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, HAMPDEN, HAMPSHIRE

SPA N 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 10.21.2020
**Allison M Boscarine**

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

Attorney Boscarine practiced for years at a large global law firm as a corporate litigator, where she focused on state and federal trial and appellate litigation. She made a career shift after her older child was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, moving from corporate litigation to working for families. She has two children on IEPs, one who attends a specialized out-of-district placement for children on the autism spectrum and one who attends an inclusion program. She has been selected to the Super Lawyer New England Rising Star list for her work in School and Education Law.

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**Valerie H Cote M.S., BCBA, LABA**

Special Education Advocate, Behavior Analyst (BCBA)  
Advocacy and Behavior Consultation (ABC)  
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valhcote@gmail.com  

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, Autism, Communication, Developmental Delay, Intellectual, Neurological, Sensory(Hearing/Vision), Specific Learning Disability, Emotional  
Available in these Regions: Boston, Central, Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West  

I am a Special Education Advocate and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) with over 13 years of experience in Special Education in both public and private settings. I have worked with clients and families with a wide range of disabilities/areas of need. My focus is to help guide and support parents and families through the process so that they are eventually able to feel confident advocating for their child. I am trained through the NSEAI training program and Wrights Law training program. I am available for team meetings to help interpret and review evaluations, and IEPs/504 plans.
Western Massachusetts Professional Directory Listing

Education Consulting, Advocacy & Legal Services, LLC

Pamela Milman, Esq., Daniel Mikolajewski, Esq., & Nicole M. Mazer, Esq.
Phone: (781) 231-4332
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Stonehill Corporate Center 999 Broadway, Suite 301
Saugus, MA 01906
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.

Jayne S. Fisher M.S., M.A.
Special Education Consultant & Advocate
Phone: (508) 755-4557
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Disability Focus: Autism, Developmental Delay, Emotional, Specific Learning Disability, Intellectual
Available in these Regions: Metrowest, West

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.
### Jennifer R. Gavin J.D.

**Attorney**
Jennifer R. Gavin Attorney at Law, P.C.
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Phone: (617) 417-0272  
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Travel Miles: 50+ miles  
Languages: English

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**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, services and accommodations due to students with disabilities. Over 25 years of experience providing counseling, consultation, advocacy and litigation.

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### Susan L. Haberman M.Ed.

**Educational Consultant & Advocate**
Susan Haberman, Educational Consultant & Advocate
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**Disability Focus:** All Disability Categories

**Available in these Regions:** Metrowest, Northeast, Southeast, West, 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 private practice as a consultant and advocate 12 years. Susan has taught and advocated for children with a range of challenges including Learning Disabilities, Mental Health Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, Intellectual Impairments and other health conditions. 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 ac
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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

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.

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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

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.
Melanie R. Jarboe Esq.
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Disability Focus: All Disability Categories

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

Melanie Jarboe 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.

Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP

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www.kcslegal.com  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.
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  
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.

**Ellen McGee M.M.**
Advocate/Consultant  
36 Addison Rd  
Waltham, MA 02452  
McGeeAdvocacy@gmail.com  

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories, Specific Learning Disability, Communication, Neurological, Emotional, Sensory (Hearing/Vision), Physical  
Available in these Regions: Metrowest, Northeast, Boston, Southeast, Central, West, Cape and the Islands  
I Specialize in Dyslexia/Language based-& the array of ancillary challenges with - Anxiety, Social/Emotional, ADHD, Ex-Function, Processing, as well as Hearing, Visual, and all disabilities. I Obtain Effective IEEs, Analyze Documents & Expert Reports, Records, secure the required placement and services your child requires to reach their educational potential. TEAM meetings & BSEA Hearings. Master’s degree in Management/Negotiations. My continuing education: FCSN, Wrightslaw intensive Law & Strategy, Landmark School, Carroll School, Suffolk Law School, COPAA, SPaN. Text: 617-721-0648 (MA & RI)
Cynthia Moore
Non-Attorney Special Education Advocate
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SPaN Board: Membership Secretary
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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
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Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: English, Spanish

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.
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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

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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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.
Western Massachusetts Professional Directory Listing

**Barbara J. Rich M.Ed.**

Special Education advocate/Consultant  
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Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles  
Languages: English

Disability Focus: All Disability Categories

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

Barbara J. Rich, M.Ed. offers mature, collaborative advocacy, coaching, and consultation on behalf of students who learn differently. I have been a Learning Disabilities teacher, Special Education Director for 2 school systems, and since 2001, a Special Education Advocate/Parent and Consultant. I also offer 1:1 tutoring on Zoom, for elementary through high school. I attend Team meetings & help create conflict-free, collaboration with families, students and school systems.

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**Lisa J. Sampson**

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Travel Miles: 50+ miles  
Languages: English

SPaN Board: Member-At-Large

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

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

A professional advocate and consultant with 30 years of experience in the field of special needs. Lisa has two successful adult children with learning disabilities. Lisa had the unique opportunity to serve as a court appointed educational advocate to the Boston Public Schools for 7 years. She has extensive training in the field of mental health and autism spectrum disorders. Lisa is certified in Instrumental Enrichment, a program designed to remediate Executive Function deficits. Lisa has graduate level training in education counseling.
Susan Shapiro M.S., CCC-SLP
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Fax: () -
Travel Miles: Up to 40 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. 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.

Carol Silva
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Travel Miles: Up to 40 miles
Languages: English, English
SPaN Board: Treasurer
Disability Focus: All Disability Categories
Available in these Regions: Boston, Metrowest, Northeast, West

Carol Silva came to the world of Special Education after years of navigating the process for her son. She has trained with the Federation for Children with Special Needs and ISEA at William and Mary Law School. Additionally, she participates in several hours of professional development annually. A current presenter and past coordinator for the Federation for Children with Special Needs. She works privately with families supporting them through the special education process. Her successful advocacy for eligibility, services, placement, etc. has yielded her an over 95% success rate.
Jonathan P. Smith Ed. D.
Educational/Parent Consultant
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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.

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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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Fax: (508) 405-0974
Travel Miles: 50+ miles
Languages: American Sign Language/SEE, English, English
SPaN Board: Member-At-Large

Disability Focus: Sensory (Hearing/Vision)

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

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