



Jonathan B. Fellows

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Profile

Jonathan is a trial attorney who also represents school districts and private schools in various matters. He has represented districts in dozens of impartial hearings for students with disabilities, and in appeals of such cases to the Office of State Review. Jonathan has defended school districts in IDEA and Section 504 in cases in federal district court and on appeal to the United States Court of Appeals.

He has represented districts in numerous investigations by the Office of Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education and by the New York State Department of Education.

Jonathan has also handled numerous cases regarding student discipline, including appeals to the New York Commissioner of Education and challenges of discipline in the courts. He represented the district in *Wisniewski v. Weedsport Central School District*, 494 F.3d 34 (2d Cir. 2007), in which the court upheld a suspension of a student for posting online threats against a teacher. Jonathan represented the district in *Kearney v. Ithaca City School District*, 19 N.Y.3d 481 (2012), in which the Court of Appeals held that the Division of Human Rights lacked jurisdiction over claims by students against public school districts.

Honors & Affiliations

- Listed in:
 - *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Bet-the-Company Litigation; Commercial Litigation; Litigation - Banking and Finance; Litigation - Labor and Employment; Litigation and Controversy - Tax, 2011-2025 (listed for more than 10 years)
 - Lawyer of the Year (Syracuse), Litigation - Banking and Finance, 2016
 - *New York Super Lawyers*®, General Litigation, 2024 (listed for more than 10 years)
 - *Chambers USA* 2024, Litigation – Upstate New York
 - *Martindale-Hubbell*®, AV Preeminent Rated
- New York State Bar Association, Trial Lawyers, Commercial and Federal Litigation Sections
- Onondaga County Bar Association

Education

- Cornell Law School (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1985)
- Hamilton College (A.B., *cum laude*, 1980)

Bar/Court Admissions

- New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York

Practices

- School Law
- Municipalities
- Higher Education
- Toxic Tort and Environmental Litigation
- Litigation
- Intellectual Property
- Business Restructuring, Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy
- Class and Collective Action Litigation

- Order of the Coif
- Editor-in-Chief, *Cornell Law Review*
- Mediator, ADR Mandatory Mediation Program, Northern District of New York

Representative Publications

- Quoted in 5 Tips for Avoiding Awkward Video-Conferencing Malfunctions in Courts, Depositions, *Law.com*, November 20, 2020
- Review: Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts, 4th Edition, *Onondaga County Bar Reporter*, June 2016

Representative Presentations

- Moderator, Restrictive Covenants: The Good, the Bad and What the Future Holds, NYSBA Webinar, June 17, 2020
- Class Action Refund Lawsuits Against Higher Educational Institutions, CICU Webinar, May 14, 2020

Other Activities

- Chancellor, Episcopal Diocese of Central New York
- Vestry Warden, St. Peter's Episcopal Church