

10th Annual Conference



**How to be an
Advocate for Your
Child**

***Special Education
Law and Advocacy***



Wayne Steedman, Esq.

Saturday, April 18, 2009

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Braden River
High School Auditorium
6545 State Road 70 West
Bradenton, FL**



Wayne Steedman, Esq. is an attorney and founding partner in the law firm of Callegary & Steedman. As a member of the **Wrightslaw Speakers Bureau**, Mr. Steedman provides training for parents, educators, advocates, attorneys, and others who want to ensure that children receive

quality special education services.

Mr. Steedman's practice is devoted primarily to the representation of children with disabilities. He has represented his clients in administrative due process hearings in state and federal court.

Wayne and Pete Wright **are both nationally recognized experts** and have worked together since Wayne's successful decision in [Gerstmyer v. Howard County Public Schools](#). In [Gerstmyer](#), the Judge found that a Montessori School was the appropriate placement for a child with dyslexia, a language learning disability.

In addition to a law degree from the University of Maryland, Mr. Steedman has a Masters Degree in Social Work. For several years he served as a Due Process Hearing Officer in special education cases. He is an active member of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA).

Mr. Steedman is the author of "Advocating for Services: Legal Issues Confronting Parents and Guardians" in [Growing Up with Autism: Working with School-Age Children and Adolescents](#) by Robin L. Gabriels and Dina E. Hill (Editors), published by The Guilford Press(2007). He has written many articles which are listed on [Wrightslaw.com](#).

Wrightslaw special education law & advocacy programs are designed to meet the needs of parents, health care providers, educators, advocates, and attorneys who represent children with disabilities.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM **Breakfast and Registration**
- 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM – **Introductions.** IDEA 2004:History and Overview; **Section 1400:** Findings and Purposes; **Section 1401:** Key Definitions in IDEA, Special Education, Related Services LD, etc.; **Section 1412** Extended School Year, Child Find, Least Restrictive Environment/Mainstreaming/Inclusion, Private Placements, Statewide Assessments
- 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM **Break - Snack**
- 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM - Understanding Tests and Measurements, and the Bell Curve, Standard Scores, Scale Scores, % ranks, Grade Equivalent, Age Equivalent; **Section 1414(a-c)** Evaluations and Re-Evaluations.
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **Lunch On Your Own**
- 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM - **Section 1414(d)** IEP, Present Levels of Performance, Goals and Objectives; **Section 1415** Prior Written Notice, Procedural Safeguards notice, Mediation, Due Process Hearing, Appeal, Discipline, Age of Majority, Section 504, ADA, FERPA, NCLB No Child Left Behind, Litigation: Special Ed Caselaw, S.M.A.R.T. IEP's, Special Ed Advocacy for the Parent, Advocate, and Parent's Attorney, Legal, systemic and "school culture" obstacles to compliance with IDEA-04
The Parent as the Special Ed Manager and Expert
?? Developing the Master Plan
?? Knowing the Rules of the Game
?? Recognizing and Avoiding the Fatal Obstacles
?? How to Deal with Conflict, a Healthy and Normal event
?? Crisis, Emergency, Help
?? Organization of the Child's File
- 2:30 PM – 2:45 PM **Break - Snack**
- 2:45 PM – 4:00 PM
?? Tactics and Strategies
?? Rule of Adverse Assumptions
?? Private Evaluations
?? Paper Trails
?? The Letter to the Stranger
?? 5 W's + H + E
?? Preparation for Meetings
?? Meeting Strategies
- 4:00 PM – 4:30PM **Questions & Answers**

WHAT IS THE COST?

	Before 4/1/09	After 4/1/09
Individual	\$ 45.00	\$ 65.00
Couple	\$ 65.00	\$ 85.00
Professional	\$ 65.00	\$ 85.00

(A Couple will receive One Set of Books)

Walk In Registration \$100.00 Per Person

This advocacy training supports any disability

- ✂✂ **Both books included in registration price**
- ✂✂ **Books retail value is \$50.00 both**
- ✂✂ **Take advantage of Early Registration pricing**
- ✂✂ **On-line registration available at**
www.fndmanasota.org

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Braden River High School Auditorium, 6545 State Road 70 West, Bradenton. From Interstate I-75 (North or South Bound) take Exit #217, State Road 70 West. Go through the stoplight at Tara Blvd. The entrance to the school is just past Tara Blvd. on the Right. If you miss the school entrance go to the light at Caruso Road turn right and take your first right onto the school campus. Look for our conference banner and signs for appropriate parking.

LUNCH IS ON YOUR OWN

About Family Network on Disabilities.....

Receiving the news that your child has a disability or special need can be devastating to a family. Grief, anger, sadness, and a sense of loneliness are just a few of the emotions a family may experience, not just at the time of diagnosis, but throughout the lifetime of the child. Caring for a loved one with a special need or disability can be a very stressful and demanding responsibility for parents, caregivers, and the entire family. **There is HOPE AND HELP!**

Family Network on Disabilities of Manatee/Sarasota, Inc., FND, is a non-profit organization that assists families of children with disabilities and special needs to go "From Heartache to Hope – One Family at a Time".

We provide support, training, education, information, and advocacy to our families and the communities of Manatee and Sarasota County through a variety of events, programs, and services.

For More Information or Questions
Please Call Mary Smith at 941-928-0682
BSMITH22@TAMPABAY.RR.COM

To Register Online Go To
www.FNDMANASOTA.ORG

Child Care Is Not Available