



Please read all items for crucial information.

Call for Proposals – Instructions and FAQs

Spring School Law Seminar

March 31 – April 2, 2022

Deadline: Friday, December 3, 2021

COSA is Seeking Creative and Engaging Speakers for its 2022 Spring School Law Seminar!

The NSBA Council of School Attorneys invites its members to submit proposals for our 2022 Spring School Law Seminar to be held March 31 – April 2, 2022 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego, California. We are always looking to expand both the topics and speakers at our COSA events. If you haven't presented at a COSA seminar, but have experience presenting at the state or national level and are knowledgeable about a particular topic area, we encourage you to submit a proposal.

Answers to frequently asked questions appear below. Please feel free to contact Cheryl Richardson (crichardson@nsba.org) for further information.

What do I need to know about the seminar before submitting my proposal?

The Spring School Law Seminar attracts nearly 400 school attorneys from across the U.S. These attorneys are employed by firms, by school districts, and by state school boards associations. They are an engaged, energetic, and informed audience with important questions and examples to share from their practices. For the most part, our attendees have many years of experience in the school law field. They are looking for in-depth materials and discussion, not an introduction to your subject. Our most highly-rated speakers are engaging, have extensive knowledge of their subject areas, and encourage active audience participation. Of particular interest to our audience are presentations provided by attorneys who have been actively engaged in a current case or controversy of national interest, such as U.S. Supreme Court cases impacting the practice of education law.

COSA applies for CLE credit in all states with a mandatory CLE requirement. This seminar will offer at least 1 hour of ethics credit and up to 16 hours of CLE in total. To ensure your session is accredited, your materials must meet high legal education standards, including legal citations and analysis.

Speaking and presentation tips are included with this proposal information.

If my proposal is accepted, what materials will I be required to submit?

Because COSA seeks approval of our Seminar for CLE credit, all sessions must be supported by substantive materials with legal references. COSA requires a completed presentation questionnaire as well as a visual presentation such as a power point slide deck. Our attendees also appreciate a presentation outline, including applicable laws and legal analysis. We also encourage you to share additional resources, such as sample agreements, checklists, flowcharts, etc. Your materials must be submitted in final, edited and proofed form. We will not do significant editing or proofreading before publication. COSA reserves the right to withdraw an invitation to present at the 2022 Spring School Law Seminar if materials are not received in a timely fashion or are inappropriate for publication.

If my proposal is accepted, which of my expenses does COSA cover?

COSA offers each speaker a complimentary registration for the full seminar.

May I submit my name and speaking resume, rather than a formal proposal?

Yes. You may submit a resume listing areas of expertise, prior speaking experience, and references. Speaker resumes may be used by the Committee to fill speaking slots at the Fall School Law Seminar, and will be retained by COSA. Future seminar committees and COSA staff may refer to resumes to fill other speaking opportunities.

If you would like to be considered in this manner, please send your speaking resume to Cheryl Richardson at crichardson@nsba.org and be prepared to submit presentation materials in your areas of expertise.

What is the proposal/speaker approval process?

Please use the attached Session Proposal form to submit a proposal for a specific session.

All proposals/resumes received by **Friday, December 3, 2021**, will be evaluated by the seminar planning committee. Each firm or organization may submit up to three (3) proposals. The committee will make every effort to contact invited presenters by the middle of December.

The committee vets speakers with state school boards associations, and gives preference to speakers with significant success presenting to attorneys at the state and/or national level. However, new speakers are encouraged to submit a proposal. The Committee is always looking for new dynamic and engaging speakers to include in the program. New speakers, please provide a reference to serve as an endorsement of your presentation skills.

What topics would the Seminar Committee like to see on the Seminar program?

The Seminar Committee encourages proposals for sessions that address current and relevant school law issues in an in-depth and interactive manner. Please submit proposals on topics that you know well, and have experience addressing with school board clients, even if the topic does not appear on the lists below. We are open to any topic that is of interest and current relevance to public schools.

Here is an example of a list of the proposed topics for the Spring Seminar. NOTE: This list is not exhaustive; rather, we encourage you to submit a proposal for one of these topics or others that you believe would be relevant and timely for school attorneys. **Please note the topics listed below are very broad, providing general issues the committee is interested in including in the program. The session proposals, however, should be more focused, addressing narrow aspects of an issue in an in-depth manner.**

- COVID-19 – Related Topics
 - Accommodations
 - Mandates
 - Hiring and firing of staff
 - Student vaccines
 - IDEA and 504 in the post-COVID era
 - Top 10 Cases of the Post-COVID Era: A Year in Review
- School Board Meetings
 - Advising divided school boards
 - Public participation in school board meeting
- Transgender students and bathrooms, locker rooms, and sports
 - Review of current law
 - Practical solutions for privacy concerns
- Hiring and firing of staff
- Title IX update
- A new era of parents’ rights

What are the proposal and speaker resume evaluation criteria? IMPORTANT!

The Committee will evaluate proposals and speaker resumes based on the following criteria:

- Presenter demonstrates how the session will be engaging for attendees
- Presenter demonstrates creativity and innovation in both the format and the content of the session
- Topic is of high interest and relevance to school attorneys and addresses the needs of the experienced school law practitioner or the attorney new to the practice
- Presenter provides references for prior speaking experience. The Committee will give preference to speakers with strong references from his or her state school boards association.
- Proposal gives a clear, concise picture of what the session will include.
- Session objectives are clear and can be met realistically in the time allowed.
- Presentation will provide solid, practical “how-to” information such as a sample policy or procedural check list.
- Program is not wholly-based on state law, but is national in scope.

