



Aaron S. Bayer

SPECIAL COUNSEL

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Aaron is Special Counsel and co-chair of the firm's Education Practice Group. He previously chaired the firm's Appellate Practice Group and continues to handle complex appeals. Based on his experience in government, he also advises companies and non-profit organizations on government regulatory matters and investigations.

Aaron draws on his experience in positions in higher education and government to advise colleges, universities, private secondary schools, and non-profit organizations on the complex legal, regulatory, and public relations issues they regularly face. His advice is tempered by a deep understanding of the culture and operations of colleges and universities, having served as General Counsel and Secretary of Connecticut College. In that position, he coordinated the work of the Board of Trustees, advised the college's President, and oversaw all of the college's legal affairs, including litigation, contracts, internal policies and procedures, and compliance with state and federal law. He also served as Acting Vice President for Advancement and taught Constitutional Law at both Connecticut College and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

An accomplished appellate lawyer and a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, Aaron has argued numerous high-profile cases before state and federal appeals courts in Connecticut and around the country. He has written on appellate issues, including an appellate column for the *National Law Journal*. Since 2006, he has been named in *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work as an appellate lawyer and was named Hartford Appellate Practice "Lawyer of the Year." Aaron was also honored as a "Litigation Star" by *Benchmark Litigation* in the categories of Appellate, General Commercial, and Higher Education Law.

Aaron previously served as the Deputy Attorney General of Connecticut and as counsel to the U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and to U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman. As Deputy Attorney General, he oversaw the work of the Office's 200 attorneys, which included advising the governor, legislature, and all agency heads; representing the state in all civil litigation; and investigating misconduct by state officials. He managed some of the Office's most complex and politically sensitive cases. Aaron draws on that government experience in advising clients on a wide array of government regulatory matters and investigations—providing legal guidance that is shaped by an understanding of the related government and public relations issues that clients face.

Aaron also has significant experience working with nonprofit organizations. He has served on many nonprofit boards of directors, including serving as the Chair of Connecticut Legal Services, Vice President of the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government, and a director of the Connecticut Public Affairs Network.

He is a longstanding advocate of open government, winning awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Freedom of Information Commission. He served on the Judicial Task Force on Public Access, established by the acting Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court to increase public access to the courts, and chaired the Committee on Access to Judicial Proceedings, which recommended expanding media coverage of court proceedings.

Aaron received his J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review, and his B.A. summa cum laude from Yale University. After law school, he was a clerk to Judge Harry T. Edwards of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Education

- Harvard Law School (J.D., 1980)
 - cum laude
- Yale University (B.A., 1977)
 - summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa

Bar Admissions

- Connecticut

Court Admissions

- US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- US District Court (District of Connecticut)
- US Supreme Court

Distinctions

- Lifetime Achievement Award, ALM New England Legal Awards (2023)
- Champion of Open Government Award, Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information (2011)
- Connecticut Judicial Branch Article Vth Award for service on Public Access Task Force (2006)
- E. Bartlett Barnes Freedom of Information Award for “contributions to open and accountable government” (awarded by FOIC, February 2000)

- Freedom of Information Award from Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists (February 2000)
- Selected as Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellow

Memberships and Affiliations

- American Academy of Appellate Lawyers
 - Fellow
- Connecticut Bar Foundation
 - Cooper Fellows Education and Program Committee
- Connecticut Legal Services
 - Chair (2008-2009)
 - Vice Chair (2007-2008)
- Connecticut Foundation for Open Government
 - Vice President (2001-2015)
 - Board Member (2001 – Present)
- Connecticut Judicial Branch Public Access Task Force
 - Appointed by Chief Justice (2006)
- Connecticut Judicial Branch Public Access Task Force
 - Chair, Committee on Access to Judicial Proceedings, (2006)
- Connecticut Public Affairs Network
 - Board Member (2012 – Present)
- International Festival of Arts & Ideas
 - Board Member (2005-2007)

Publications

May 20, 2024

2024 Title IX Regulations: Planning for the Significant Expansion of Employee Training Requirements

June 29, 2023

Supreme Court Update: Mallory v. Norfolk Southern Railway Co. (No. 21-1168), Counterman v. Colorado (No. 22-138), Coinbase, Inc. v. Bielski (No. 22-105)

June 27, 2023

Supreme Court Update: Arizona v. Navajo Nation (No. 21-1484), Yegiazaryan v. Smagin (No. 22-381), Pugin v. Garland (No. 22-23)

October 29, 2020

Wiggin and Dana Alumni Newsletter – Fall 2020

May 21, 2020

Conducting a Live Hearing with Cross-Examination Under the New Title IX Rules

May 7, 2020

Attorneys Aaron Bayer, Benjamin Daniels and Amanda Brahm's Title IX Advisory Published by The National Law Review

