



## **2026 March Legal Conference**

### ***State/Federal Legal Issues***

***March 5 - 6, 2026***

***Hilton Mystic  
Mystic, CT***

# *Welcome!*

Dear Conference Attendees:

We would like to thank you for attending the 2026 March Legal Conference. We are very excited to bring you the most up to date information on what is affecting our industry today and hope you have an enjoyable two days!

We continue to improve professional development in the area of education with your support. If it weren't for YOU, education would not be what it is today. Also, we would like to hear from you! In your confirmation email, you were given evaluations for the overall conference and sessions, please fill them out and return them to registration or email them to [info@conncase.org](mailto:info@conncase.org).

We hope you have a wonderful and relaxing two days and thank you for your continued support!!

Regards,

***ConnCASE Leadership***

## Keynote Speaker - Friday

# Attorney Deanna L. Arivett



Deanna consults with clients on day-to-day legal matters and represents clients in litigation at both the administrative and federal court levels. In addition to legal representation, Deanna also enjoys providing professional development to school district staff at national conferences, state conferences, and at the local school level.

Deanna has a valuable combination of professional background and passion for supporting school systems that allows her to understand and represent the unique needs of school systems. Prior to her legal career, Deanna obtained a Master's of Arts degree and an Educational Specialist Degree in the field of school psychology from Middle Tennessee State University. Deanna then practiced for six years as a nationally certified school psychologist in public schools in both Tennessee and Ohio. Deanna's experience as a school psychologist has provided her with a unique insight and knowledge of the challenges faced by today's school personnel.

Furthering her education, Deanna graduated magna cum laude with a Juris Doctorate from the University of Dayton School of Law. Deanna was the executive publication editor for the University's law review and published a comment on the use of restraints in public schools. While obtaining her legal degree, Deanna clerked for an Ohio law firm that represented over a hundred public school districts. Deanna worked on a number of legal issues faced by school systems, including special education, Section 504, ADA, general education, student discipline, employment law, and board policy. Under an Ohio intern's license, Deanna also obtained courtroom experience through her externship with an Ohio prosecutor's office.

Upon completion of her legal degree, Deanna went into private practice as an attorney with the Law Office of Melinda Jacobs PLLC (LOMJ). As an attorney with LOMJ, Deanna was mentored by a renowned special education attorney, Melinda Jacobs, and gained experience in consultation, trial preparation, litigation, and professional development in the legal areas of IDEA and Section 504. These experiences have prepared Deanna to provide unparalleled services to her clients.

# AGENDA

## Thursday, March 5, 2026

- 8:00am **Breakfast & Registration with Vendors & Sponsors**
- 9:00am **Welcome & Introductions/ SDE Updates**
- 9:30am **Session #1 Collaborating with Caregivers to Address School Refusal Behavior**  
**Speakers:** Tom Brant, MA CAS, Eric Elias, MS Ed, ABSNP and Courtney E. Huguenin, MS, NCSP  
This session focuses on actionable strategies for supporting caregivers of students with school refusal behavior, including communication systems, routine development, crisis planning, and culturally responsive engagement
- 11:00am **BREAK with Vendors & Sponsors**
- 11:15am **Session #3 Panel on Disruptive Prevention: Collaboration/Communication**  
**Moderator:** Yvette Goorevitch, ConnCASE Executive Director  
**Panelists:** Jennifer Lussier, Partnership Programs Manager at CPAC; Josh Martin, Director of Student Support Services at East Granby Public Schools; Ann Paul, CT State Mediator at CSDE and Jennifer Hoffman, Assistant Superintendent at Hartford Public Schools.
- 12:30pm **LUNCH**
- 1:30pm **Attorney Panel Discussion: State Legal Issues**  
**Moderator:** Katharine Gabrielson, Director of Student Services at Winchester Public Schools  
**Panelists:** Attorney Christine Chinni at Chinni & Associates; Attorney Michelle Laubin at Berchem Moses PC and Peter Maher at Shipman & Goodwin LLP
- 3:00pm **Networking Reception**  
**Celebration IDEA/Networking Reception with our Vendors** - PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN OUT  
(all attendees will be given a ticket at registration - must be present to win)

## Friday, March 6, 2026

- 8:00am **Breakfast**
- 9:00am **Welcome & Introductions**
- 9:15am **Keynote Presentation: Attorney Deanna Arivett: *The Year's Top Special Education Cases***
- 10:15am **BREAK with Vendors & Sponsors**
- 10:30am **Keynote Presentation: *The Year's Top Special Education Cases***
- 12:00pm **Lunch with our Vendors**
- 1:00pm **Keynote Presentation: *Strategies for Managing Parental Threats, Demands, & Disruptions without Violating Parental Participation Rights***
- 1:50pm **Break/Visit with Vendors**
- 2:00pm **Keynote Presentation: *From Identification to Plan: Educating Students with Mental Health Needs***
- 3:00pm **Adjourn**

## **2025 – 2026 ConnCASE Board of Directors & Representatives**

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<b>President:</b>	Aimee Turner, Wallingford Public Schools
<b>Past President/ Legislative Co-Chairperson:</b>	Kathie Gabrielson, Winchester Public Schools
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<b>CASE Representative:</b>	Lisa Hughes, Norwich Public Schools
<b>Executive Director:</b>	Yvette Goorevitch
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# GOALBOOK Toolkit

The **holistic, research-based solution** that improves **specialized instruction** and **student outcomes** ★★★



**ELIZABETH BATTAGLIA, ED.D.**  
Director of Special Education,  
MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Goalbook Toolkit has proven to be a game-changer in the development of measurable goals and objectives within our IEPs, ultimately leading to improved outcomes for our students. It has fostered collaboration, enhanced data-driven decision-making, and empowered our educators to provide the highest level of support to our students with diverse learning needs.”

## ★ Improve Educator Effectiveness with Goalbook Toolkit



### Data-Driven Present Levels

Special educators using Goalbook Toolkit write better PLAAFP statements associated with increased math/reading outcomes.



### CT-Aligned Measurable IEP Goals

Goals contain 2.5x more info for planning and measuring success.



### Research-Based SDI

Enhance instructional differentiation with strategies, implementation tips, and progress-monitoring assessments.

New Feature!

## THREADS

### Human-centered AI that Empowers Special Educators ★

Threads is a new way to create IEPs from start to finish within Goalbook Toolkit.

Blending teacher knowledge with disability research, data, instructional practices, and IDEA requirements.

➔ Visit [GOALBOOK.COM/QUOTE](https://GOALBOOK.COM/QUOTE) to learn more, or contact:



**JON MITCHELL,**  
District Partnerships  
(919) 672-7380  
[jonm@goalbook.com](mailto:jonm@goalbook.com)



**CAPSEF**

*Innovation in Special Education*

**Connecticut Association of Private Special Education Facilities**

*is proud to announce their*

## **Fifth Annual Golf Tournament**

In partnership with



**Wednesday, June 24, 2026  
8:00am**

**Lyman Orchards Golf Club**  
70 Lyman Road  
Middlefield, CT  
*18 Hole Tournament*

**Join educators, advocates, and community  
partners for a day of golf supporting  
Connecticut's private special  
education schools!**

**For more information, please visit:  
[www.capsef.org](http://www.capsef.org)  
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