



*The Georgia Council  
of Administrators of  
Special Education*

*2024 Special Education  
Legal Forum*



***March 4, 5, and 6, 2024***  
*The Classic Center*  
*Athens, Georgia*





# **G-CASE Strategic Plan**

## **Purpose**

G-CASE advocates for improved services for students with disabilities.

## **Mission:**

- Promote professional learning
- Promote engaged membership
- Promote effective leadership

## **Vision:**

A unified voice promoting excellence in leaders of programs for students with disabilities

## **Strategy Statement:**

By offering effective performance-based professional learning and promoting the engagement of members, G-CASE will impact state and national policy and legislation

## **Strategic Goal Areas:**

Goal 1: To impact legislation and policy

Goal 2: To promote engaged membership

Goal 3: To provide performance-based professional learning

# 2024 G-CASE Spring Legal Forum

***Monday, March 4, 2024***

8:30 AM	<b>Conference Registration</b>	<b>Main Lobby</b>
1:00 PM	<b>Conference Opening</b> Michele Sayles Harris <i>G-CASE President</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
1:15 PM	<b>An Update on Current Legal Issues, As Always with a Special Education Twist</b> Phil Hartley <i>Pereira, Kirby, Kinsinger, and Nguyen, LLP</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
2:15 PM	<b>General Assembly Update</b> Dr. Jimmy Stokes <i>Policy Analyst, GAEL</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
3:15 PM	<b>Refreshment Break</b>	<b>Main Lobby</b>
3:45 PM	<b>Did You Bring Your Umbrella?</b> Wina Low <i>State Director</i> <i>Special Education Services and Supports</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
5:00 PM	<b>End of Conference Day 1</b>	

**Congratulations,  
Special Education  
Administrator  
Development Academy!**

*YOU are ready!*

# Tuesday, March 5, 2024

## Special Education Administrator Development Academy Day

7:30 AM	<b>Conference Registration</b>	<b>Main Lobby</b>
7:45-8:30	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Grand Hall</b>
8:30 AM	<b>General Session</b> Michele Sayles Harris <i>G-CASE President</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
9:15 AM	<b>Special Education Legal Updates: State Perspective</b> Jamila Pollard <i>Senior Program Manager/ Legal Officer GaDOE</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
10:15 AM	<b>Beverage Refreshment Break</b> <i>Visit ADA Showcase</i>	<b>Olympia 1 &amp; 2</b>
11:00 AM	<b>Two Bites at the Apple? Tips to Avoid Excessive Litigation Following Fry and Perez</b> Phil Hartley Catherine Followill <i>Pereira, Kirby, Kinsinger, and Nguyen, LLP</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
11:00 AM	<b>[ADA Breakout Session 1]</b> <i>Carol Seay</i>	<b>Parthenon 1</b>
12:00 PM	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Grand Hall</b>
1:00 PM	<b>Building a Plane while Flying (Without a Parachute): What are the Rules when Working with Parent Advocates?</b> Beth Morris Reagan Sauls <i>Parke Poe</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
1:00 PM	<b>[ADA Breakout Session 2]</b> <i>Carol Seay</i>	<b>Parthenon 1</b>

2:15 PM	<b>Refreshment Break</b>	<b>Main Lobby</b>
2:45 PM	<b>Special Recognition:</b> <i>Special Education Administrator Development Academy</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
3:00 PM	<b>Personnel Problems The Sequel</b> Canon Hill Sydney Solomon <i>Jones Cork LLP</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
4:00 PM	<b>Dissecting the Anatomy of a Winning Manifestation Determination Review</b> MaryGrace Kittrell	<b>Athena A-F</b>
5:00 PM	Beth Morris <i>Parker Poe</i>	
5:00 PM	<b>Social</b> <i>Sponsored by Allied Instructional Services</i>	<b>Main Lobby</b>

**End of Conference Day 2**

## ***Wednesday, March 6, 2024***

7:30-9:00	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Main Lobby</b>
9:00 AM	<b>What's Happening in Special Education Law Since Last Year's Conference</b> Julie Weatherly, Esq. <i>Resolutions in Special Education, Inc.</i>	<b>Athena A-F</b>
10:15 AM	<b>Break (No Food)</b>	
10:45 AM	<b>What's Happening in Special Education Law Since Last Year's Conference</b> Julie Weatherly, Esq. <i>Resolutions in Special Education, Inc.</i> (CONTINUED)	<b>Athena A-F</b>
12:00 PM	<b>Conference Adjourns</b>	



## **G-CASE Executive Board**

### **2023-2024**

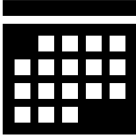
Michele Sayles Harris	President
Tris Gilland	Immediate Past President
Brad Bowling	President-Elect
MaryKay Berry	Vice President
Todd Williford	Secretary
Damita James	Treasurer
Ashly Hunter	CEC Representative
Rosie Gwin	Parliamentarian
Zabrina Cannady	Emeritus Council Chair
Kitty Crawford	Communications Chair
Sean Cooper	Legislative Co-Chair
Greg McElwee	Legislative Co-Chair
Tonya Plant	Membership Chair
Michelle Dye	Professional Development Chair
Carrie Powell	Research and Innovations Co-Chair
Jenny Rooks	Research and Innovation Co-Chair
Tiera Bowen	Policy and Procedures Chair
Cindy Felkins	Strategic Plan Chair
Wina Low	<i>Ex Officio</i> , GaDOE Liaison
Belinda Tiller	<i>Ex Officio</i> , SELDA
Lynn Holland	<i>Ex Officio</i> , SELDA
Sarah Burbach	Executive Director



