The Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities presents the

12th Annual Disability Law Conference & CLE

July 30, 2026

MC School of Law

151 James H. Meredith Drive, Jackson, MS 39201

CLE 6 hours (includes 1 hour Ethics) / Teacher CEU .6 hours

8:30 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.	**Registration, continental breakfast**	
8:55 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	**Welcome & Conference Overview**	
9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	**The Rights of Students with Disabilities: An Overview of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA")** *Amy K. Bonn, Esquire*	1.25
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	**Break**	
10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	**The Lawyer's Role in Representing Families of Students with Disabilities in Individualized Education Program ("IEP") Meetings: How to Prepare and What to Expect** *Amy K. Bonn, Esquire*	1.25
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	**Lunch provided**	
12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	**Keeping Students with Disabilities in the Classroom: Rights under the IDEA and Section 504 in the Student Discipline Context** *Amy K. Bonn, Esquire*	1.25
2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	**Litigating an IDEA Case: An Overview from Administrative Due Process to Appellate Review** *Amy K. Bonn, Esquire*	1.25
3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	**Break**	
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	***(Ethics Hour)*** **Attorneys' Fees Awards in IDEA Cases: Understanding the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct for Lawyer-Client Communication and Scope of Representation** *Amy K. Bonn, Esquire*	1.0

Disability Law Conference & CLE

Description of Sessions

Overview

This conference provides attorneys, advocates, and families with a practical overview of the rights of students with disabilities under the IDEA, Section 504, and the ADA. Sessions cover student rights, IEP advocacy, school discipline protections, IDEA litigation from due process through appeals, and ethical considerations related to attorneys' fees and client representation. Participants will gain the knowledge and skills needed to effectively support and advocate for students with disabilities in educational and legal settings.

The Rights of Students with Disabilities: An Overview of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA")

This session provides an overview of the federal laws protecting students with disabilities, including the IDEA, Section 504, and the ADA. Participants will review procedural safeguards, dispute resolution options, Child Find obligations, the right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE), and the evaluation and IEP processes. The session will also address parents' rights, anti-discrimination and anti-retaliation protections, vocational rehabilitation services, and significant Supreme Court and Fifth Circuit decisions affecting disability law.

The Lawyer's Role in Representing Families of Students with Disabilities in Individualized Education Program ("IEP") Meetings: How to Prepare and What to Expect

This session focuses on preparing for and effectively participating in IEP meetings on behalf of students with disabilities and their families. Topics include reviewing educational records, analyzing key components of the IEP, developing measurable goals, evaluating placement in the least restrictive environment, and using Prior Written Notice as an advocacy tool. Participants will also examine transition services, vocational rehabilitation resources, and the distinctions between IEPs and Section 504 Plans.

Keeping Students with Disabilities in the Classroom: Rights under the IDEA and Section 504 in the Student Discipline Context

This session examines the rights of students with disabilities in school discipline proceedings under the IDEA and Section 504. Participants will learn about disciplinary removals, Manifestation Determination Reviews (MDRs), advocacy strategies during the MDR process, expedited appeals, and Honig injunctions. The session will also address the disciplinary protections available to students served under Section 504.

Litigating an IDEA Case: An Overview from Administrative Due Process to Appellate Review

This session provides a practical overview of IDEA litigation from the filing of a due process complaint through appellate review. Participants will discuss common IDEA claims, available remedies, procedural and substantive violations, exhaustion requirements, preservation of non-IDEA claims, stay-put protections, mediation, due process hearings, judicial review, and appeals. The session will also address dispute resolution in the vocational rehabilitation context.

Attorneys' Fees Awards in IDEA Cases: Understanding the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct for Lawyer-Client Communication and Scope of Representation (Ethics)

This ethics session examines attorneys' fees in IDEA litigation and related professional responsibility considerations. Participants will review fee-shifting provisions, engagement letter considerations, prevailing-party requirements, settlement-offer issues, documentation of reasonable fees, and the pursuit of attorneys' fees through litigation. The program will also explore ethical obligations regarding client communication and the scope of representation.