



# Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy

## IDEA: Blueprints to Special Education

A full day workshop that explains special education law and the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, presented by prominent local special education attorneys. Topics covered include understanding your rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), how to handle disputes, common pitfalls to avoid when negotiating with school districts for your child's IEP, and understanding your child's right to a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE). This workshop is the only workshop of its kind presented by specialized attorneys in the Puget Sound area. Some scholarships are available for families receiving Medicaid. Contact the WAAA office for scholarship details. Don't miss this workshop!

### Morning session will include:

- ♥ Building a foundation for the Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- ♥ Identifying and involving the IEP team
- ♥ Developing the IEP to meet educational standards.

### Afternoon session will include:

- ♥ Round table small group discussions with attorneys, including Q&A time
- ♥ In-depth small group discussions of multiple interest areas.

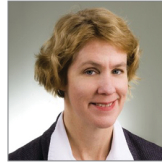
**Saturday, March 12th**  
**9:30am-3:30pm**

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church  
10021 NE 124th Street  
Kirkland, WA 98034

Questions? Contact Diana at 425-894-7231

Visit [www.WashingtonAutismAdvocacy.org](http://www.WashingtonAutismAdvocacy.org) to register.

### Presenters



#### Katherine George, Esq.

An attorney with Harrison, Bennis, & Spence, Katherine George, Esq. has been practicing law in WA for over 9 years, emphasizing the rights of students under the law. Her primary focus is to help obtain appropriate public programs, funding for private services, and other related issues.



#### Charlotte Cassady

Charlotte Cassady has specialized in representing parents seeking services from school districts for over 15 years. She graduated from Tulane Law School with honors in 1989 and began practicing law in Seattle in 1990. Ms. Cassady developed an interest in special education and disability law while doing volunteer work with Team Child, a non-profit civil legal aid organization.



#### Jeannette Cohen

Jeannette Cohen has a Master's degree in Special Education from the University of Washington, and a law degree from Seattle University. Jeannette taught as a special education teacher for ten years and then worked as an Educational Consultant on behalf of parents with special needs children in public schools in the greater Puget Sound area. Currently Jeannette's practice focuses on school issues involving Special Education, 504, discipline, bullying and harassment, as well as helping parents obtain services through the Developmental Disabilities Administration and obtain guardianships for their children when they reach eighteen years old. Jeannette also has been working in the area of family law since February of 2009, specializing in helping families with special needs children navigate the complex issues of family law.



#### Nicholle Mineiro

Nicholle Mineiro is a member of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates. Her focus is on special education and civil rights litigation, with a growing sub-practice in the rights of students with allergies. She attended UCLA and Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. Her background in public entity defense litigation, including school district defense, gives her an in-depth perspective and comprehensive approach to representation of students. Prior to law school, she earned a Master's in Education from Claremont Graduate University, and taught elementary school in Title I schools and full inclusion classrooms.

Our mission is to ensure that all children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD's) & other developmental disabilities (DD's) have every opportunity to thrive and become productive members of society. We do this by helping families access ASD & DD health insurance benefits, effective services in schools, and supportive community-based services, regardless of their personal financial situation.

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