## **G-CASE Advisory Board 2023-2024**

Amanda Oxford	Catoosa County	District 1
Jessica Chastain	Gilmer County	District 2
Katie Lowry	Lumpkin County	District 3
Chery Handley	Douglas County	District 4
Trina Smith	Clayton County	District 4
Suzanne Korngold	Oconee County	District 5
Chrissy Dement	Coweta County	District 6
Charles Kelly	Griffin-Spalding	District 7
Kristi-Lee Arrington	Crawford County	District 8
Tiera Bowen	Putnam County	District 9
Michelle Dye	Burke County	District 10
Kristen Stokes	Crisp County	Districts 11 /12
Lynn Freeman	Pulaski County	District 13
Mary Susan Arnold	Jeff-Davis County	District 14
Mindy Yanzetich	Liberty County	District 15
Kerri Miller	Oaktree GNETS	District 16
Mindell Downing	Lowndes County	District 17
Dana Vickers	Coffee County	District 18





*Save these Dates!*

**2024 CEC Convention**

San Antonio, TX  
March 12-15, 2024

**G-CASE Drive-In Conference:**

**All Things BEHAVIOR!**

Houston County Annex Auditorium  
May 3, 2024

**G-CASE Executive Board Summer Retreat**

Georgia Gameday Center, Athens, GA  
June 19-21, 2024

**G-CASE Special Education Administrator  
Development Academy (ADA)**

June 2024- March 2025

**GAEL Summer Conference**

Jekyll Island Convention Center  
July 14-16, 2024

**Annual CASE/CEC Legislative Summit**

Washington, D.C.  
July 29-August 1, 2024

**2024 CASE Conference**

Savannah, GA (!!!)  
November 6-8, 2024

**G-CASE 2024 Fall Conference**

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Savannah, GA  
November 13-15, 2024



## Special Education Administrator Development Academy

### The IDEAL applicant is...

- = A proven teacher leader with five or more years of experience as a Special Education teacher
- = Identified by his/her principal, special education director, and/or superintendent
- = Aspires to move into a future administrative position within the field of Special Education

*"The days we have spent learning from experts and collaborating with others in the field have provided knowledge that no college course or other professional learning opportunity could have provided. I leave each session feeling more prepared and excited about my future as a leader in special education and am so thankful for this experience!"*

Applications for the 2024-2025  
School Year Roll Out Mid-March!



## Visit the 2023-2024 ADA Showcase!

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 10:15-11:00 Olympia 1 & 2

## **2023-2024 Special Education Administrator Development Academy (ADA)**

Melissa Andrews	Washington County	Sp Ed Dept. Chair
Jessica Beam	Rome City	Ed. Diagnostician
Tiffany Canty	Douglas County	PEC Specialist
Julie Chancey	Gilmer County	AP/Lead SPED Tr.
Jenean Cooper-Bolston	Wilkinson County	Lead Sp Ed Teacher
Kyle Davis	Treutlen County	Sp Ed Teacher
Lee Anne DeSilets	Houston County	Sp Ed Dept. Chair
Courtney Eaton	Pulaski County	SLP
Gwendolyn Edmond	Muscogee County	Sp Ed Teacher
Hope Gore-Williams	Coffee County	Sp Ed Referral Coord.
Brooke Hartley	Bibb County	Behavior Specialist
Jennifer Hartwell	Jackson County	Assistant Principal
Latoya Henry	Atlanta Public Schools	Inclusive Practice Spec.
Anquanette Herndon	Marietta City	Teacher Support Spec.
Marco Hicks-Brown	Dept. of Juvenile Justice	Sp Ed Support Spec.
Sabrina Hill	Bibb County	Lead Sp Ed Teacher
Krisie Howard	Whitfield County	ESS Facilitator
Kimberly Jarrell	Taylor County	Lead Sp Ed Teacher
Sara Kulik	Hall County	Sp Ed Prof Learning
Alison LaFevers	Stephens County	Pre-K Sp Ed Co-Teacher
Brandi Mauney	Houston County	Transition Specialist
Janet McClendon	Greene County	Sp Ed Lead Teacher
Stacey Morgan	Thomasville City	Lead Sp Ed Tr.
Courtney Murphy	Quitman County	Sp Ed Teacher
Angella Phillips	Crawford County	Sp Ed Lead Co-Teacher
Macie Rooke-Smith	White County	Sp Ed Co-Teacher
Christie Simpson	Colquitt County	Sp Ed Dept. Coord.
Kayla Smith	Walton County	Sp Ed Instructional Spec.
Pamela Smith-Ligon	Atlanta Public Schools	Sp Ed Chair
Joshua Stanley	Murray County	ESS: Sp Ed Lead
Stephanie Voyles	Muscogee County	Sp Ed Lead Teacher
Kelly Wade	Barrow County	IEP Facilitator
Tanya Woods	Polk County	Exc. St. Services Spec.
Carolyn Wright	Dawson County	Lead Sp Ed Teacher
Erin Young	Glynn County	CABS Program Spec.



