

Nevada Department of Education IEP Facilitator/Mediator Directory

Ann Drendel-Haas

Ann Drendel-Haas is a native of Reno, Nevada and spent her early professional career as a child development specialist, special education teacher and education coordinator of services for adolescents receiving in-patient mental health treatment. In addition to serving as a mediator and IEP facilitator for the Nevada Department of Education, Ann currently serves as a mediation coordinator for the Neighborhood Mediation Center in Reno, Nevada. She provides facilitative, mediation services in both Reno and Sparks Justice Courts on a wide variety of community issues. Prior to her service with the Neighborhood Mediation Center, Ann was a statewide special education consultant for the Nevada Department of Education and an area administrator of special education services at the county/LEA level. In addition to her state and county special education experience, Ann also brings the family perspective to her work after having successfully advocated for a family member's challenging transition from school to work. She is committed to a process that has the potential to resolve conflict when both parties make a good faith effort to be open-minded and listen to each other. It is her belief that facilitative mediation provides an opportunity for both parties of any dispute to be heard and find a workable solution.

Dr. Gretchen Greiner

Dr. Greiner retired as the Director of Instruction from the Elko County School District (ECSD) in 2001. Prior to that she was the Coordinator of Special Education Services for ECSD. Dr. Greiner began her career as a Speech Therapist and then was an Elementary School Principal. Dr. Greiner has also served as an Impartial Due Process Hearing Officer and a State Review Officer for the Nevada Department of Education. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and her Master of Science in Communicative Disorders from Utah State University. Then finished her Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Gerald C. Kops, J.D., Ph.D.

Educational Background

BS Degree UW Milwaukee 1963 with Honors. J.D. Cornell Law School Ithaca New York 1966. Selected for Moot Court Board. Ph.D. University of Wisconsin Madison 1987. Dissertation Educational Leadership: A Qualitative Analysis of Wisconsin School District Compliance With District Administrator Nonrenewal Legislation.

Law Practice

Attorney Kops practiced law in Wisconsin from 1969 to 1989. He began his legal career as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for Milwaukee County. In 1970 he moved to Madison Wisconsin and eventually assumed the position of house counsel for the Madison Metropolitan School District. In 1978 Dr. Kops accepted a partnership offer and entered private practice with the Isaksen Lathrop Esch Hart & Clark law firm. The primary focus of his practice was education law.

His experience includes appearances at all levels of the state and federal executive education bureaucracy. Litigation experience includes both trial and appellate work at all levels of the Wisconsin and Federal Judicial system. He successfully argued before USSC in *MMSD v. WERC* 1976.

Academic Service

Dr. Kops served as an Adjunct professor UW-Madison Law School 1989 and the UW-Madison Education Leadership program before he received his Doctorate. In 1989 he accepted an offer from UNLV to join the Department of Educational Leadership. Professor Kops engaged in teaching, scholarship and service activities for The Departments of Educational Leadership and Higher Education until he retired in December 2010. His teaching focus was Education Law & Ethics. He also chaired and served on numerous Doctoral committees in K-12 and Higher Education. Among other publications he authored and coauthored several editions of Nevada School Law Cases and Materials Kendall/Hunt. Upon his retirement Professor Kops was awarded emeritus status.

Mediation/IEP Facilitator

Dr. Kops became an IDEA Mediator for the State of Nevada in 1999 and continues to accept appointments. Finally, in 2018 Dr. Kops began serving as an IEP Facilitator for the NDE.

Janie Lowe

Janie Lowe is a retired Nevada educator of 30 years. Her most recent position was serving as the Interim Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement at the Nevada Department of Education (NDE), overseeing the offices of Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management; Career Readiness, Adult Learning and Education Options; Early Learning and Development Special Education; Standards and Instructional Support; and Student and School Support. Prior to that role, she was the Director of Student and School Support as well as the State Title I Director. Ms. Lowe also performed Education Programs Professional duties in Early Childhood Education and Parent Involvement. Janie began her education career in Nevada by establishing and teaching in Early Childhood Special Education Programs in two separate school districts. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development from the University of California, Davis and her Master of Arts degree in Education/Child Life Health from Mills College, Oakland, California.