing families at the BSEA for dispute resolution. Tenacious, insightful, strategic, and collaborative approach to helping families. Will conduct a case analysis for a flat fee, so that families may understand the options open to them on the path forward.

Marie F. Mercier Esq.
Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP
One Bowdoin Square
Boston, MA 02114
Phone: (617) 227-7031
Fax: (617) 367-2988
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English
mmercier@kcslegal.com
www.kcslegal.com
Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West
Marie Mercier is a partner at Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP. She represents parents and students throughout the state regarding a wide variety of special education issues, including the Team process (evaluations, eligibility determinations, IEP development, placement disputes); discipline matters; and litigation before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals and in federal and state court.
Margaret Mikulskis M.Ed.
Educational Advocate and Consultant
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margietm@gmail.com
spedadvocacy4kids.com

Phone: (617) 325-0987
Fax: 857-264-0974
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English
SPaN Board: Member-At-Large

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, Autism, Specific Learning Disability, Communication, Neurological, Health

Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, Central, Cape and the Islands

I'm a professional advocate invested in empowering families to understand the special education process and obtain the individualized instruction and services their child needs, while working collaboratively with schools. I'm a graduate of the Advocacy Program at William and Mary Law School, trained by COPAA (Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates) SEAT (Special Ed Advocacy Training) and FCSN. Experience advocating at Boston Medical Center EASE Clinic. DDS cases, autism, medically fragile, ADHD, 2E.

Cynthia Moore
Non-Attorney Special Education Advocate
Advocate Tip Of The Day
30 Alcott Drive
Northborough, MA 01532
AdvocateTipofTheDay@gmail.com
www.AdvocateTipofTheDay.com

Phone: (508) 617-0022
Fax: ()
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English
SPaN Board: President

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, Autism, Communication, Developmental Delay, Emotional, Health, Intellectual, Neurological, Physical, Specific Learning Disability

Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Central, Boston, Cape and the Islands, Northeast, Southeast, West

Servicing clients across Massachusetts, Advocate Tip of the Day, provides coaching or mentoring, education, and support to parents and professionals. Parents can utilize as little, or as much, support as they require without a long term commitment or high up front costs. The goal is to enable you to have the tools and knowledge you required to become your child's best advocate. Yes - my aim is to work myself out of a job! Please visit www.AdvocateTipofTheDay.com to learn more about my credentials, pricing, and testimonials or follow my Facebook page to get a flavor of my skills and knowledge.
Renee O’Brien
Special Education Parent Advocate
Empower Educational Advocacy LLC
6 Charme Rd
Billerica, MA 01821
Phone: (978) 761-0217
Fax: () -
Email: renee@empowerdyslexia.net
Website: www.empowereducationaladvocacy.com
Languages: English
Available in these Regions: Northeast, Boston, Metrowest

I am a passionate special education advocate who works with parents to navigate the special education jungle. This includes eligibility determinations, understanding evaluations, IEP development and placements. Specialty areas include dyslexia, dysgraphia, ADHD, anxiety, trauma, autism and twice exceptional. I completed the Parent Consultant Training Institute at FCSN, COPAA's Seat 2.0 program and recently completed the paralegal certificate program at UMass Lowell. I work collaboratively and help to keep the parent-school relationship intact.

Parent/Professional Advocacy League
Family Organization / Advocacy
Advocacy/Training/ Parent Peer to Peer
15 Court Square Suite 660
Boston, MA Boston
Phone: (866) 815-8122
Fax: (617) 542-7832
Email: Mviano@ppal.net
Website: www.ppal.net
Languages: English, Spanish
Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West

PPAL is a statewide, family run organization dedicated to improving the well-being of children, youth, young adults and their families through education, advocacy and partnership. We work with both parents and professionals to do information/referral, trainings, support groups, and teach skills to navigate the maze. Our program expertise is in: co-occurring, juvenile justice, research, training, youth work, advocacy, multi-cultural outreach, transition age youth and family support.
Alicia M Parmentier Warren Esq.

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Phone: (617) 227-7031
Fax: (617) 367-2988
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English

SPaN Board: Member-At-Large

Alicia Parmentier is an associate at Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP. She represents parents and students throughout the state regarding a wide variety of special education issues, including the Team process (evaluations, eligibility determinations, IEP development, placement disputes); discipline matters; and litigation before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals and in federal and state court.

Debra Pedersen (M. Ed.)

