



Area of Practice

- Education Law

Partner

hrp@udallshumway.com
480.461.5384

Heather R. Pierson joined Udall Shumway PLC in 2009. She is a member of the School Law section, representing the firm's education law clients throughout the State.

Ms. Pierson comes to Udall Shumway PLC uniquely qualified in the area of education law. Prior to joining Udall Shumway, Ms. Pierson taught behavior disordered students. During her teaching career, Ms. Pierson was involved in the development and implementation of Individualized Education Plans ("IEP") and behavior plans and attended several trainings on special education and regular education interventions and strategies. While in law school, Ms. Pierson provided in-home ABA services for autistic children under the age of three and participated in the Whittier Law School Special Education Clinic, which provided special education advocacy services for children with developmental disabilities. Additionally, Ms. Pierson earned her Master's Degree in Special Education in 2004.

Ms. Pierson primarily focuses her School Law practice on special education and disability related matters. She routinely defends school districts and other public educational institutions in matters related to disability law matters, such as special education due process hearings, Office of Civil Rights ("OCR") complaints, Section 504 due process hearings, mediation, and special education state complaints. She provides daily advice and assistance in matters related to special education, Section 504, the Americans with Disabilities Act, student discipline, personnel issues and student records. Ms. Pierson taught Contemporary Developments in Special Education Law through Northern Arizona University during the Spring of 2014. She has also given in-service workshops to district personnel on a wide range of special education and disability related topics and speaks at state-wide conferences.

Education

- J.D., Arizona Summit Law School (formerly Phoenix School of Law), 2013
- M.A., Ed., Northern Arizona University, 2010
- B.A., Arizona State University, 2006

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- Arizona

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- National School Boards Association
- Arizona Council of School Attorneys
- Special Education Administrators Association