

Illinois Special Education Due Process Hearing Officers

<p>Harry Blackburn</p>	<p>Harry Blackburn is a retired Deputy General Counsel to the Illinois State Board of Education, having served the agency in several capacities from 1971 to 2002. Among the many duties and responsibilities Mr. Blackburn's service at ISBE included being an Administrative Hearing Officer for State Teacher Certification disciplinary hearings and other types of hearings requiring administrative determinations. Mr. Blackburn currently is a sole practitioner in a limited general law practice in Cook county and surrounding counties.</p> <p>Harry Blackburn became a hearing officer in July 2008 and is excluded from taking cases in Chaney-Monge School District 88, Richland School District 88a and Lockport Township High School District 205.</p>
<p>Ann Breen-Greco</p>	<p>Ms. Breen-Greco is also a trained mediator and did mediation for ten years with the Center for Conflict Resolution, for court-referred misdemeanors and for the Department of Human Rights. She is a board member of both the National and Illinois Association's of Administrative Law Judges. Ms. Breen-Greco has served on the faculty of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges for the last four years at the annual conferences, conducting workshops on child abuse and neglect cases, basics for administrative law judges, bias and discrimination, and stress reduction. She is also the co-editor of the association's newsletter, as well as editor of the American Bar Association's National Conference of Administrative Law Judges' newsletter. She is the immediate past chairperson of the Chicago Bar Association's Administrative Law Judge Committee. Breen-Greco has been a hearing officer since June 1, 1999.</p>
<p>Alan Cook</p>	<p>Mr. Cook has been a practicing attorney since 1973 and has practiced as a labor arbitrator since 1978. He is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, American Arbitration Association, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services, and the Industrial Relations Research Association.</p> <p>Mr. Cook was a former level II due process reviewing officer and has been a due process hearing officer since June 1, 1999.</p>
<p>Lynette Lewis</p>	<p>Lynette Lewis is a sole practice attorney in Evergreen Park, IL. Prior to private practice, Ms. Lewis worked as an attorney in the Juvenile Division of the Cook County Public Defender's Office as well as an arbitrator for Cook County for the past fourteen years and is a trained mediator.</p>

	<p>Ms. Lewis served eight years on a local school council in Chicago, IL and has served as a troop leader for the Girl Scouts of Chicago for 20 years. Ms. Lewis currently serves as Chairperson for WellSpring Center for Hope, an advocacy agency against domestic violence. She is a member of the Cook County Bar Association and the Rainbow P.U.S.H. Coalition. She became a hearing officer in July 2008.</p>
<p>Linda Mastandrea</p>	<p>Linda Mastandrea is a sole-practice attorney based in Chicago, IL. Ms. Mastandrea was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1995. Prior to her current practice, Ms. Mastandrea worked as Legal Counsel for the Client Assistance Program of the Illinois Office of Rehabilitation Services. She also has experience as an adjunct professor at the Chicago-Kent College of Law at the Illinois Institute of Technology, having taught several courses on the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Fair Housing Act, among others. Ms. Mastandrea has been the Regional Director of the America's Athletes with Disabilities and other entities advocating issues on behalf of individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Ms. Mastandrea became a hearing officer in October 2005.</p>
<p>D. Michael Risen</p>	<p>Michael Risen joined the Department of Educational Leadership at Bradley University beginning in the fall of 2004 where he teaches Graduate courses including American Public School Law, Legal and Social Justice, The Principalship, Special Education Law, School Finance and Research Methods. Dr. Risen comes from a K-12 Public Education background where he has served as an elementary principal for 15 years (2 as an assistant principal) in the East Peoria Elementary #86 school district, two years as Superintendent of Schools of Green Valley CC #695, seven years as Superintendent of Schools at Midwest Central Community Unit District #191 and six years as Superintendent of Byron CUSD #226.</p> <p>Dr. Risen received his PhD in educational administration in 1989 from Illinois State University where he also earned his MS in educational administration in 1975 and his BS in Business Education in 1971. He also earned an Education Specialist degree from Western Illinois University. He holds three Illinois teaching certificates, including high school, a type 75 in education administration and the superintendent's endorsement.</p> <p>Dr. Risen became a hearing officer in July 2008 and is excluded from taking cases in Metamora Community Consolidated School District 1, Germantown Hills School District 69 and the Woodford County Special Education Association.</p>
<p>Mary Schwartz</p>	<p>Mary Schwartz has worked with children with disabilities and their families throughout her career as an attorney and a licensed clinical professional counselor. She served as Legal Director for the Center for Disabilities and Elder Law in Chicago; currently, she is Of Counsel to</p>

