



## F. Chase Bonwell

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Chase Bonwell advises and defends public school districts on a broad range of legal issues with emphasis on civil litigation, employee discipline, and labor relations. Chase also has experience negotiating collective bargaining agreements with public sector labor unions around Washington.

### PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Attorney, Porter Foster Rorick, 2021-present

### EDUCATION

Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, J.D., cum laude, 2021  
Lead Article Editor, *Seattle University Law Review*

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, B.A., 2018

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Washington Council of School Attorneys, 2021-present  
Board Member, 2024-present

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Public Records Act/FERPA
- Open Public Meetings Act
- Civil litigation
- Employee discipline and discharge
- Special education

### PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Negotiated successful resolution of collective bargaining agreements with classified and certificated school employees in public school districts around Washington including North Kitsap, Central Kitsap, Hood Canal, and Franklin Pierce.
- Conducted numerous investigations involving claims of hostile work environments; staff-on-student harassment, intimidation, and bullying; unauthorized access of confidential employment documents; and whistleblower retaliation.

- Successfully defended school districts in arbitrations of collective bargaining disputes involving issues such as employee discipline and discharge, seniority bypass, subcontracting, involuntary transfers, reclassifications, performance evaluations, grievance timeliness, and retaliation for union activity.
- *Friedmann v. Franklin Pierce Public Schools et al.*, No. 3:22-CV-06010 (W.D. Wash. 2024). Obtained summary judgment dismissing federal discrimination claims and state defamation claims brought by pro se plaintiff.
- *In re Hood Canal School District*, 2023-SE-0190 (OAH 2023). Obtained dismissal of due process hearing requested by parent.
- *Wahkiakum School District No. 200 v. State of Washington*, No. 101052-4 (Wash. 2022). Drafted memorandum of amicus curiae in support of Wahkiakum School District’s Petition for Direct Review before the Washington Supreme Court.
- *Grijalva et al. v. Tahoma School District #409 et al.*, No. 22-2-19703-0 (King County Superior Court 2022). Successfully defended school district in injunction proceedings regarding non-school district recreational sports programs.
- *In re Tahoma School District*, 2022-SE-0109 (OAH 2022) (affirmed on appeal, W.D. Wash. 2023). Drafted successful summary judgment motion in due process hearing requested by parents regarding the school district’s obligation to provide special education services to a nonresident student.
- *K.L. v. Bellingham School District*, No. 2:21-CV-00979 (W.D. Wash. 2022). Drafted successful brief in federal appeal of due process hearing decision prompting the court’s acceptance of settlement without appointment of settlement guardian ad litem.
- *Hood v. Shoreline School District*, No. 21-2-13843-4 (King County Superior Court 2022). Obtained summary judgment dismissing plaintiff’s public records claim as time-barred under the statute of limitations.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Multiple topics, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Bargaining Skills Workshop*, Washington School Personnel Association, January 2024-present.
- “Social Media: Cyberbullying Issues in Schools,” *Lower Columbia School Safety Summit*, 2022-2023.