# SPECIAL EDUCATION HEARING OFFICERS

Revised 3/2023

Note: In Virginia, special education due process hearings, which are held pursuant to the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, are conducted by attorneys who meet standards set by the Supreme Court of Virginia and the Virginia Department of Education, including completion of ongoing training requirements. **Please be advised that the Supreme Court provides the Local Educational Agency with the name of a currently approved hearing officer for a special education matter at the time a request for a hearing is made.**

Year in parentheses indicates the year the hearing officer was certified to hear special education cases.

* **Richard M. Alvey (1996)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1980. Graduate of University of Miami, B.A., University of Richmond, J.D. Served as hearing officer since 1996.
* **Frank G. Aschmann (1994)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1988. Graduate of University of Virginia, B.A., 1982; Nova Southeastern University, J.D., 1988. Experience in employment law, small business matters, wills and estates, criminal law and juvenile cases. Virginia Supreme Court certified Guardian ad litem for children.
* **Morgan Brooke-Devlin (1993)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1978; graduate of Old Dominion University, 1975, B.A.; William and Mary, Marshall-Wythe, 1978; experience in administrative law in labor, employment, immigration, EEOC; Represented clients in matters of education and special education law.
* **Cecil H. Creasey, Jr. (1993)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1983. Graduate of College of William and Mary, B.B.A., 1980; J.D. 1983. Experience in administrative law, risk management, business, corporate and real estate law, practice experience in civil trial and appellate litigation.
* **Reginald B. Frazier (1996)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1964. Graduate of William and Mary, B.A., 1962; Marshall-Wythe Law School at William and Mary, J.D., 1964. Hearing officer experience since 1996.
* **Sarah S. Freeman (1989)**

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* Background/Experience: General practicing of law since 1982. Hearing Officer since 1989. Graduate of Sweet Briar College, B.A., 1975; George Mason University School of Law, J.D., 1981.
* **Frederick Gerson (2021)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1996 with a wide ranging practice including corporate and general business law, litigation, and regulatory and administrative law. Graduate of Johns Hopkins University, B.A., 1991; College of William & Mary-Wythe School of Law, J.D., 1996. Supreme Court of Virginia hearing officer since 2003, presiding over various administrative proceedings.
* **Robin S. Gnatowsky (1997)**

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(804) 364-5071, FAX (804) 364-6387

* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1989 and Hearing officer since 1998. He has a Juris Doctorate from the Washington and Lee University School of Law, in Lexington, Virginia, a Master of Science in Personal Financial Planning (MSPFP) from the College for Financial Planning, in Denver, Colorado, and a Master of Science in Financial Services (M.S.F.S.) from the Richard D. Irwin Graduate School of Management, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
* **Robert J. Hartsoe (1999)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1987. Graduate of College of William and Mary B.A., 1984; University of Richmond School of Law, J.D., 1987. Appointed as a Circuit Court Commissioner in Chancery; Guardian *ad litem*for children and adults, 1991; and, lectured regarding adult guardian/conservatorship, family law, *guardian ad litem* matters and the neutral-case evaluation process. Hearing officer experience since 1999, including hearings for the Virginia Department of Education; Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles; Virginia Retirement System; Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired; Virginia Department of Social Services; and Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.
* **Ternon Galloway Lee (2001)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1989. Graduate of College of William and Mary, J.D. Member of the Virginia State Bar. Former clerk for the Supreme Court of Virginia. Experience as an Assistant Attorney General (1990-93). Former educator in public school system.
* **Brian K. Miller (1986)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1974. Graduate of University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law, J.D. Hearing officer experience since 1982.
* **Rhonda J.S. Mitchell (2001)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1980. Graduate of Dickenson School of Law, Carlisle, PA. Administrative experience in military administrative law, federal liaison activities, law enforcement, social services and educational law.
* **Krysia Carmel Nelson (2001)**

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(434) 979-0053, FAX (434) 977-7323

* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1995. Graduate of Dartmouth College, B.A., 1992; Villanova University School of Law, J.D., 1995. Practiced special education law 1997-98. Hearing officer experience since 2001.
* **John V. Robinson (1997)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1986. Graduate of University of Oxford, England, B.A., T C Williams School of Law, University of Richmond, J.D. Extensive experience covering administrative law.
* **Carl Schmidt (2021)**

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New Kent, Virginia 23124

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* Background/Experience: Virginia State Bar member since 1984. Graduate of University of Virginia, B.A. with Distinction, 1981; University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law, J.D., 1984. Supreme Court of Virginia hearing officer since 2012, presiding over various administrative proceedings, with extensive experience in regulatory and administrative law.
* **Peter Vaden (1996)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1990, Graduate of University of Virginia, B.A., 1975; J.D. 1990. Member of Virginia State Bar and D.C. Bar (Judicial). Virginia Supreme Court Hearing Officer since 1996. Contract Impartial Due Process Hearing Officer for the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education since 2009.
* **Tiziana Ventimiglia (2021)**

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* Background/Experience: Practicing attorney since 1998. Graduate of Università di Roma "La Sapienza" (Italy), J.D., 1994 and University of Alabama School of Law, J.D., 1997. Wide-ranging practice experience including litigation, guardianship/conservatorship, guardian *ad litem* work, mediation (GDC certified), administrative law, business law, employment law, contracts, and estate planning.