

Bio for Stacy Gillett

Stacy Gillett is an Education Ombudsman with the Governor's Office of the Education Ombudsman (OEO). The OEO was established to ensure equity and access to educational services for all Washington students in the K-12 public education system. At OEO, Stacy works with families and school districts to resolve complaints across 295 school districts. She contributes to educational policy and legislative recommendations to the Governor's Office and the State Legislature regarding improvement to the public educational system that impact students and their families.

She is a special education teacher by training who has worked for the past 21 years educating and providing support to families, educators and professionals who have or work with children with special needs. Ms. Gillett specializes in helping families and educators understand the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and student civil rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Before coming to Washington State, she previously worked at the Disability Law Center of Alaska for 8 years, managing a statewide education advocacy caseload.

Ms. Gillett is well-versed in civil rights laws and policies that affect all students in public schools related to disciplinary matters, discrimination, bullying and harassment, due process, and how to navigate public school systems.

She has served on a variety of nonprofit boards and committees to address the needs of individuals with disabilities in educational and community settings. She is well known in our state for her legislative advocacy in the areas of special education and developmental disabilities, including "Kevin's Law," and ensuring funding for supported employment, self-advocacy programs and parent-to-parent resources.

She is a presenter on a wide variety of special education topics for parent groups, teachers, therapists, medical professionals, and mental health providers and has been a guest speaker at WSTLA Teachers Law Conference, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle University Law School classes, and university teacher training courses. She co-authored "A Legal Guide for Families and Educators" found on the OSPI website. She has contributed to numerous articles for state and national conferences, public information brochures, newsletters, and manuals.