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debrapedersenedu@gmail.com

Phone: (508) 529-4777
Fax: 508-529-4777
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West

I advise & advocate for parents & students in all aspects of the special education process including interpreting evaluations, determining eligibility, determining needed services, attending team meetings & mediations, developing IEP's, & building a case for Out of District Placements. I am a former special ed teacher, hold a Masters in Special Education from Lesley University & have been professionally advocating since 1998. My specialty focus is Language-Based LD (Dyslexia), ADHD & NVLD. I'm FCSN & WrightsLaw trained.
William C Peever B.S., J.D.
Education Consultant and Advocate
The Massachusetts Advocacy Group
17 Hawkes Street Suit 2 The Massachusetts Advocacy Group
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
Phone: (781) 663-7130
Fax: (NA) -
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English

Disability Focus: Autism, Communication, Emotional, Health, Intellectual, Neurological, Specific Learning Disability, Developmental Delay

Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West, Central

Bill Peever has over 15 years of experience in field of education and graduated Cum Laude from law school. Bill genuinely cares for his clients, understanding that at the end of the meeting these parents still must be able to look into the eyes of their child’s teacher at pick up or a teacher conference, to this end he always attempts to collaborate with the school prior to resorting to more aggressive tactics. This collaborative and non-adversarial approach to the process has garnered him the trust and respect of both his clients as well as the school districts that he has worked with.

Jennifer Rachel Rubin Esq.
Special Education Attorney
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Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles
Languages: English, Other

SPaN Board: Member-At-Large

Disability Focus: Autism, Developmental Delay, Health, All Disability Categories, Emotional, Intellectual, Specific Learning Disability

Available in these Regions: Boston, Southeast, Metrowest, Central, Northeast

Jennifer C. Rutland M.S., Ed., BCBA, LABA
Educational Advocate, Consultant, and Strategist - BCBA
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Disability Focus: Autism, Communication, Developmental Delay, Emotional, Intellectual, Health, Neurological, Physical, Sensory(Hearing/Vision), Specific Learning Disability

Available in these Regions: Boston, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast

I am an Advocate, Consultant, and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) with close to 25 years of experience in the special education field and 18 years of experience as a BCBA. I work closely with families to support them through every step of the special education process. I believe you are the expert on your child and know your child best. By combining my clinical expertise and knowledge of special ed. law with your expertise on your child, we work together with the rest of your child's team to create a strategy and plan specifically tailored to your child’s unique needs.

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Disability Focus: All Disability Categories

Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast

I am passionate about helping students with disabilities receive an equal education and all the supports and services that they need. I have been representing people with disabilities in special education and other disability rights matters since 1988. I provide legal services and consultation, including assistance in obtaining Independent Educational Evaluation so parents have the expert support needed, attending IEP meetings/504 meetings and manifestation meetings, and representing them in mediation, BSEA proceedings, and federal and state court proceedings. I also assist on ADA issues.
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Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast

Parents hire me to insure their child receives the best possible education under federal and state laws. Too often, students struggle academically, socially or emotionally. The result leaves parents frustrated and their children lost in the shuffle. As an advocate, I know the laws governing special education and work with parents, children and school officials to insure that their child receives the education that will meet their unique learning needs and that they are entitled.

Ellen McGowan Scoggins MBA
Educational Advocate
EMS Advocacy
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Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, Autism, Emotional
Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast

Special Education Advocacy & Consultation with 16+ years experience; Team meetings, IEP's, Mediations, ASD and Social/Emotional Specialties, Federation (FCSN) trained, Seasoned Advocate, Experienced Negotiator with excellent communication skills
Susan A Shapiro M.S., CCC-SLP
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SPaN Board: Member-At-Large
Disability Focus: Autism, Developmental Delay, Sensory(Hearing/Vision), Communication, All Disability Categories, Specific Learning Disability
Available in these Regions: Central, Southeast, West, Metrowest

Susan Shapiro, president of Speaking of Ability, Inc., provides educational consultancy and special education advocacy services. Susan is a speech-language pathologist with more than 30 years experience working with students, families, educators, specialists and administrators in the public schools. Speech-language consulting is also available upon request. Susan is passionate about empowering and supporting families to make informed decisions. She strives to work collaboratively with parents and school teams in order to achieve the best possible educational outcomes. Free consultation.

Shannon Smith Ed. S. Reading & Literacy Instruction candidate, M.Ed. Special Education, MBA
Special Education Advocate
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Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Metrowest, Central, Northeast, Southeast, West

I advocate for your child by evaluating their academic testing, school records, IEP, and provide direction within special education laws & regulations to secure your child's academic success. Available to assist in the special education process; guidance in identifying and advocating for evaluations in suspected disabilities areas, eligibility, placement, related services, modified instruction, classroom accommodations, compensatory services, ESY, writing goals/objectives, email review, goal writing, progress monitoring, etc. Services are customized depending on your unique situation.
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Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English
SPaN Board: Member-At-Large
Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West
Jonathan Smith, Ed.D., Educational/Parent Consultant. 35+ years experience as a pupil personnel/special education director, teacher, educational consultant in numerous aspects of special education to include: Special education laws and regulations, all IDEA categories of disabilities; curriculum-based assessment/instruction/measurement; applied behavior analysis; IEP development; Team meetings; collaboration; mediation; educator/parent training. FCSN trained, Advocate since 2012.

