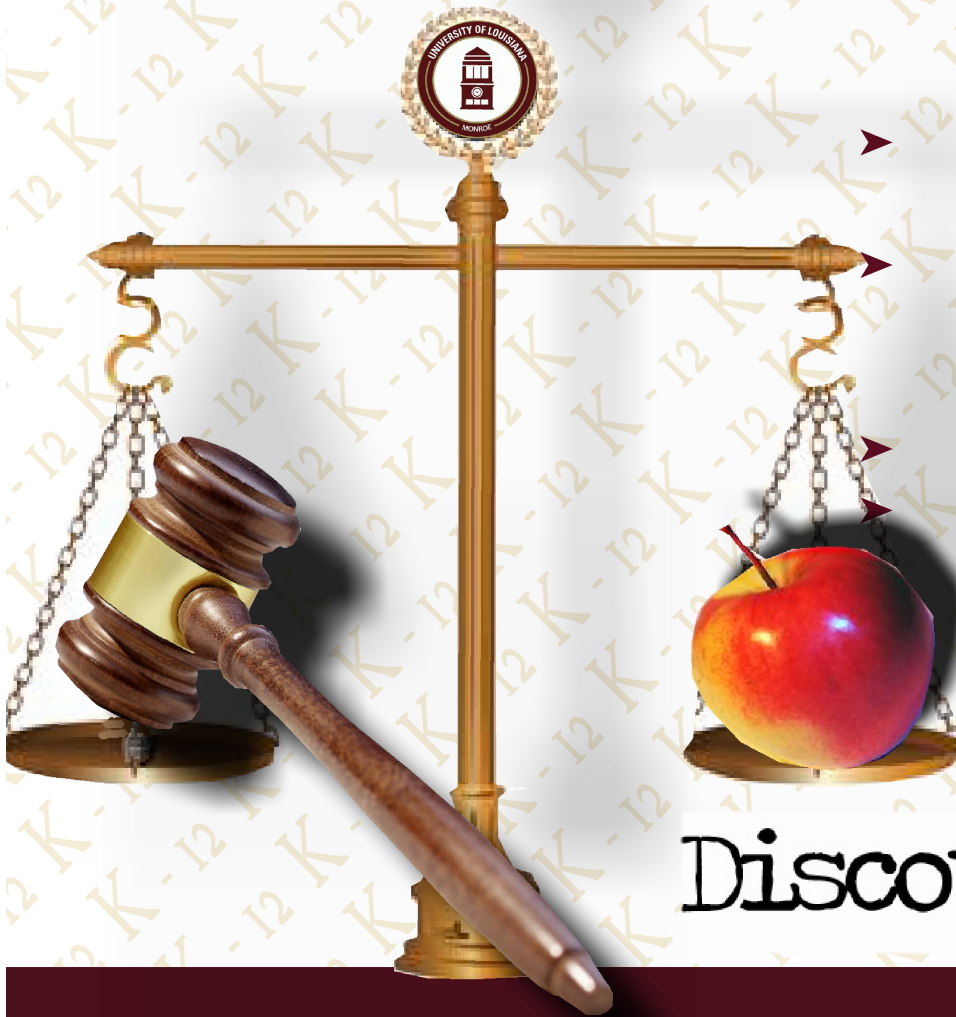


ULM

University of Louisiana at Monroe

School Law Conference



Hot Topics

Employee &
Student Safety
Electronic
Communication &
Social Media
Cyberbullying
Privacy Issues & Student
Discipline

Discover **ULM**
University of Louisiana at Monroe

Monday, April 30, 2012

ULM School Law Conference registration is open now!

REGISTER at:

www.ULM.edu/law

University of Louisiana at Monroe
1st Annual School Law Conference
2012

Registration and continental breakfast: 8:15-9:00

1. False Claims Act / Ethics

Speaker: William Aaron, Attorney, Aaron PLC, New Orleans, LA

Time: 9-9:45 a.m.

Government spending provides an opportunity for mistakes as well as fraud. Legal aspects of the False Claims Act will be discussed in this presentation, including issues areas where school districts should be wary including the use of the “qui tam” provision and liability issues involved with stimulus funding and accounting. Discussion regarding ethical and legal limitations as they relate to federal funding will be discussed.

2. Where Does Responsibility Start and Stop? Legal Obligation of the Public School System to Ensure the Physical Safety of its Students and Employees.

Speaker: John Church, Attorney and Professor, Louisiana State University Law Center

Time: 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.

This presentation will address basic legal obligations that schools and school staff have with regard to keeping students safe while in their care such as child abuse reporting requirements and criminal background checks as well as provide the audience with a legal analysis regarding the legalities of where the standard of care begins and ends and how far it extends even during the school day.

