



Harold M. Freiman

A lawyer by profession,
an educator at heart

Harold M. Freiman didn't intend to become a practicing attorney. His passion was writing and teaching, and he envisioned a career as an academic. Today, he satisfies his desire to educate as a frequent and popular speaker at CASBO's annual conference and various professional development programs. His degree from Columbia Law School is put to good use in his work as an attorney representing public education entities.

Freiman is a shareholder with Lozano Smith, where he has worked for 19 years on issues such as school facilities, property and district reorganization. His appreciation of the complexity of education law traces back to the year he spent as a law clerk for the Texas Supreme Court, where he helped write a landmark court opinion on school finance.

He says his role when representing districts, county offices and community colleges is not to find what's wrong, but rather to find how to get to what's right. "When people call us, it's because there is an obstacle. The first thing I talk to clients about is where they want to go and what the obstacles are. We work with districts to get over or through their hurdles," he said.

That's the facet of his job that he loves – creative problem solving for schools. "I'm a big believer in public education. A large part of what I do is keeping the doors open and enabling school officials to do their jobs effectively. My job is to think creatively, and that's a great job."

Freiman was introduced to CASBO when he was asked to speak at an annual conference in the 1990s. "I was struck that this conference had so much good information and was not about selling services. It was about people honestly learning about how best to do their work," Freiman explained.

From then on, he was sold on the association's value and on being an active member. Freiman is serving for the third year as the Associate Member Liaison to the Annual Conference Committee. He is also a current member of the Associate Member Committee. He takes particular pleasure in volunteering for CASBO's CBO Mentor Program.

Freiman says his respect for and dedication to CASBO are linked to his passion for education. "The association produces one of the highest quality conferences I have ever attended, and I am proud to be a part of pulling that together. I love helping to bring forward the next generation of folks who will be leaders in our schools," Freiman described. "The educational component is remarkable."