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2010 ISSUE 3

ANNOUNCING THE CREATION OF EDOKLAHOMA—A NATIONAL VOICE FOR OKLAHOMA'S SCHOOLS

by Jana R. Burk

Rosenstein, Fist and Ringold is pleased to announce its involvement with EDoklahoma — an exciting new policy and funding information resource provider for Oklahoma's public school districts, using cost-effective and interactive web-based tools, conference calls, and face-to-face conferences to empower and support Oklahoma's schools.

EDoklahoma merges the strengths of three proven service providers - Heartland Consulting, The Nickles Group, and the law firm of Rosenstein, Fist and Ringold. Heartland Consulting is a Tulsa-based lobbying firm that has worked with Rosenstein, Fist and Ringold to secure more than \$20 million for Oklahoma's school districts through congressionally-mandated appropriations and grant writing services. They are working with The Nickles Group, a

Washington, D.C. firm founded by former U.S. Senator Don Nickles, to operate EDoklahoma.

In general terms, EDoklahoma will provide its members with tailored grant notifications and grant writing workshops, policy conferences, federal education advocacy services, monthly conference calls, and real-time updates on federal legislation influencing Oklahoma's schools. More information can be found at www.EDoklahoma.com.

EDoklahoma is endorsed by and working with the Oklahoma State School Boards Association (OSSBA) to gain its input and advice on federal education policy and advocacy positions.

SERVICES

EDoklahoma offers the State's public school districts (both common school districts

and technology centers) a simple, all-inclusive monthly subscription rate based on Average Daily Membership, which provides members access to both federal grant services and federal policy services. **Monthly subscription rates start as low as \$100 / month (based upon a district's ADM).**

FEDERAL GRANT SERVICES

EDoklahoma offers its insight and training on the federal grant process from start to finish – from identifying best bets for districts to writing and submission strategies.

Although much information about federal regulations, grants, and policy-making is available from other sources, EDoklahoma is unique in that it digests

(Continued on page 2)

OKLAHOMA'S PIONEER IN LEGAL EXCELLENCE



EDOKLAHOMA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

and analyzes information from an exclusively Oklahoma-based perspective in a useful, time-saving manner.

EDOklahoma
"A national voice for local education"

If you have had experience with education grant writing, you know that finding the appropriate grant opportunity for your school district can be a daunting and incredibly time-consuming task. Many grant opportunities offered by the Department of Education are available to public school districts, but many are not. Moreover, the Department of Education's web pages on grant opportunities require readers to review multiple pages of information that are often unavailable until the grant opportunity has been posted.

Waiting until the general notices are published to identify a grant opportunity precludes thoughtful needs analysis and program planning. EDOklahoma gives its members a head start by providing as much information as it can about each relevant grant opportunity as early as possible. EDOklahoma analyzes historical grant funding cycles, budget requests, and appropriations, as well as federal register notices, and dis-

cusses grant forecast issues with Department of Education staffers. This background work allows EDOklahoma members to anticipate grant competitions, deadlines, competitive priorities, new program requirements, award sizes, etc. EDOklahoma synthesizes the information into easy-to-navigate and easy-to-understand grant summaries made available on its website and through tailored email notices upon request.

EDOklahoma members will also be able to access:

- Online interactive lectures by proven and successful education grant writers and noted education leaders;
- One-on-one follow-up access to grant writing specialists; and
- Regular opportunities for intensive, in-person sessions at statewide conferences.

FEDERAL POLICY SERVICES

Federal policy is an ever-changing variable that presents both challenges and opportunities for the State's school districts. EDOklahoma's members will form a statewide coalition of educators dedicated to staying abreast of and influencing federal education matters. EDOklahoma's advocacy work for its members will be guided by an advisory group

of OSSBA members representing urban, rural, and suburban school districts, as well as larger and smaller technology centers.

EDOklahoma will allow its members to stay ahead of the federal education curve—and guide its trajectory—by providing:

- Real-time online updates on congressional and regulatory action and the resulting impact and opportunity for Oklahoma districts;
- Frequent interactive conference calls with Washington-based Oklahomans monitoring education matters; and
- Regular opportunity for in-person and teleconference briefings at statewide conferences.

If you would like additional information about EDOklahoma, please visit EDOklahoma.com or call Todd Singer at 918-398-7334, 918-408-2656 or todd.singer@edoklahoma.com.

We hope that you find it as exciting a resource for Oklahoma schools as we do!



