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.

Western Professional Directory Listing
Counties: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire

SPAaN 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 SPAaN. 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.

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Abra C Allexenberg  
Special Ed Attorney  
Allexenberg Law  
27 Juniper Brook Rd  
Northborough, MA 01532  
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.

Education Consulting, Advocacy & Legal Services, LLC  
Pamela Milman, Esq., Daniel Mikolajewski, Esq., & Nicole M. Mazer, Esq.  
Stonehill Corporate Center 999 Broadway, Suite 301  
Saugus, MA 01906  
Phone: (781) 231-4332  
Fax: (781) 231-3272  
Travel Miles: 50+ miles  
Languages: English  
ecalsnicole@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.
**Western Massachusetts Professional Directory Listing**

**Angela Ferreira**

Special Education Advocate / Consultant  
Advocacy Associates of Massachusetts  
94 Parsonage Way  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
advocacyassociatesMA@gmail.com
Phone: (774) 254-2813  
Fax: ()  
Travel Miles: 50+ miles  
Languages: English  
SPaN Board: **Recording Clerk**

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.

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**Jennifer R Gavin J.D.**

Attorney  
Jennifer R. Gavin Attorney at Law, P.C.  
202 Washington Street Suite 336  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445  
jgavin@educationjustice.com  
www.educationjustice.com
Phone: (617) 417-0272  
Fax: (617) 607-9299  
Travel Miles: 50+ miles  
Languages: English

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.
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.

Daniel T.S. Heffernan Esq.

Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP
One Bowdoin Square
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.
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

Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP

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.
**Western Massachusetts Professional Directory Listing**

**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.

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

Parent/Professional Advocacy League
Family Organization / Advocacy
Advocacy/Training/ Parent Peer to Peer
15 Court Square Suite 660
Boston, MA Boston
Mviano@ppal.net
www.ppal.net
Disability Focus: Autism, Communication, Emotional, Health, Neurological, Physical, Sensory(Hearing/Vision), Specific Learning Disability
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.

Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP
One Bowdoin Square
Boston, MA 02114
awarren@kcslegal.com

Phone: (617) 227-7031
Fax: (617) 367-2988
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

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.)

Special Education Consultant & Advocate
Pedersen Educational Associates
25 Hopkinton Road
Upton, MA 01568
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 Suite 2 The Massachusetts Advocacy Group
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
massadvocategroup@gmail.com
www.massadvocategroup.com

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 the 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.

Susan A. Shapiro, M.S., CCC-SLP
Education Consultant and Advocate
Speaking of Ability, Inc.
1000 Newbury Drive Apartment 1031
Holden, MA 01520
susan@speakingofability.com
www.SpeakingofAbility.com

Phone: (508) 556-4332
Fax: () -
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English
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  
Phone: (617) 967-7010  
Shannon Smith Special Education Advocacy  
Fax: () -  
Newton, MA Barnstable, MA  
Travel Miles: 50+ miles  
Newton & Barnstable, MA 02468  
Languages: English  
shannonsmithspecialed@gmail.com  
www.ShannonSmithSpedAdvocate.com

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.

Jonathan P. Smith Ed. D.  
Educational/Parent Consultant/advocate  
Phone: (508) 981-4617  
Fax: () -  
38 Prospect St.  
Travel Miles: 50+ miles  
Whitinsville, MA 01588  
Languages: English  
jpsmith.ed.consultant@gmail.com  
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.
**Jillian String M.S., CCC-SLP**

Educational Advocate and Speech-Language Pathologist  
Massachusetts Assessment and Advocacy Group  
220 Broadway STE 403  
Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940  
jstring@massaag.com  
MassAAG.com  

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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**Nathan Sullivan Esq.**

Attorney  
Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP  
One Bowdoin Square  
Boston, MA 02114  
nsullivan@kcslegal.com  
kcs@kcslegal.com  

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.
Margaret Sunners
Special Education Consultant and Advocate
Advocacy Alliance of Metrowest
209 West Central Suite 203
Natick, MA 01760
mwilson86@aol.com

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.

Robert Terreden M.Ed.
Education Advocate
12 West St
South Deerfield, MA 01373
rterreden@gmail.com

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Central, West
Rob Terreden M.Ed. comes with 35 years of working with children with disabilities in positions from Special Ed teacher to Program Director of an intensive residential service. I am also currently a consultant to programs nationally on building collaborative and partnering relationships with the children and families they serve. As an Education Advocate I will bring that lifetime of experience to partnering with your family in advocating for your child’s educational needs in all the often complicated dimensions of that goal.
Renée Toth
Educational Advocate and Consultant
PO Box 222
Newburyport, MA 01950
reneetoth@gmail.com
www.reneetothadvocate.com

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.

Kimberly L. Winslow Esq.
Attorney
Law Office of Kimberly L Winslow
23 Franconia Avenue
Natick, Massachusetts 01760
kim@massieplawyer.com
massieplawyer.com

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...