



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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SPECIAL EDUCATION HEARING OFFICERS
(July 2020)

Special education due process hearings are conducted by impartial private practice attorneys and Administrative Law Judges who meet the standards outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Below are the names of the current special education hearing officers and descriptions of their professional experience

Hearing Officer	Professional Experience
Craig Erickson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate of University of Oregon Law School, 1984• Practicing attorney in Alaska from 1985 to 1988; experience with children's law as an Assistant Attorney General in Alaska• Practicing attorney in New Mexico since 1988, with 32 years of experience in civil litigation in New Mexico• Administrative hearing officer for the New Mexico Department of Health since 2003• Special Education Due Process Hearing Officer in New Mexico since 2017
Wendell Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate of University of New Mexico School of Law, 1986• Practicing attorney from 1986-2001 and 2019 to present, with 16 years of experience in civil litigation and workers compensation law• High school teacher and athletics coach from 2001-2018, with experience in special education• Fluent in Spanish• Special Education Due Process Hearing Officer in New Mexico since July 2020

Morgan Lyman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate of St. Mary's School of Law, San Antonio, Texas, 1981• 38 years in practice of law, with experience including private representation of people and entities in administrative, appellate, civil, and criminal actions• Veteran, USAF (judge advocate), prosecutorial, defense, and administrative counsel roles• Past Hearing Officer with New Mexico Environment Department• Current Hearing Officer with New Mexico Public Education Department in Licensure actions and Alternate Municipal Judge, City of Las Cruces, New Mexico• Special Education Due Process hearing Officer in New Mexico since 2008
Muriel McClelland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate of Temple University School of Law, 1975• Practicing attorney in New Mexico from 1976 to present• Children's Court Attorney, Special Assistant Attorney General, 1976 to 1985• Special Commissioner for Mental Health Commitments, hearing officer Jackson suit, 1986 to 1995• 36 years in family law practice with 20 years focused exclusively on settlement facilitation• Special Education Due Process Hearing Officer in New Mexico since 1987
Nancy L. Simmons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate of University of New Mexico School of Law, 1983, and New York University School of Law (1990)(International law)• Practicing attorney in New Mexico attorney from 1984• Sole practitioner, Law Offices of Nancy L. Simmons, P.C., since 1997• In addition to special education law, experience in general civil litigation, primarily in federal court• Fluent in Spanish• Special education hearing officer since 2017