## G-CASE Past-Presidents

<b>2022-2023</b>	Cassandra Holifield		
<b>2020-2022</b>	Tris Gilland	<b>1998-2000</b>	Emily Collins
<b>2019-2020</b>	Zabrina Cannady	<b>1996-1998</b>	Facie Goodman
<b>2018-2019</b>	Greg McElwee	<b>1994-1996</b>	Luann Purcell
<b>2017-2018</b>	Charlette Green	<b>1992-1994</b>	Ethyl Ault
<b>2016-2017</b>	Jimmy Pitzer	<b>1990-1992</b>	Lee Howard
<b>2015-2016</b>	Allison Oxford	<b>1988-1990</b>	Alan White
<b>2014-2015</b>	Traci White	<b>1986-1988</b>	Gerrie Griggs
<b>2013-2014</b>	Jennifer Donnelly	<b>1984-1986</b>	Mike Van Wyck
<b>2012-2013</b>	Philip Mellor	<b>1982-1984</b>	Virginia Brickman
<b>2011-2012</b>	Christi Teal	<b>1980-1982</b>	Raleigh Hussman
<b>2010-2011</b>	Chris Horton	<b>1978-1980</b>	Nancy Moak
<b>2009-2010</b>	Mikki Garcia	<b>1977-1978</b>	Tony Molinaro
<b>2008-2009</b>	Bonnie Seery	<b>1976-1977</b>	Milton McDonald
<b>2007-2008</b>	Jo Alice Ray	<b>1975-1976</b>	Ruth Allen Barnes
<b>2006-2007</b>	Peggy West	<b>1974-1975</b>	JoAnn Brittingham
<b>2005-2006</b>	Debbie Gay	<b>1973-1974</b>	Harold Smith
<b>2004-2005</b>	Carolyn Williams	<b>1972-1973</b>	Robert Todd
<b>2002-2004</b>	Rae Ann Gerhardt	<b>1971-1972</b>	Jeptha Greer

G-CASE honored our Past-Presidents with a special dinner sponsored by *Beable* Sunday night, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, before the conference. What a wonderful evening of remembering past issues, topics, conferences, and esteemed colleagues!

Thank you, Past-Presidents, for the strong foundation you set for G-CASE!

# Join

## JOIN CASE/CEC

<https://www.casecec.org/membership>



Whether you're starting out in the field of Special Education, serving students in classrooms, training the next generation of special educators, or administering Special Education programs, you need to be a part of our Special Education Professional Communities. All participants at this Spring Legal Conference are members of **G-CASE**. G-CASE keeps you updated on general and special education rules, trends, and legal issues by providing pertinent, timely professional learning. As leaders, you will also want to **JOIN CASE/CEC** to get a national view of Special Education through professional learning, networking, resources, policy, and advocacy. We are **YOUR** people! You can **JOIN CASE/CEC** when you register for the G-CASE Fall or Spring Conference or at the link above.

## JOIN SLACK slack

[https://join.slack.com/t/g-case/shared\\_invite/zt-2cgd7g50y-7Tn9s5IaEqfOLYYF22PQgg](https://join.slack.com/t/g-case/shared_invite/zt-2cgd7g50y-7Tn9s5IaEqfOLYYF22PQgg) or add the *Slack* app to your phone.

G-CASE has created a place for our members to share ideas and concerns, ask questions, and provide feedback on all things Special Education. Our first collaboration had us discussing diploma names all across the state! Please **join** and provide feedback on any other issues you want to share. Only active, paying G-CASE members (you!) will have access to this site. Just imagine being able to communicate with 701 G-CASE members about anything and everything immediately as the need comes up!

# 2024 Spring Legal Forum Sponsors

G-CASE is proud to present the Sponsors for this conference. Attracting companies to sponsor the conference is win-win-win for all: Members get the opportunity to learn about the newest special education programs, equipment and supplies; Participants are able to meet the company representatives face-to-face in order to ask specific questions, and conference costs to attendees are reduced. Thank you for supporting our Sponsors!







Scan this **QR Code** for Conference Handouts and Presentations (some items will be placed *after* the conference), located on home page of the G-CASE Website: [gcase.schoolinsites.com/](http://gcase.schoolinsites.com/)

### **The Classic Center**

Wi-Fi Network: G-CASE; Password: GCASE2024



**Website:** [gcase.schoolinsites.com/](http://gcase.schoolinsites.com/)

**Facebook:** *GCASE*

**Instagram:** *@gcase2020*

**Twitter:** *#GCASE2022*

**Cell:** 706.474.4272

If you have questions during the conference or need *anything*, please contact Sarah Burbach, Executive Director at 706-474-4272 or [sburbach@gael.org](mailto:sburbach@gael.org)