Lucie S St. George
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Languages: English
SPaN Board: Member-At-Large
Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, Autism, Emotional, Specific Learning Disability
Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest, Central, Northeast
Lucie St. George is a Special Education Advocate for students as a Parent/Family Consultant, with FCSN and Wrightslaw trainings. Lucie has significant experience on all sides of the table as a former Special Education teacher, tutor, parent, former SEPAC President, and School Committee Chair. Her services include: attending IEP/504 meetings, helping de-mystify basic rights & the IEP process, reviewing IEPs, testing & other assessments, and strategizing on next steps. She passionately advises, educates and empowers families through a respectful, collaborative process.
Jillian String M.S., CCC-SLP
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Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, Central, West, Cape and the Islands

With over 15 years of experience in education, Jillian has played many roles at the Team meeting table from Chairperson to parent. As a speech-language pathologist, Jillian recognizes the importance of good communication and strives to support families, as well as school districts, in order to ensure the best possible educational environment for each learner.

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Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Cape and the Islands, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West

Nathan Y. Sullivan is an associate at Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP. He represents parents and students throughout the state regarding a wide variety of special education issues, including the Team process (evaluations, eligibility determinations, IEP development, placement disputes); discipline matters; and litigation before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals and in federal and state court.
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Disability Focus: Sensory (Hearing/Vision)
Available in these Regions: Boston, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West, Boston

Specializing in assisting parents/guardians with Signing Students &/or Oral Deaf Students, Hard-of-Hearing, Cochlear Implant & Hearing Aid Accommodations/School Options, Parent/Professional Resources as well as providing Training for Groups/Individuals. FCSN Trained, & WrightsLaw Trained. Advocating since 1995. Willing to Come to Meetings, Able to Attend Remote Team Meetings &/or Willing to Provide Behind the Scenes Consulting.

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Disability Focus: Specific Learning Disability
Available in these Regions: West, Metrowest, Central

I am a private tutor and advocate primarily working with dyslexic students using precision teaching and direct instruction. I am a licensed special education teacher, and hold an Ed.M from Harvard Graduate School of Education in Language and Literacy. I am also a member of Decoding Dyslexia
Renée Toth
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Languages: English
SPaN Board: Member-At-Large

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories

Available in these Regions: Northeast, Cape and the Islands, Central, MetroWest, Southeast, West, Boston

Renée Toth helps parents and guardians through all facets of the special education process, including seeking diagnosis, finding support and services, and navigating the school IEP and 504 processes. Renée was appointed by the education commissioner and serves on the MA Special Education Advisory Panel, previously chaired her school district’s SEPAC, served as a special education surrogate parent, and has two children. Renée trained with the College of William and Mary Law School’s Institute for Special Education Advocacy, the Federation for Children With Special Needs, and COPAA.

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Languages: English
SPaN Board: Treasurer

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, Autism, Communication, Emotional, Health, Intellectual, Neurological, Physical, Sensory (Hearing/Vision), Specific Learning Disability

Available in these Regions: Boston, Central, MetroWest, Northeast, Southeast

I enjoy my role as a professional Educational Advocate. My training consists of an array of workshops with experts in related fields including: COPAA, Fundamentals/Suffolk Law School, Wrightslaw, and recently Youth Mental Health First Aid. Services include: IEP/504 development; Care Plan Meetings; Mediation; PRS; Hearing Prep; Consultation/case review; supported documentation and more. The Student's needs come first, collaborating to affect positive outcomes. Thank you for your consideration!
**Lani Verges-Radack M.Ed.**

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Disability Focus: Autism, Communication, Developmental Delay, Emotional, Health, Specific Learning Disability, All Disability Categories, Specific Learning Disability, Neurological

Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest, Central, Northeast, Southeast

I am a proud adoptive parent of two teens with complex special needs, as well as a professional educator and advocate with 20 years of experience. I hold a M.Ed in Reading, am a member of COPAA, and have completed the PCTI intensive program facilitated by the FCSN. As the founder of Family Voice Advocates, I am passionate and committed to ensuring that families’ needs and their perspectives are not just heard, but listened to.

**Kimberly L. Winslow Esq.**

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Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, Autism, Specific Learning Disability, Physical, Developmental Delay, Neurological, Intellectual, Communication, Emotional, Health

Available in these Regions: Boston, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West

I represent students who need additional assistance accessing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) throughout MA. I help families understand their rights under special education education laws, and offer behind-the-scenes advocacy as well as direct legal representation. I handle issues with special education eligibility determinations; development, implementation, and enforcement of IEPs and 504 accommodation plans; placement decisions, including out-of-district day and residential placements; transition planning; discipline; and school refusal. Sliding fee scale available for those in...