



PORTER FOSTER RORICK
LLP



Elizabeth C. Robertson

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Liz Robertson advises and defends public school districts on a broad range of legal issues, with a particular emphasis on special education, free speech, and labor and employment. Liz also has experience negotiating collective bargaining agreements with public sector labor unions using both traditional and interest-based models of bargaining.

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Attorney, Porter Foster Rorick, 2019-present

Judicial Clerk, Washington State Court of Appeals, Division II (Hon. Linda CJ Lee), 2017-19

EDUCATION

University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson, Arizona, J.D., magna cum laude, 2017
Articles Editor, *Arizona Law Review*

University of Arizona Eller College of Management, Tucson, Arizona, B.S., with honors, 2012

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Washington Council of School Attorneys

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Special education
- Public records/FERPA
- Appeals
- Collective bargaining
- Employee discipline and discharge
- First Amendment

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Negotiated successful resolution of collective bargaining agreements, with certificated and classified school employees in public school districts throughout Washington including Bremerton, Federal Way, Tukwila, Port Townsend, Union Gap, Selah, and North Franklin.
- *Seattle Education Association v. Seattle Public Schools*, AAA No. 01-24-000-7674 (2024). Successfully defended school district's interpretation of overage pay provision of collective bargaining agreement for certificated staff, based on district evidence of past practice.

- *In the Matter of North Franklin School District* (2023). Successfully defended discharge of teacher for impossibility of contract performance and insubordination.
- *Int'l Union of Operating Eng'r, Local 302 v. Puyallup School District* (2022). Prevailed in arbitration challenging termination of employee for violations of district's civility policy.
- *E. v. Shoreline School District*, King County Cause No. 21-2-07901-2 SEA (2022). Drafted successful motion for summary judgment in civil lawsuit alleging violation of Washington part-time enrollment requirements.
- *C.K. v. Centralia School District, et al.*, Lewis County Cause No. 22-2-00785-21 (2022). Drafted successful motion to intervene and modify civil protection order, establishing school district's authority to determine the "comparable educational services" provided to a student precluded from attending school due to a civil protection order.
- *In re Bremerton School District*, 2020-SE-0177 (OAH 2021). Prevailed on all issues in special education due process hearing, successfully defending school district against alleged Child Find violation.
- *Coupe v. Port Townsend School District No. 50*, Jefferson County Cause No. 20-2-00108-16 (2021). Successfully obtained summary judgment order dismissing former employee's wrongful termination claim based upon the employee's failure to exhaust contractual remedies.
- *Tukwila Education Association v. Tukwila School District*, Decision 13314 (EDUC, 2021). Obtained dismissal of unfair labor practice complaint alleging interference based on the district's denial of union access to building staff meetings.
- *In re Shoreline School District*, 2019-SE-0157 (OAH 2019) (affirmed on appeal, W.D. Wash. 2021). Drafted successful motion for summary judgment, obtaining order overriding parent's refusal to consent to an initial evaluation for special education services.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Editor, *Washington School Law Update*, 2021-present.
- "Politics, Posters & The First Amendment: Balancing Free Speech Rights in the Classroom," WSPA/WSRMP School Law Conference, October 2024.
- "IDEA: Ensuring Parental Participation and Providing FAPE," North Franklin School District, September 2024.
- "Legal Update: Cases and Legislation Affecting Special Education," Bremerton School District, 2023-24.
- "Student Discipline Training for School Administrators," Port Townsend School District, October 2023.
- "Because You Always Wanted to Be Sherlock Holmes: Conducting Effective School Investigations," Port Townsend School District, August 2023.
- "Bargaining Law 101 & 201," 21st Century Bargaining Skills Workshop, Washington School Personnel Association, 2022-24.

- “Student Discipline Refresher for School Administrators (Special Education),” Tumwater School District, August 2022.
- “Public Records Disclosure: A Practical Workshop,” All-client training, 2021-24.
- “Off the Clock? Public Employee Free Speech in an Era of Social and Political Unrest,” Washington School Personnel Association, October 2021.
- “Parental Authority in Schools: Who has it and Why it Matters,” Washington School Personnel Association, March 2020.
- Elizabeth Robertson, *Diagnosing Amaral: Mental Health Conditions as Newly Discovered Evidence*, 58 Ariz. L. Rev. 1165 (2016).