	<p>Children’s Law Group, where she provides representation in the areas of adoption, mental health and family law matters. Additionally, she is a trained divorce mediator.</p> <p>Ms. Schwartz’s background in mental health includes both private practice and non-profit work. Most recently, she served as mental health director of a community mental health agency specializing in care for immigrants and refugees Her mental health career began with working as a counselor and therapist at the Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School at the University of Chicago. She later returned there as a senior administrator and served as Acting Co-Director for one year. She also has worked as a consultant and in-service training provider for private schools in the metropolitan Chicago area and has presented at local, state and national conferences on many mental health, disability, and legal issues. She has served on many community boards, including: the Disability Ethics Board at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the Association of Child Psychotherapists, and the Geriatric Advisory Council to the Illinois Department of Human Services.</p> <p>Ms. Schwartz received her master’s degree from the University of Chicago in educational psychology and her juris doctorate from Valparaiso University School of Law.</p> <p>Mary Schwartz became a hearing officer in July 2005 is excluded from taking cases in Matteson District 162 and Rich Township High School District 227.</p>
<p>Joseph Selbka</p>	<p>Joseph Selbka is an attorney in solo practice with an emphasis in litigation. Previous to his sole-practice work, Mr. Selbka worked in private practice and as a Special Assistant Attorney General. He has experience in employment and disability discrimination issues.</p> <p>In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Selbka is an adjunct lecturer at the University of Illinois-Chicago in the area of law and public administration as well as serving in on several boards and associations with UIC.</p> <p>Mr. Selbka became a hearing officer in July 2008 and is excluded from taking cases in Oak Park School District 97 and Oak Park River Forest High School District 200.</p>
<p>Stacey Stutzman</p>	<p>Stacey Stutzman is a licensed attorney in good standing in the State of Illinois. Prior to her appointment as a due process hearing officer, she practiced law in the area of civil litigation and her practice included the representation of families under the IDEA. She has an adult child with Down syndrome and served 8 years as a member of the Libertyville District 70 Board of Education, including 2 years as its</p>

	<p>President. Ms. Stutzman is also a trained mediator and arbitrator. She most recently participated in the National Academy for IDEA Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers held in July 2008 in Seattle, WA.</p> <p>Ms. Stutzman became a hearing officer in July 1997 and is excluded from taking cases Libertyville School District 70, Community High School District 128 and the Special Education District of Lake County.</p>
<p>W. David Utley</p>	<p>David Utley currently is of counsel to the law firm of Ryan, Ryan & Landa in Waukegan, IL, involved in various civil litigation in Cook County, DuPage County, McHenry County and Kane County. Prior to that, he served as an attorney with Safeco Insurance Companies for twenty-three (23) years. While at Safeco, he chaired the Community Involvement Committee which was responsible for corporate charitable contributions in a 3 state area. In addition, he has also served as an arbitrator for the Circuit Court of Cook County since the program inception.</p> <p>Mr. Utley holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Education from St. Louis University and is a former teacher, having taught in the Rockwood School District (Missouri) and Schaumburg Community Consolidated School District # 54 (Illinois).</p> <p>He currently serves on the Plan Commission and the Bikeways Advisory Committee for the Village of Schaumburg and previously served on the Family Counseling Oversight Committee for the Village. He also previously served on the Board of Shelter, Inc., a non-for-profit organization providing temporary emergency shelter and support to families in need.</p> <p>Mr. Utley is excluded from taking cases in Schaumburg Community Consolidated School District # 54 and Schaumburg Palatine High School District # 211.</p>