

# Legal Services

One of the benefits to being a member of our local union, the Folsom Cordova Education Association, is that FCEA is an affiliate member of both the California Teachers Association (CTA) and the National Education Association (NEA). Both of these organizations, CTA and NEA, can provide legal services for you in employment and non-employment matters.



## Employment Matters

As a CTA member you have the right to be fairly represented by FCEA in matters arising under the collective bargaining contract with the district. CTA members are eligible to participate in the CTA Group Legal Services Program (GLSP). Group Legal Services (GLS) attorneys are well versed in education law and are familiar with issues that arise for educators including credential problems, permanent teacher dismissals, RIFs, employment-related criminal charges, and probationary non-reelections. Members are entitled to one free hour of advice and consultation with a GLS attorney in employment matters. Non-members are not entitled to this benefit. Refer to the CTA website for additional information regarding the GLSP [HERE](#).

In addition to the GLSP program, members are covered by the NEA Educators Employment Liability (EEL) Program. This coverage is automatically provided as part of your NEA dues each year. This program provides protection in cases where a student or their parents file a suit against you. Payment of court-ordered civil liability up to \$1,000,000 may be provided. You may also qualify to be reimbursed for attorney fees if you are charged with violating a criminal statute in the course of your employment as an educator and exonerated from the charges. You must be an FCEA/CTA/NEA member to take advantage of this benefit. Learn more about the NEA EEL Program [HERE](#).

## Non-employment Matters

Members may take advantage of legal advice and consultation for non-employment matters as well. The first one-half hour is free with a GLS attorney each CTA calendar year (September 1 through August 31) on each different non-employment matter. Such matters may include divorce and child custody, trusts and wills, real estate, criminal charges, personal injury or property damage, and vehicle code violations. No attorney referrals are made regarding tax issues, intellectual property, or immigration issues. The member is responsible for all costs beyond the one-half hour of advice and consultation. The member may, however, be billed at the CTA negotiated rate rather than the regular public rate. If you would like a referral to a GLS attorney for a non-employment matter, you can call the EGEA Office. You will be asked to provide a personal phone number and email address, your CTA member number, as well as a brief description of the issue to ensure that your case is referred to the appropriate attorney.

This handout is available electronically at [Legal Services](#).