

HEARING OFFICERS / ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICERS

Note: The Department contracts with the following individuals as Hearing Officers for all of its administrative processes.

JAMES M. BARON, ESQ.

James is a member of the bar in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Florida, as well as the US District Courts in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. He earned a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School in 2007, an M.Ed. from Emmanuel College in 1990, and a B.A. from Brandeis University in 1985. He has published an article in the Suffolk Law Review entitled "When Good Intentions Go Bad: The MCAS Graduation Requirement and Special Education Children." James has presented on various special education law and law practice issues for COPAA, Mass. Advocates for Children, the Asperger's Society of New England, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE), Northeastern University Law School, Suffolk Law School, and Starting Out Solo (SOS). He has also served as a Guardian ad Litem / Education Advocate for the Massachusetts Juvenile Court. James is a co-founder, past-president, and past vice-president of Starting Out Solo (SOS), a support and networking bar organization for attorneys who started their own law practice as the first career step after law school. He is a past board member of the Greater Waltham Arc (now known as Opportunities for Inclusion) and a current board member of the Waltham Community Foundation. Prior to (and during) law school, James worked in the technology field for 20 years, as a programmer, trainer, and sales engineer.

BRIANA M. COAKLEY, ESQ.

Briana is admitted to practice in New Hampshire and Massachusetts and before the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire. She is a member of the New Hampshire Bar Association and is a 1997 graduate of the University of New Hampshire, and a 2000 graduate of the Massachusetts School of Law where she earned her Juris Doctor degree. Briana has served as legal counsel to the Massachusetts Chapter of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association, and has drafted legislation and lobbied for the National Alliance For Mental Illness. Briana is a member of the New Hampshire Collaborative Law Alliance and enjoys membership on the Board of the Children's Museum of New Hampshire. Briana served as a Clerk Intern for the Massachusetts Housing Court and as a Judicial Intern to the Honorable Douglas R. Gray, (Retired), and Associate Justice of the New Hampshire Superior Court. Briana is an Adjunct Professor at Northeastern University and an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Massachusetts School of Law At Andover.

PETER T. FOLEY, ESQ.

Graduated from Stonehill College in 1978 and from Georgetown University Law Center in 1981. Active in law since 1981. Worked in radio, as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of New Hampshire and as an adjunct professor. Memberships include the New Hampshire Workers' Compensation Appeals Board and the Common Cause of

New Hampshire, State Steering Committee. Peter is a sole practitioner with an office in Concord, New Hampshire.

SCOTT F. JOHNSON, ESQ.

Graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Minor in American Studies in 1992 and from Franklin Pierce Law Center in May 1997. Frequent presenter on legal and educational issues at various forums including continuing education programs, the Education Law Association's Annual Conference, and the Education Law Institute's Annual Conference. He is also an arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau and on the Board of Directors of the Education Law and Policy Consortium as well as being on the Board of Directors and volunteer attorney for the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union and Chair of Board of Directors for the Concord Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. He is also Founder of NH EdLaw, LLC, and Founder of the Education Law Resource Center, Concord, NH. Adjunct Professor/Visiting Professor at the Franklin Pierce Law Center.