

BOND

REPRESENTATION OF CHARTER SECTOR

Kirsten J. Barclay, Member

Kirsten brings more than 25 years of firsthand experience to her charter school and sector clients where she advises clients as general counsel, including student-related and labor and employment matters, special education obligations, board governance and oversight and charter authorizer requirements. She also specializes on issues specific to charter schools, such as changes to special education funding, Section 504 and responding to formal complaints. She counsels school leaders and boards of trustees, as well as charter school services organizations and has extensive school law practice experience.

Stephanie H. Fedorka, Associate

Stephanie is a labor and employment attorney who advises public and private sector clients on workplace policies, wage and hour issues and compliance with state and federal leave laws. She has extensive experience in traditional labor relations, including collective bargaining, arbitration and serving as labor counsel in business transactions. Stephanie represents clients before various state and federal agencies, as well as in civil actions involving discrimination, harassment and retaliation claims.

Jennifer M. Schwartzott, Member

Jen has been representing clients for nearly 25 years. She is a trusted advisor who assists schools with managing risk and achieving their desired outcomes. Jen also has extensive experience developing and implementing strategies for clients interested in pursuing and avoiding litigation. She has successfully represented charter schools in litigation across New York State.

Sara M. Richmond, Member

Sara advises public, private and charter schools across the New York City region. With experience as a school board president, she offers legal counsel on student discipline, special education, data privacy, board policies and anti-discrimination compliance. She specializes in crisis management, employment law and risk mitigation for educational institutions, while also providing training on evolving legal issues like social media and LGBTQ matters. Additionally, Sara is a trained mediator with credentials from several respected organizations, including the Supreme Court of New York's commercial division.

Mariam Mahmood-Qureshi, Senior Counsel

Mariam joined Bond after leading the Special Education Unit at the NYC Department of Education for over eight years. She now advises a wide range of educational institutions, including preschools, public and charter schools, independent and religious schools and colleges. Her work spans legal issues such as employment, liability, student discipline, privacy and institutional governance, including chartering, mergers and funding support.

About Bond, Schoeneck & King

Bond serves individuals, companies and public-sector entities in a broad range of areas.

With more than 300 lawyers and 15 offices, we represent clients in manufacturing; agribusiness; commercial lending and real estate and construction; energy; health care and long term care as well as municipalities, school districts, higher education and other exempt and nonprofit organizations. We maintain 11 offices across New York; and one each in Boston; Kansas City; Naples; and Newark.

Bond is committed to understanding our clients' needs and providing comprehensive, practical, high-quality and responsive solutions. We strive to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards, and to provide leadership in community activities, pro-bono work and service to the Bar.

For more information, visit bsk.com.

Kirsten, Stephanie, Jen, Sara and Mariam have experience in the following areas to support their charter school clients:

- Charter school law
- Special education (IDEA and Section 504)
- Board governance and oversight
- School improvement/turnaround
- Charter renewals
- Anti-discrimination compliance
- Start-ups and closures/dissolutions
- Education policy and sector-wide trends
- Strategic planning and implementation/project management
- Crisis management
- Labor and employment matters
- Student residency
- Student records and data privacy
- Student discipline and DASA
- FOIL/Open Meetings Law