SERVING STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IS AS EASY AS 2-1-1

Among Oklahoma's most valuable resources are the numerous organizations committed to serving the community. Unfortunately, many of the persons in need do not utilize these resources because they do not know about the services that are available to them. This is the situation Oklahoma's 2-1-1 call centers seek to correct.

According to director Lori Linstead, "2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical community services for their everyday needs and in times of disaster. 2-1-1 provides a telephone number to call free of charge 24 hours a day 7 days a week. 2-1-1 has professionally trained

specialists to assess callers' needs with translation services available in many languages. Simply dial 2-1-1 from your landline or cell phone from anywhere in Oklahoma. 2-1-1 is the direct link between people who need help and those who provide help."

While 2-1-1 is best known for assisting the poor and those affected by natural disasters, it is also a valuable resource for educators. Students often turn to teachers, counselors, coaches, and administrators when they have problems. 2-1-1 can help educators to give informed advice and to connect students or parents with groups that can provide ongoing, material assistance. With a database of approximately 2,000 agencies, 2-1-1 call centers are prepared to assist with nearly every problem – academic, emotional, financial, or

health-related. They are also a great resource for schools looking to find ways to accommodate students with disabilities. Best of all, the 2-1-1 call centers expand the educator's toolkit without requiring any additional resources.

Educators who want to do more for their students need only pick up a telephone and dial 2-1-1 to access a wide world of valuable social services. To find more information about 2-1-1, or for brochures, you can access the website at:

<http://www.211oklahoma.org>



"2-1-1 can help educators to give informed advice and to connect students or parents ..."

RFR HIRES NEW LAWYER

Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold is pleased to announce that **Cheryl Dixon** has joined the firm as an associate attorney.

Cheryl Dixon graduated cum laude from Wichita State University and received her J.D. with highest honors from the University of Tulsa College of Law. While in law school, Ms. Dixon was president of the Women's Law Caucus, Clerk of Phi Delta Phi honors fraternity, served on the *Energy Law Journal*, and was awarded Order of the Curule Chair. Ms. Dixon is currently a member of Hudson-Hall-Wheaton chapter of the American Inns of Court and serves on the Oklahoma Bar Association's Women in Law Committee and the Tulsa County Women's Lawyer's Association. She is also a member of the Tulsa County, Oklahoma, and American Bar Associations.

Ms. Dixon was admitted to practice in Oklahoma in 2008 and is admitted to practice before the United States District Courts for the Eastern, Western, and Northern Districts of Oklahoma and the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Her practice focuses on civil litigation, employment litigation, education law, and business law.



RFR NEWS

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Andrea Kunkel has practiced law with Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold since 1986. She is the leading authority for special education issues in Oklahoma and the region. She represents school districts in all facets of special education law and has assisted in the IEP team process, due process hearings, trials and appeals. She is a frequent lecturer and speaker on special education and other education topics.

Beginning January 1, 2011, Andrea, who has been a shareholder with Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold since 1992, will become "Of Counsel" to the



firm. Andrea will continue her practice and representation of school districts, but will be more involved in "policy-level" activities, including preparing written policies and analyzing legislative changes and judicial decisions. She will continue to advise schools on a day-to-day basis. In addition, she will continue to work with Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold shareholder Bo Rainey, as well as Associate Cheryl Dixon, in their special education practices and, particularly, with regard to hearings and appeals.

In addition to her legal practice in the area of special education law, Andrea is enrolled in masters-level course work through OSU-Tulsa. She will continue to work on her degree and add classroom-based training with an eye toward high school special education in the future. Andrea's educational commitment will take her away from the office beginning in January 2011, so her hours in the office will be reduced to about half-time.

Andrea has been and will continue to be an exceptional resource for schools across the state and Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold. Please join us in congratulating her on the evolution of her practice and her personal development and dedication to the field of special education.

We're on the Web:
www.rfrlaw.com

Chalkboard is a Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold publication that addresses current education law issues. *Chalkboard* is published four times a year and is sent without charge to all education clients of Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold and all other persons who are interested in education law issues. We invite you to share *Chalkboard* with your friends and colleagues. We think you will find *Chalkboard* to be informative and helpful with the difficult task of operating our educational institutions.

Chalkboard is designed to provide current and accurate information regarding current education law issues. *Chalkboard* is not intended to provide legal or other professional advice to its readers. If legal advice or assistance is required, the services of a competent attorney familiar with education law issues should be sought.

We welcome your comments, criticisms and suggestions. Correspondence should be directed to Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold, 525 South Main, Seventh Floor, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103-4508, or call us at (918) 585-9211 or 1-800-767-5291. Our FAX number is (918) 583-5617. Help us make *Chalkboard* an asset to you.