



George Joseph

Shareholder

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Mr. Joseph has practiced as a school solicitor for more than 35 years, providing a full range of education law services. In addition to serving as general solicitor for three area school districts, the local Intermediate Unit and numerous nonpublic school systems, he has experience in handling special education matters including mediation and litigation of special education and Section 504 due process hearings. He has also, over time, provided representation on behalf of every public school district in Erie, Crawford and Warren counties as special counsel for a variety of specific assignments.

Mr. Joseph has extensive experience in policy drafting, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Open Meeting Law, State Officials Ethics Act and the Right to Know Law matters. He has been involved in contract drafting and review and construction projects, as well as other legal issues that confront both public and nonpublic school entities, their administrations and boards. Mr. Joseph also advises his education clients on matters of labor and employment law, including grievance arbitration, employment practices and discrimination claims. He has extensive experience in negotiating collective bargaining agreements pursuant to provisions of the Pennsylvania Employee Relations Act. Mr. Joseph

also has experience in tax-exempt financing for public entities and has served as issuer's counsel and underwriter's counsel in numerous general obligation bonds and tax anticipation borrowings.

He also serves as general solicitor for a local sewer authority, providing advice on diverse matters from public employment, financing, municipal liens and claims, as well as developer agreements and contract drafting and review. As an assistant solicitor for Erie County, he annually conducts the County Upset Tax Sale and litigates tax sale objections on behalf of the Tax Claim Bureau. He also represents the Erie County Department of Health in matters of public health including restaurant food safety and licensure matters and sewage facilities matters.

Mr. Joseph has been involved in labor and employment matters in the private sector as well. He has represented employers in matters of employee benefits, company policies and handbooks, employment discrimination and harassment, and unemployment compensation issues.

In addition to these practices, Mr. Joseph has handled litigation of all of the workers' compensation petitions before Workers' Compensation Judges, the Workers' Compensation Appeal Board, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. His experience includes the representation of injured workers, employers and insurers in a full range of legal matters.

Areas of Practice

- School and Municipal Law
- Labor and Employment Law
- Workers' Compensation

Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania, 1982
- U.S. District Court Western District of Pennsylvania, 1982
- U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit, 1982

Education

The Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

- J.D. - 1982
- Honors: Abel Klaw Advocacy Prize

Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania,

- B.A. *cum laude* - 1979
- Honors: Charles A. Dana Scholar
- Honors: President of Student Senate
- Major: Economics
- Major: Political Science

Published Works

Contributing Editor to the Pennsylvania School Law Handbook, published by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association

Representative Cases

Famageltto v. County of Erie Tax Claim Bureau, 133 A.3d 337 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2016)

Schulze v. County of Erie, Bureau of Revenue and Tax Claim, 103 A.3d 455 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2014) affirmed 109 A.3d 681 (Pa. 2015) *Petition for Writ of Certiorari denied* 136 S. Ct. 297; 193 L. Ed. 2d 33 (2015)

Drew v. Office of the District Attorney, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 95535, *Petition for Habeas Corpus dismissed* (W.D.Pa. 2013)

Maya v. County of Erie Tax Claim Bureau, 59 A.3d 50 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2013)

Gillette v. Wurst, 937 A.2d 430 (Pa. 2007) reversing 869 A.2d 488 (Pa. Super. 2005)

Adams v. Erie County Tax Claim Bureau, No. 2804 CD 2002, unpublished opinion, (Pa.Cmwlth. 2003)

Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association v. Workers' Compensation Appeal Board (City Mission and MCRA, Inc.), 796 A.2d 412 (Pa.Cmwlth. 2002)

Murphy v. Girard School District, 134 F.Supp.2d 431, 152 Ed. Law Rep. 615 (W.D. Pa., 1999)

Whitehead v. Colwell No. 1633 CD 1998, unpublished opinion, (Pa.Cmwlth. 1999)

