



Erie County Association of School Boards

“ ECASB BUSINESS CONNECTIONS ”



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Hodgson Russ LLP, a full-service law firm. They are a pioneer in the field of education law, providing advice and counsel to New York State school districts for more than six decades.

At Hodgson Russ, the philosophy is to provide optimal value and high-quality service to their school clients by combing experienced, innovative legal representation with a commitment to understanding each client's specific issues, and then matching the right team of professionals to every matter.

The goal of the Education Practice at Hodgson Russ is to provide high-quality legal services to help their school clients establish the best possible educational and work environments. Over the past 40 years, their attorneys have provided advice on operations and employment matters of school districts and legal issues involving students.

Hodgson Russ operates on the premise that they work first and foremost for the board of education. In the area of employee relations, they generally represent management only. Nevertheless, their approach to labor relations is resolutely non-confrontational. They recognize that the district must work together with employees and their unions for mutual interests to be served. There are times when management has to take a firm stand, and members of Hodgson Russ's Education Practice have an excellent reputation as persuasive advocates for school management when dealing with difficult situations.

Hodgson Russ Attorneys, LLP have extensive experience in every aspect of education law, including:

- Administration of collective negotiations agreements in school districts and the Taylor Law
- Constitutional issues, including due process, search and seizure, and the First Amendment
- Contingency budgets in New York State
- Discipline of classified and certified employees
- Environmental law matters
- Federal and state civil rights laws
- Grievance administration and arbitration
- Litigation
- New York civil service issues
- New York State and federal laws generally affecting public schools
- Public Officers Law
- Regulations and decisions of the New York State Commissioner of Education
- Rehabilitation Act (§504) and Americans with Disabilities Act
- School building construction, closings, sales, and leases
- School finances
- School transportation issues
- Special education
- Student rights and discipline
- Tax issues pertaining to wages and benefits
- Tort liability of school districts and officials

As a full-service law firm, they have attorneys who are well versed in virtually any area of law that affects school districts. From litigation, tax rate proceedings, real estate, and employee relations to construction contracts and bonding, environmental law, and intellectual property, Hodgson Russ attorneys are thoroughly equipped to assist you.



1838

Hodgson Russ Partner Nathan K. Hall leads creation of Buffalo's public school system, the first tuition-free, tax-supported public school system in New York State.



1850

Millard Fillmore is the first Hodgson Russ Alumnus to become the U.S. President. After the unexpected death of U.S. President Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore was sworn in as the 13th President of the United States.



1855

Grover Cleveland accepts clerkship at the Hodgson Russ Law Firm. In 1859, Grover Cleveland is admitted to the bar. 1885 Law Partner is elected 22nd President of the United States.



1895-1896

Louis Sullivan designs and builds the Guaranty Building. The building becomes a National Historic Landmark. 2002 Hodgson Russ purchases building for firm headquarters. 2006, the firm begins extensive renovations to the National Historic landmark.



1945

Hodgson Russ Andrews, Woods and Goodyear LLP is formed. In 2001, the name is shortened to Hodgson Russ LLP.



2017

Hodgson Russ LLP celebrates its 200th year in business. A View Inspired by it's Legacy is released. <http://www.hodgsonruss.com/bicentennialvideo.html>