



Dr. Leigh E. Dalton

Shareholder

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Services and Industries

- Education

Admissions

Pennsylvania

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Education

University of Maryland Baltimore County, Ph.D., 2015

University of Baltimore School of Law, J.D., cum laude, 2008

University of Massachusetts Amherst, B.A., 2003

Dr. Leigh Dalton has dedicated her career to focusing on the needs of students, strengthening our schools, reducing truancy, and pushing for stronger community support in both government and nonprofit leadership positions in Pennsylvania and Maryland. She is a shareholder in the Saxton & Stump [Education](#) Group, bringing more than 20

years of varied legal and governmental education experience to her practice. In her practice, Dr. Dalton provides legal advice to her clients to address complex legal issues with practical implications in the daily operation of public school entities throughout Central Pennsylvania on issues such as special education, student services, compliance monitoring, Title IX, and student discipline. Dr. Dalton devotes a significant portion of her practice to addressing the policy needs of school entities, tracking updates and developments in federal and state laws and regulations.

Dr. Dalton came to Saxton & Stump in 2025, joining the firm with other attorneys and professionals from longtime York County law firm Stock & Leader. Before she rejoined Stock & Leader in 2019, Dr. Dalton served as the Director of Legal Services for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. At PSBA, she provided advice in all areas of school law, and focused particularly on the drafting of policies, the development of training, and the analysis of proposed legislation. While Dr. Dalton was with PSBA, she was the author and editor of the “School Law Information Exchange,” a biweekly newsletter of recent legal cases, decisions, legislative updates, and other statewide-impacting matters affecting Pennsylvania school districts. In 2021 and 2022, Dr. Dalton served as a peer reviewer in various United States Department of Education research-based grant funding opportunities.

As the Chief of Special Education Monitoring and Accountability for the Maryland State Department of Education in 2018, and then as a consultant for four years, Dr. Dalton directed/assisted in the statewide implementation of the Monitoring for Continuous Improvement and Results activities to ensure compliance with special education laws and regulations such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Code of Maryland Regulations.

Dr. Dalton also worked as the Director of the York County Truancy Prevention Initiative, a community-led effort housed at the United Way of York County. In this role, she established a youth-run truancy sentencing court, the Youth Court Alliance. She developed a training manual and restorative practices approach to train youth, administrators, and community providers to implement this diversionary program. The Youth Court Alliance was eventually granted sustainable funding and expanded to schools throughout York County. The International Association of Truancy and Dropout Prevention named it the “Program of the Year” in 2019, and in 2012 the Youth Court Alliance earned Dr. Dalton recognition as a “Person Who Matters” in York County. Dr. Dalton’s work with the Youth Court Alliance followed her position as manager of the University of Baltimore School of Law’s Truancy Court Program.

In 2015, Dr. Dalton received a Ph.D. in Education Policy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and earned her law degree *cum laude* from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 2008, with a concentration in Public and Governmental Service. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst as a political science major, part of which included study abroad at Rhodes University in South Africa in 2002.

Recognitions

- Central Penn Business Journal, “Women of Influence” (2022)
- University of Maryland Baltimore County, “Exceptional Graduate” (2015)
- York County, “Person Who Matters,” named by the York Daily Record (2012)
- University of Maryland Baltimore County Dissertation Fellow (2012)
- University of Baltimore Public Service Scholar (2008)
- University of Baltimore School of Law Public Interest Grant Recipient (2006)

Publications

- “One Man’s Book is Another Man’s Ban,” *The Legal Intelligencer* (October 2023)
- Legal Resource for School Health Services,” EDITOR (2017; 2023)
- “Disrobing Student Dress Codes – A Freedom of Expression Analysis,” *The Legal Intelligencer* (August 2022)
- “School Choice in Year Two of COVID-19,” *The Legal Intelligencer* (October 2021)
- “[CFCC Changed My Perception About Law and My Career Path](#),” University of Baltimore School of Law Unified Family Court Connection (Winter 2021)
- “The Students Most Affected by the New Era of School Choice,” *The Legal Intelligencer* (October 2020)
- Co-authored with Zirkel, P., “The volume of higher education litigation: The latest update,” *West’s Education Law Reporter* (2018)

Speaking Engagements

- “When Protections Collide: Navigating Title IX & Special Education Student Discipline,” Keystone Title IX Summit (January 2026)
- “Unpacking the New Public Education Landscape in Pennsylvania”, Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association, (March 2025)
- “Navigating Student-Staff Boundaries,” Council of School Attorneys School Law Seminar (October 2024)
- “Navigating Book Challenges,” Pennsylvania School Boards Solicitors’ Association (Fall 2023)
- “Turning Dress Codes Inside Out: Legal Risks and Practical Implications,” Council of School Attorneys School Law Seminar (Fall 2022)
- “Applying Policies, Rules and Compliance Strategies to Virtual and Hybrid Instruction,” Pennsylvania School Boards Association (January 2021)
- “Current Issues for Child Advocates,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute (October 2020)
- “Special Education Discipline and Manifestation Determinations,” Pennsylvania School Boards Association Solicitors’ Symposium (July 2019)

Community Involvement

- York Academy Regional Charter School Guidance Advisory Council, member
- United Way of York County, member of Allocations Committee, Truancy Advocacy Committee, Emerging Leaders Society, and Women United
- York County Bar Foundation Grants Committee, member
- The Women’s Giving Circle, member
- Wills for Heroes, York County, volunteer
- York County Bar Association, Barstools choreographer/performer
- Community Progress Council, board of directors (2024-2025)
- Logos Academy Academics Committee, member (2016-2018)
- The Belmont Theatre, board of directors (2014-2017)
- York Day Nursery, board of directors (2016-2016)

Professional Affiliations

- Supporting Youth Success – Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Subcommittee, member

- Council of School Law Attorneys, steering committee member, Third Circuit Legal Advocacy Committee representative, Seminar Planning Committee member
- U.S. Department of Education, peer reviewer
- Pennsylvania School Boards Solicitors' Association, board of directors
- National School Attorneys' Association IDEA Committee member
- York County Truancy Task Force, member
- Cumberland County Attendance Improvement Workgroup, member
- Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, Trainer (2019-2024)
- Pennsylvania School Boards Association, Adjunct Learning Facilitator (2019)
- Lehigh University Special Education Law Conference Planning Committee, member
- Pennsylvania Children's Roundtable Workgroup (2010-2013)
- University of Maryland Baltimore County Parliamentarian, Graduate Student Association (2009)
- University of Maryland Baltimore County Institutional Review Board, student member (2009)
- University of Maryland Baltimore County *Intellectual Property Law Journal*, staff editor (2006-2007)
- American Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- York County Bar Association