

School officials learn proactive measures to prevent and investigate educator sexual misconduct

Educator sexual misconduct is a headline-grabbing occurrence that devastates the victim and damages the school district, too. School officials nationwide are attending a training session October 17 to help them learn to recognize the subtle behaviors of adult sexual predators in schools and how they troll for, groom and lull their victims into submission. The program is being held in conjunction with the American Association of School Personnel Administrators' Annual Conference in Kansas City, Mo. Featured speaker Mary Jo McGrath, attorney and CEO of McGrath Training Systems, Santa Barbara, Calif., is a nationally recognized expert on sexual harassment and misconduct. She will teach participants how to respond quickly and effectively when sexual misconduct is suspected or alleged, and how to handle complaints and preliminary investigative steps in a legally fit manner that is appropriate within the educational setting.

Her program, "Take a Proactive Stance against Educator Sexual Misconduct toward Students: Increase Awareness of the Early Warning Signs and Succeed in Intervening with Effective Action on Complaints," is being offered as a pre-conference half-day intensive seminar. She created one of the first online interactive training programs to educate school personnel on sexual harassment and complaint management investigation and is the author of "School Bullying."

McGrath also will present a one-hour clinic focusing on the use of continuous feedback to obtain high performance from teachers and other school employees. This clinic will be held Friday, Oct. 19, beginning at 1:45 p.m. McGrath is renowned for her innovative SUCCEED leadership training program which is a powerful approach to thinking, listening, speaking and writing. It immediately impacts employee performance while breaking down barriers between employee and administrator. Participants can improve student achievement, staff performance, and morale by ending "feedback fear" through a model for constructive thinking and problem solving.

Both presentations will take place at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo.

McGrath is a frequent presenter at the American Association of School Personnel Administrators national conferences. She was a featured speaker at the 2006 AASPA National Conference in Detroit. Using the insights she has gained during more than 20 years as school district counsel, as an investigating attorney, and as a nationally known expert witness in cases regarding school district duty and liability, Mary Jo has created risk control training programs that target the greatest liabilities in public education. McGrath Training Systems provides training on site, on line and on video. For more information, go to www.mcgrathinc.com.