

# Education Support Series

**Offered In-Person & Virtual**

PRESENTED BY HICKMAN LOWDER  
& ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND

## Series Description

Does your child have a condition that requires extra support at school and/or home such as ADHD, Autism, ODD, anxiety, mood disorder, specific learning disability, executive functioning, or medically fragile needs? Do you believe your student needs more support at school with social, emotional, behavior or academic challenges? Does your child require support from a therapist, occupational therapist or other medical specialty? Join **Adoption Network Cleveland** and **Hickman Lowder** for a **three-part series** unpacking school-based supports and public assistance for children with disabilities on **Thursdays** in March of 2023.

### Part I

**The ABCs of IEPs & 504s**  
**March 9th at 6:30 PM ET**

### Part II

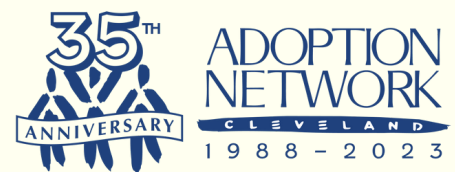
**Empowering Families for School Meetings**  
**March 16th at 7:00 PM ET**

### Part III

**Public Assistance for Children with Disabilities**  
**March 23rd at 7:00 PM ET**

### In-Person / Virtual

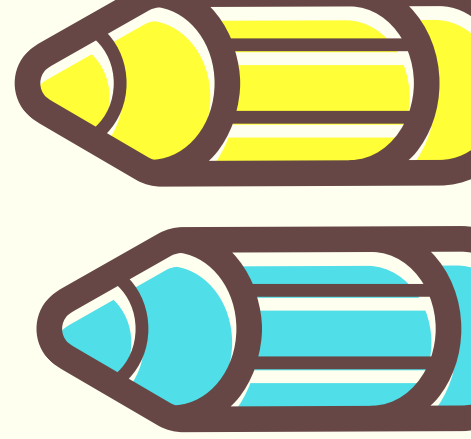
Join us in person at Adoption Network Cleveland or zoom in to participate. Childcare will be provided for the March 9th presentation. Registration is required for in-person or virtual attendance.



**Hickman Lowder**  
Lidrbach & Welch Co., L.P.A.



# Education Support Series Part 1



PRESENTED BY HICKMAN LOWDER &  
ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND

## The ABCs of IEPs & 504s

Thursday, March 9, at 6:30 PM ET

In the first of a three-part series, Hickman Lowder education advocate Mary Jo O'Neill and attorney Janet Fleck Griffith will provide an overview of three different ways to get additional support for your student:

1. Interventions
2. 504 Plans
3. IEPs (Individual Education Plans)

This presentation is offered as a part of our monthly Family Ties Gathering. Join us for **dinner at 6:00 PM** followed by part one of the education series. **Childcare is available for this session**, Children under 11 years old can engage in staffed art therapy activities and older children may participate in our Teen TEA program while parents attend this education program. Caregivers may also participate in the education series via zoom.



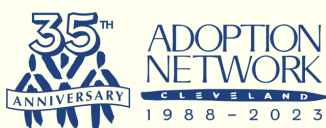
**Mary Jo O'Neill,  
M.Ed**

Mary Jo is a special education advocate and a licensed Intervention Specialist who reviews IEPs, 504 Plans, ETRs and sits alongside the family in team meetings to advocate together for the child's needs.



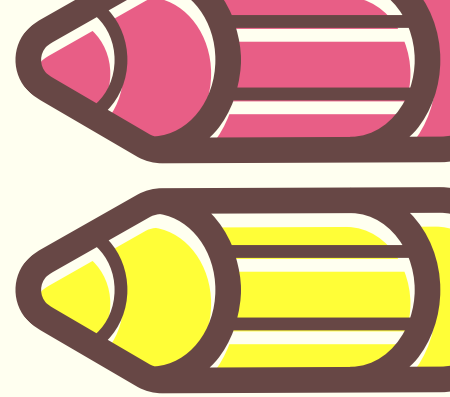
**Janet Fleck  
Griffith**

Janet's practice is focused on helping families with education needs, including IEPs, 504 Plans, and disciplinary concerns. She helps families at all stages of their education journey from evaluation and eligibility to reviewing and right-fitting existing IEPs and 504s.



**Hickman Lowder**  
Lidrbach & Welch Co., L.P.A.

# Education Support Series Part II



PRESENTED BY HICKMAN LOWDER &  
ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND

## Empowering Families for School Meetings Thursday, March 16, at 7:00 PM ET

In this second discussion, Hickman Lowder education advocate Mary Jo O'Neill and attorney Janet Fleck Griffith will help empower families with knowledge and confidence for school meetings by taking a deeper dive into IEP and 504 Plans. We will discuss four topics:

1. Brief overview of interventions, 504 Plans and IEPs
2. IEP eligibility and development process,
3. Special education scholarships,
4. Addressing social, emotional and behavior needs.

Please note, **childcare is unavailable for this session**. Caregivers may attend via Zoom and fully participate. Registration is required for in-person or virtual attendance.



**Mary Jo O'Neill,**  
M.Ed

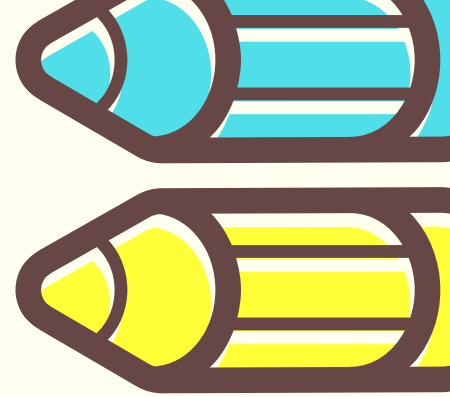
Mary Jo is a special education advocate and a licensed Intervention Specialist who reviews IEPs, 504 Plans, ETRs and sits alongside the family in team meetings to advocate together for the child's needs.



**Janet Fleck  
Griffith**

Janet's practice is focused on helping families with education needs, including IEPs, 504 Plans, and disciplinary concerns. She helps families at all stages of their education journey from evaluation and eligibility to reviewing and right-fitting existing IEPs and 504s.

# Education Support Series Part III



PRESENTED BY HICKMAN LOWDER &  
ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND

## Public Assistance for Children with Disabilities with Frank Hickman Thursday, March 23, at 7:00 PM ET

Join attorney Frank Hickman of Hickman Lowder for this discussion of federal, state, and local assistance available for children with disabilities. We will cover benefits available from various agencies such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, Waivers, County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Ohio Family and Children's First Council.

Please note that **childcare is unavailable for this session**. Caregivers may attend via zoom and fully participate. Registration is required.



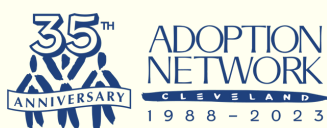
## Frank Hickman



Attorney Franklin J. Hickman has focused his career on legal issues affecting persons with mental disabilities since his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law in 1973, where he received the Wiley C. Rutledge Memorial Award.

Frank has represented families in special education cases since 1975 in negotiations, mediations, due process proceedings and cases in all courts, including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He spends a major part of his practice on cases under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which defines and protects rights of children who need special education.

Adoption Network Cleveland is honored to host Frank who was named Best Lawyers® Lawyer of the Year for Education Law in the Cleveland area (2018 and 2023), is a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ohio Association of County DD Boards (2018), and was inducted into the Cuyahoga County Board of DD Hall of Fame (2012).



**Hickman Lowder**  
Lidrbach & Welch Co., L.P.A.