The National Law Review

May 7, 2020

The Department of Education Issues Final Title IX Regulations

May 4, 2020

Students Demand Tuition Reimbursement for COVID-19 Learning Disruptions

February 3, 2020

Federal Court Issues Temporary Injunction Ordering University to Take Back Student Suspended for Sexual Assault

December 6, 2019

CCIC Publishes "College Tuition in Jeopardy: Clawback of Tuition Payments Made By Parents"

November 25, 2019

College Tuition in Jeopardy: Clawback of Tuition Payments Made By Parents

July 13, 2018

University Wins Important Tuition Claw-Back Case

February 12, 2018

Faculty Non-Poaching Agreements Pose Significant Antitrust Risks

September 8, 2017

Education Secretary Signals Shift in Title IX Policy for Dealing with Sexual Misconduct Allegations

July 27, 2017

Amicus Brief: Tuition Claw Back Case Mark G. DeGiacomo v. Sacred Heart University, Inc.

June 14, 2017

Connecticut Tuition Claw-Back Legislation

May 3, 2017

Immigration Briefing: What Educational Institutions, Faculty/Staff and Students Need to Know

August 11, 2016

Second Circuit Revives Title IX Reverse Discrimination Suit against Columbia University

July 13, 2016

Lessons from Fisher v. University of Texas

May 27, 2016

With Jurors, Make Sure Goodbye Means 'Forever'

The National Law Journal

March 28, 2016

Supreme Court Affirmative Action Case Attracts Bevy of Amicus Briefs

Connecticut Law Tribune

March 16, 2016

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Rules in Favor of Equitable Contribution

September 14, 2015

When Judges Rely on Their Own Online Research

The National Law Journal

June 2, 2015

When a Parent Files for Bankruptcy Colleges May Forfeit Tuition Payments

June 1, 2015

Is a 5-4 Ruling Really Enough to Undo Laws?

The National Law Journal

March 10, 2015

Higher Ed Legal Update, March 2015

February 23, 2015

How Fair Are Appellate Panel Selections?

The National Law Journal

October 27, 2014

Tougher Measures for a Continued Lack of Civility

The National Law Journal

July 7, 2014

When Both Sides Agree, But the Dispute Lives On

The National Law Journal

October 28, 2013

Appeal Risk is Big When Opting Out of New Trial

The National Law Journal

July 1, 2013

The Impact of Fisher v. University of Texas on Affirmative Action

June 3, 2013

Judicial Selection Reform: All Over the Map

National Law Journal

May 7, 2013

A Data Privacy and Security Checklist for Management

April 2, 2013

Supreme Court to Rule on State Affirmative Action Ban

January 7, 2013

When can you appeal a summary judgment denial?

The National Law Journal

July 30, 2012

How mandamus and interlocutory appeals interact

The National Law Journal

March 12, 2012

'I know a frivolous appeal when I see one'

The National Law Journal

October 3, 2011

The Bar to Appellate Review of 'Matters in Abatement'

The National Law Journal

May 9, 2011

En banc review has declined during the past decade

The National Law Journal

December 6, 2010

Separate-Document Rule Creates Uncertainties

The National Law Journal

June 28, 2010

Television enters high courts in other countries

The National Law Journal

February 8, 2010

The Collateral Order Doctrine After 'Mohawk'

The National Law Journal

August 24, 2009

Unpublished Appellate Opinions Are Still Commonplace

The National Law Journal

July 10, 2009

Brown & Brown, Inc. v. Blumenthal Amicus Brief

June 23, 2009

Compliance with New Laws on Identity Theft and Protecting Personal Information

April 27, 2009

Home Circuit Rule

The National Law Journal

April 15, 2009

Connecticut Supreme Court Clarifies Application of Property Tax Exemption for Charitable Organizations

December 1, 2008

The Duty of Candor

The National Law Journal

November 15, 2008

Arbitration after Hall Street

For the Defense

July 14, 2008

Appellate Intervention

The National Law Journal

February 29, 2008

Amicus Briefs

The National Law Journal

September 21, 2007

Appellate TV

The National Law Journal

May 7, 2007

The Rule of Necessity

The National Law Journal

December 21, 2006

Connecticut's New Campaign Finance Law Signifies Major Changes for Lobbyists, State Contractors, and Businesses

November 27, 2006

Collateral Order Appeals

The National Law Journal

July 24, 2006

Media Access Appeals

The National Law Journal

March 20, 2006

Vacatur for Mootness

The National Law Journal

November 7, 2005

Interlocutory Jurisdiction

The National Law Journal

July 4, 2005

MDL Appeals

The National Law Journal

February 28, 2005

Cert. Before Judgment

The National Law Journal

October 18, 2004

Waiver of Arguments

The National Law Journal

June 28, 2004

Arbitration Appeals

The National Law Journal

February 9, 2004

The Cross-Appeal

National Law Journal

December 8, 2003

Judicial Notice on Appeal

The National Law Journal

October 6, 2003

Appealing a Jury Trial Denial

The National Law Journal