

## Christian M. Keiner

**Of Counsel**  
Sacramento

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Christian M. Keiner has been practicing education law for more than 35 years. He represents school and community college districts in civil litigation, labor personnel, and governance and administrative law matters.

From governing board matters to Brown Act, from Public Records Act to conflicts of interest and constitutional issues, Chris has represented school districts as a general counsel on a wide variety of governance and administrative matters. He has also represented clients in all labor personnel matters, including collective bargaining and interest-based bargaining.

A highly experienced litigator, Chris has represented clients in both private and public sectors in numerous cases at the trial and appellate levels, in both the federal and state courts. His experience also includes civil writs and appeals, personnel and employment litigation, constitutional litigation, and special education litigation.

While in law school, Chris clerked with Justice Edwin Regan in the California Court of Appeals, California Attorney General's Office-Administrative Law section, and with the California Assembly Majority.

### **EDUCATION**

- University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (J.D.)
- University of California, Santa Barbara (B.A.)

### **ADMISSIONS**

- State Bar of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California



DANNIS WOLIVER KELLEY

Attorneys at Law

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

## MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

- California Bar Association
- California Council of School Attorneys
- Sacramento Bar Association

## PRACTICE AREAS

- Board Ethics, Transparency and Accountability
- Community Colleges / Higher Education
- Labor, Employment and Personnel
- Litigation
- Public Entities, Nonprofit Corporations and Independent Schools

## REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- Filed a friend of the court brief on behalf of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association in *Vergara, et al.*, supporting the *Vergara* plaintiffs in the State's appeal of the trial court judgment invalidating certain teacher employment statutes.
- Filed friend of the court briefs for the California School Boards Association in *FTR International Inc. v. Rio School District*, (2015), 233 Cal.App.4th 838 and a successful defense of school administrator immunity from federal lawsuits (*Corales v. Bennet* (9th Cir. 2009) 567 F.3d.554).
- *Bledsoe v. Biggs Unified School District* (2008) 170 Cal. App. 4th 127 – Successfully defended a school district's reduction in force, which included "skipping" less senior teachers.
- *Wells v. One2One Learning Foundation* (2006) 39 Cal.4th 1164 – Successfully represented respondent Camptonville Union Elementary School District before the California Supreme Court, a case in which the Court found that agencies of state and local government, including public school districts, may not be sued under the California False Claims Act.
- *Woodbury v. Brown-Dempsey* (2003) 134 Cal.Rptr.2d 124 – Obtained an appellate ruling that the issuance of subpoenas during student expulsion hearings is not mandatory.
- *PLANS, Inc. v. Sacramento City Unified School District* (9th Cir. 2003) 319 F.3d 504 – On remand, successfully defended the school districts' innovative Waldorf Methods instruction in public schools.



DANNIS WOLIVER KELLEY

Attorneys at Law

- *Cole v. Oroville Union High School District* (9th Cir. 2000) 228 F.3d 1092 – Successfully defended a Northern California school district’s decision not to allow graduates to deliver a sectarian invocation and proselytizing co-valedictorian speech.
- *Board of Administration v. Wilson* (1997) 52 Cal.App.4th 1109 [impairment of contract]; *Board of Administration v. Wilson* (1997) 57 Cal.App.4th 967 [denial of attorney fees] – Represented the Governor of California in defending constitutional litigation brought by CalPERS attacking two annual State Budget Acts, which deferred the timing of State Employer contributions.
- *County of Los Angeles v. Sasaki* (1994) 23 Cal.App.4th 1442; *San Miguel Consol. Fire P. Dist. v. Davis* (1994) 25 Cal.App.4th 134 – On behalf of the CSBA Education Legal Alliance, successfully represented community colleges and school districts in Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Marin counties in constitutional cases challenging the multi-billion dollar State property tax shift in favor of public schools.
- *Sands v. Morongo Unified School District* (1991) 53 Cal.3d 863, cert. denied (1992) 112 S.Ct. 3026 – Argued a district’s defense of its traditional graduation ceremony before the California Supreme Court, a case California Lawyer magazine ranked one of the “Top Ten Cases of the Year.”
- *Hayes v. Commission on State Mandates, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, Real Party in Interest*, (1993) 11 Cal.App.4th 1564 – He was co-counsel in the successful multi-billion dollar special education State mandate test case.
- *Del Percio v. Thornsley, Capistrano Unified School District, et al.* (9th Cir. 1989) 877 F.2d. 785 – Successfully defended a school district in teacher credential revocation litigation.