



CSBA's Education Legal Alliance

Fighting for public schools for over 30 years

// Who we are

The California School Boards Association's Education Legal Alliance (ELA) is a consortium of school districts, county offices of education and Regional Occupational Centers/Programs that have voluntarily joined together for the past 30 years to create a powerful force to pursue and defend a broad spectrum of statewide public education interests before state and federal courts, state agencies and the Legislature.

// What we do

- » Initiate civil litigation and administrative actions
- » File amicus briefs and letters with state and federal courts to support school districts and county offices of education in their litigation
- » Analyze and challenge legislation and regulations
- » Provide updates on ELA cases to CSBA and ELA members

// How we work

An advisory committee of experienced school law attorneys assists in providing legal analysis and recommendations for ELA involvement to a broad-based Steering Committee consisting of school board members, superintendents and statewide education leaders.

// Recent activities

In *California School Boards Association's Education Legal Alliance v. California State Board of Education (SBE)*, the ELA filed and obtained a writ of mandate against the SBE. The court found that SBE ignored the authority of the governing boards of Napa Valley Unified School District and Napa County Office of Education to deny a charter petition and substituted its judgment for the judgment of those local boards in violation of the charter authorization appeal process set out in AB 1505 (2019).

Amicus Support: The ELA's amicus work ensures courts understand the impact their decisions will have on districts and county offices of education throughout the state, including:

- » *O'Connor-Ratcliff v. Garnier*: Supporting appellant school board members' appeal. The ELA urged the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that board members' use of their private social media to communicate with the public on matters related to their public office "constitutes state action" and is subject to First Amendment restrictions. The ELA argued that this is true even if the social media accounts are not supported, funded, directed or used with the involvement of the school district the board members represent.
- » *George v. Susanville Elementary School District*: Protecting LEAs ability to provide for experience credit for new teachers while not being required to provide such credit for teachers who resign and return under Education Code section 44931.
- » *Traiman v. Alameda Unified School District*: Supporting the authority of LEAs to impose uniform taxes without concern that the tax will be challenged.

THANK YOU for your support!

Your annual contribution to the Education Legal Alliance ensures that we can continue this vital work. For more information about your membership, please contact the CSBA Legal Department at **(800) 266-3382** or **legal@csba.org**.