Break – 10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

3. Medical Issues Facing Louisiana’s Public Schools: What Are School Nurses, Teachers, and Administrators to do?

Speakers: Wesley Eby Johnson, Attorney, Escamilla, Poneck, and Cruz LLP, Monroe, LA

Time: 10:45-11:30 a.m.

This session will address medical issues that have the potential to create legal issues for a public school district. Medical assessments in the school setting; asthma action plans, and the authority granted by law to the school nurse will all be addressed as well as potentially litigious situations involving medical and mental health care on school campus.

4. Cyberbullying

Speaker: Mr. Jerry L. Jones, District Attorney for Ouachita and Morehouse parishes

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Student cyberbullying – the harassment of other students on Facebook, Youtube, Myspace, or other social media – is a growing problem. In a couple of cases, students have committed suicide after being humiliated by classmates who have circulated embarrassing pictures of them by cell phone or social media.

Schools have tried to deal with this problem by punishing students who engage in cyberbullying, but in several instances the student offender has gone to court, arguing that the school infringed on their First Amendment rights by punishing them for online speech. So far, the courts have sent conflicting and confusing signals about a school's authority to discipline a student for internet speech that is communicated off school grounds.

This presentation will summarize the case law on this controversial topic and will discuss one highly discussed decision, the Kowalski case, in which a federal court sided with a school district and ruled that it had the authority to punish the student who bullied and harassed a classmate on the internet.

Legislative Developments – Lunch Speech

Speaker: Attorney General, Buddy Caldwell

Time: 12:15-1:15 Lunch with Keynote speaker on Legislative Developments

The Louisiana Legislature will convene on Monday, March 26, 2012. The Attorney General will provide attendees with an update regarding on legislation that has the potential to affect K-12 schools in the state.

5. Student Records: When to Share and When to Withhold?

Speaker: Doug Lawrence, Attorney, The Lawrence Law Firm, Monroe, LA

Time: 1:15-2:00 p.m.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a funding statute that has left many Districts in a state of confusion regarding what student information can and cannot be shared and when. This presentation will provide participants with practical information regarding how to handle requests for student information from parents as well as the general public as well as how to legally share information with outside entities such as local law enforcement and medical providers. Recommendations from the Family Policy Compliance Office with the United States Department of Education will be shared as well as an update on new regulations.

6. Electronic Communications and Social Media -- Walking the Line Between Appropriate Communication and the First Amendment

Speaker: Nathan Roberts, Attorney and Professor at University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Professor & Department Head Educational Foundations & Leadership

Time: 2:00 – 2:45 p.m.

Students and school district employees have never been able to freely say just whatever is on their mind during the school day, but before the influx of electronic communication and social media in people's daily lives, appropriate communication in the school setting was easier to legally define and control. This presentation will focus on the legal aspects of defining and controlling electronic communication between students; between employees; and between students and employees.

Break – 2:45-3:00 pm

7. Disciplining the Student Receiving Special Education Services

Speaker: Ty Manieri, Attorney, Special Education Department, Louisiana Department of Education

Time: 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

There is a right way to handle removing a student receiving special education services from the regular education setting when discipline is involved. Understanding the district's obligations and the appropriate manner in which these decisions must be made is the key to avoiding complaints and litigation regarding claims that a student's rights have been violated. Learn what the Louisiana Department of Education is looking to see when reviewing complaints and providing guidance in this arena.

8. Don't Let the Sun Shine Down On You! – Louisiana's Public Information Laws

Speaker: Winston DeCuir, Jr., School Law Attorney, DeCuir, Clark, and Adams, LLC, Baton Rouge, LA

Time: 3:45 – 4:30 p.m.

Review the pitfalls and the strategies regarding appropriately and legally addressing requests for public information as well as handling open meetings issues that arise within the context of the public school district in Louisiana.



SCHOOL LAW CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE DATE

Monday, April 30, 2012 8 am – 5 pm
Student Union Building, 2nd Floor - ULM Campus

Who Should Attend?

- Attorneys
- School Board Members
- School Administrators
- Central Office Staff
- Anyone interested in legal issues affecting K-12 Education in Louisiana

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Bar Card# _____ LA Other State _____ N/A

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Registrant's E-mail (required): _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Early Registration Fee due by Wednesday, April 4, 2012.....\$175.00

Registration Fee after Wednesday, April 4, 2012.....\$200.00

Registration Fee includes Online Course Materials and Luncheon

PAYMENT METHODS

Check (please make checks payable to: ULM School Law Conference)

For Credit Card registration and payment, visit ulm.edu/law and click on the "Register Online" link. Check or cash only accepted at the door the day of the conference.

Mail this completed registration form and check to:

The University of Louisiana at Monroe
c/o Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs
700 University Avenue
Monroe, LA 71209-1050
318-342-5215