

Carolyn E. Welch

Attorney-at-Law

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EXPERIENCE

Law Office of Carolyn E. Welch, Glenview, IL

Solo Practitioner, 2005 – Present

- Counsel clients establishing for-profit and not-for-profit entities; draft organizational and governance documents, articles of incorporation, bylaws, operating agreements, consents and board resolutions.

Education Law Project Pro Bono Panel, Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, 2013 – Present

- Represent low-income disabled students and their families to help ensure that their educational needs are met at school proceedings, IEP meetings, and due process hearings.

Illinois Association for Gifted Children, Palatine, IL

Policy & Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, 2017 – Present; *State Initiatives Committee Member*, 2015 – 2017;

Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, 2013 – 2014

- Conduct legislative advocacy at the state and federal levels on behalf of high-ability students, particularly those who are underserved; represent IAGC at Board of Education committee meetings and budget hearings, Congressional hearings, and NAGC State Affiliates Conference; compose policy briefs and advocacy materials.
- Passed the Report Card Act and Accelerated Placement Act (2017) and ESSA accountability plan improvements.

National Association for Gifted Children, Washington, DC

Legislative & Advocacy Committee Member, 2017 – Present

- Led a subcommittee in developing advocacy resources, including a wallet card template and affiliate database.

Parent Editorial Content Advisory Board Member, 2014 – 2017

- Edited articles for NAGC publication *Parenting for High Potential*; authored “Every Student Succeeds Act: New Legislation Creates Opportunities for Parent Advocates.”

pilotED Schools, Indianapolis, IN

Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors, 2015 – Present

- Maintain corporate records and meeting minutes; manage filings; draft board policies and resolutions; review and advise on contracts; provide financial and legal oversight; and serve on the Governance Committee of the Board.
- Serve on the Academic Excellence Committee of the Board; assist with evaluating enrichment models, extracurricular offerings, civic engagement opportunities, and parent engagement strategies.

Untapped Potential Project, Chicago, IL

Senior Advisor, 2016 – Present

- Advocate to improve education policy for low-income and underserved students, including collaborating with IAGC to pass the Untapped Potential and Acceleration Acts; provide consulting services and co-author articles.

Midwest Center for the Gifted, Des Plaines, IL

Chairman, 2017 – Present; *Secretary*, 2014 – 2017; *Board Trustee*, 2013 – Present

- Partner with Loyola University and Rush Neurobehavioral Center in conducting a research study on executive functioning in gifted children; organize professional development conferences.

DIRECT SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Science & Arts Academy, Des Plaines, IL

Science Olympiad Coach, 2014 – Present

- Lead year-round weekly practices in science events to prepare students for competitions.

President of Family & School Association; Science & Arts Academy Board Member, 2013 – 2014

- Organized and ran school events, issued regular schoolwide communications, managed volunteers, and collaborated with Board members, teachers, parents, and the Head of School.

West Northfield School District 31 Parent Teacher Club Executive Board, Glenview, IL

Vice President of School Activities, 2010 – 2012

- Developed and administered enrichment clubs and activities; led effort to prevent programming cuts.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC – Juris Doctor, 2002

Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY – Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Law, 1998