State Workman's Insurance Fund v. Workers' Compensation Appeal Board (Wagner), 677 A.2d 892 (Pa.Cmwlth. 1996)

Snyder v. Datascope Corporation., No. 00475PGH93, unpublished opinion reported at 644 A.2d 815(Pa.Super. 1994) alloc. denied 542 Pa. 673, 668 A.2d 1135 (Pa. 1995)

Spencer v. McKean Township Zoning Hearing Board, 113 Pa.Cmwlth. 521, 537 A.2d 943 (1988)

Erie Castings Co. v. Grinding Supply, Inc., 736 F.2d 99 (3rd Cir. 1984)

Representative Clients

Conneaut School District

Diocese of Erie, Catholic Schools Office

Elk County Catholic School System

Erie Catholic School System

Erie County Department of Health

Erie County Tax Claim Bureau

Fairview School District

Mercyhurst Preparatory School

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit No. 5

Northwestern Region Employee Benefit Trust

Northwestern School District
Pleasant Ridge Manor
Shenango Valley Catholic School System
Summit Township Sewer Authority

Classes/Seminars

Adjunct Professor at Ursuline College, teaching “Pennsylvania School Law”, 1996, 1999

Honors and Awards

AV rating, Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory

Professional Associations and Memberships

American Bar Association, Labor and Employment Section, Member

Pennsylvania Bar Association, Education and Workers' Compensation Law Sections, Member

Pennsylvania Association For Justice, Workers' Compensation Section

Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, Life Fellow

Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, Member, Board of Directors, 2011 - 2017

Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, Member, Nominations Committee, 2017

Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, Member, Grants Committee, 2017 - 2018

Pennsylvania Defense Institute

Pennsylvania School Boards Solicitors Association, Region 1 Director, 2001 - 2004

Pennsylvania School Boards Solicitors Association, Secretary, 2006

Pennsylvania School Boards Solicitors Association, President-Elect, 2007

Pennsylvania School Boards Solicitors Association, President, 2008

Erie County Bar Association, Member, Executive Committee, 2003 - 2005

Erie County Bar Association, Member, Law Day Committee

Erie County Bar Association, Member, Workers' Compensation Committee

Erie County Bar Association, Member, Lawyers Referral Service Committee

Erie County Bar Association, Lectures Section

Erie County Bar Association, Labor Negotiations Section

Erie County Bar Association, Community Involvement Section

Erie County Bar Association, Recipient, President's Award, 2002

Erie County Bar Association, Municipal Solicitors Section, Vice-Chair, 2015, 2017; Chair, 2016, 2018

Erie County Bar Association, Second Vice President, 2018

Past Employment Positions

Quinn Law Firm, Associate, 1982 - 1989

Pro Bono Activities

Pennsylvania Bar Foundation

Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University Alumni Trustee, Board of Trustees, 1994 - 1997

Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University Northwestern Pa. Alumni Association, Chapter President, 1992 - Present

Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University General Alumni Association, Board of Directors, 1992 - 2014

Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University General Alumni Association Treasurer, 2000 - 2003

Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University General Alumni Association Vice President, 2003 - 2006

Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University General Alumni Association President, 2006 - 2009

Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University Penn State Alumni Council Member, 2006 - 2008

Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University Penn State Dickinson School of Law Alumni Society, Founding Member

Family Services of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Consumer Credit Counseling

Family Services of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Services Advisory Board, 1999 - 2002

Family Services of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Board of Directors, 2002 - Present

Family Services of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Board Secretary, 2003 - 2006

Family Services of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Program Committee Chairman, 2003 - 2006

Family Services of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Resource and Planning Committee, 2007 - Present

Family Services of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Board Chairman, 2006 - Present

Athena PowerLink, Advisory Panel Member, 2002 - 2003

Kiwanis Club of Erie, Member, 2003 - Present

Fraternities/Sororities

Phi Alpha Delta

Omicron Delta Kappa