



krihalaw

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ISBE General Counsel Joining Kriha Law

June 27, 2019



Stephanie Jones, General Counsel for the Illinois State Board of Education, is joining Kriha Law as a Partner on July 1, 2019. Stephanie will be available to represent clients in all aspects of labor, employment, student, special education, business and board governance matters.

“Stephanie Jones is a vibrant, thoughtful, and innovative attorney,” said former State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D. “Her courageous spirit and strong moral convictions help her do what is best for children and to improve environments in ways that maximize their true potential. She is a skilled negotiator and thought partner. Stephanie is a collaborative multi-disciplinary team builder. Her leadership and hard work made ISBE

more student-centered and focused on service.”

Stephanie’s student-centered and proactive approach is a perfect fit for Kriha Law. She has 18 years of experience in labor and employment, student and special education, litigation, and board governance matters.

“We are thrilled that Stephanie has chosen to join Kevin, Laura, Mohammed and me,” said Darcy Kriha. “Steph is a true servant leader who has dedicated her professional career to school districts and the children they serve. We are honored and humbled by her shared vision and commitment to making student-centered decisions on behalf of clients.”

“I was lucky early in my career,” Stephanie said. “I worked in a satellite office of a larger law firm that specialized in school law. Sometimes I was the only attorney. At most, there were a couple of us. Because of that, I got experience in many different legal areas, all for school clients.”

At the State Board, Stephanie’s most notable accomplishment involved leading a public inquiry into the special education practices at Chicago Public Schools and the implementation of the resulting corrective action.

“The public inquiry was a unique opportunity,” Stephanie said. “I’ve done many investigations in my career, but this one was different. Dr. Smith asked me to design a system for investigation that would allow the public a bird’s-eye view into our work while still ensuring the integrity of our process. I’m very proud of that work and its results. I think CPS special education will be better for it.”

Stephanie is an accomplished and highly sought-after speaker on all school law topics at both the state and national level. She has also authored articles regarding special education, student sexting, and school board member legal liability.

Stephanie and her husband, Jeremy Davis, live in Crystal Lake with their young son, Lawrence.

More information about Stephanie is available at www.krihalaw.com. Stephanie can be reached at stephanie@krihalaw.com or (630) 394-3786.