



John F. Cafferky

Principal

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John Cafferky, a partner at Blankingship and Keith, leads the education law and litigation practice group. John's career has focused on education law and the defense of public, charter, and private schools since 1986.

John represents school clients in administrative proceedings with the EEOC, the Office of Civil Rights of the United States Education, and other state and federal agencies, in employee grievance proceedings, and in the state and federal trial and appellate courts in Virginia and the District of Columbia. Over the years, John has developed particular expertise in the education of students with disabilities, pursuant to state law, the IDEA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

As general counsel to several Northern Virginia school boards, John provides legal advice on a wide variety of topics critical to the operation of the public schools, including budgetary and employment issues, FOIA compliance, contract negotiations for superintendents and other administrators, the development and implementation of policies and regulations, the acquisition and operation of school facilities and schools, litigation issues and school board meeting procedures. Over the course of his career, John has defended numerous lawsuits and appeals arising under both state and federal law concerning legal issues of particular significance to public school divisions.

John is AV-rated by Martindale and Hubbell, has been listed since 2008 in Best Lawyers in America, is a co-author of the Virginia School Law Deskbook, has served on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Council of School Attorneys and is a member of the National School Board Association's Council of School Board Attorneys. John is listed in Washingtonian Magazine in the Top 1% of Lawyers in Washington, Education Issues.

Practice Areas

- Education Law and Litigation
- Employment Law

Education

- College of William and Mary (B.A., 1982) Phi Beta Kappa
- Harvard Law School (J.D., *cum laude*, 1986)

Professional Honors & Activities

Professional Honors

- *Arlington Magazine*, Top Attorneys - Schools and Education (2019, 2021-2023) and Top Attorneys - Government Contracts (2022-2023).
- *Virginia Business Magazine*, Legal Elite - Administrative Government (2021-2024).
- *U.S. News Best Lawyers in America*, Education Law (2008-2026).
- *U.S. News Best Lawyers in America*, Lawyer of the Year, Education Law (2025).
- *Super Lawyers*, Virginia Super Lawyer (2019-2026)

News & Insights

- Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Thirty Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized in the 2026 Editions of Best Lawyers in America® and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®
- Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized Among Virginia Business Magazine's Legal Elite
- Twenty-Seven Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Shine in the 2025 Edition of Best Lawyers in America
- Twenty Blankingship & Keith, P.C. Attorneys Named Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars for 2024
- Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Shine as "Legal Elite" in Virginia Business Magazine's 2023 Rankings
- Thirteen Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized as Top Attorneys by Arlington Magazine
- Twenty-two Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Shine in the 2024 Edition of Best Lawyers in America
- Blankingship & Keith, P.C. Attorneys Named Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars for 2023
- 20 Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Named "Legal Elite" by Virginia Business Magazine