



THOMAS B. MOONEY

SHIPMAN

CABE Publishes Tenth Edition of Tom Mooney's Practical Guide to Connecticut School Law!

The 10th Edition is Here!

A Practical Guide to Connecticut School Law by Tom Mooney of Shipman & Goodwin LLP is an indispensable resource for school administrators, school board members, and anyone in Connecticut interested in school law. The CAS Weekly NewsBlast is delighted to announce that CABE has just published the Tenth Edition (2023). We sat down with Tom Mooney, our faithful “Legal Mailbag” columnist and good friend, to find out what is new with the Tenth Edition and how we can obtain a copy.

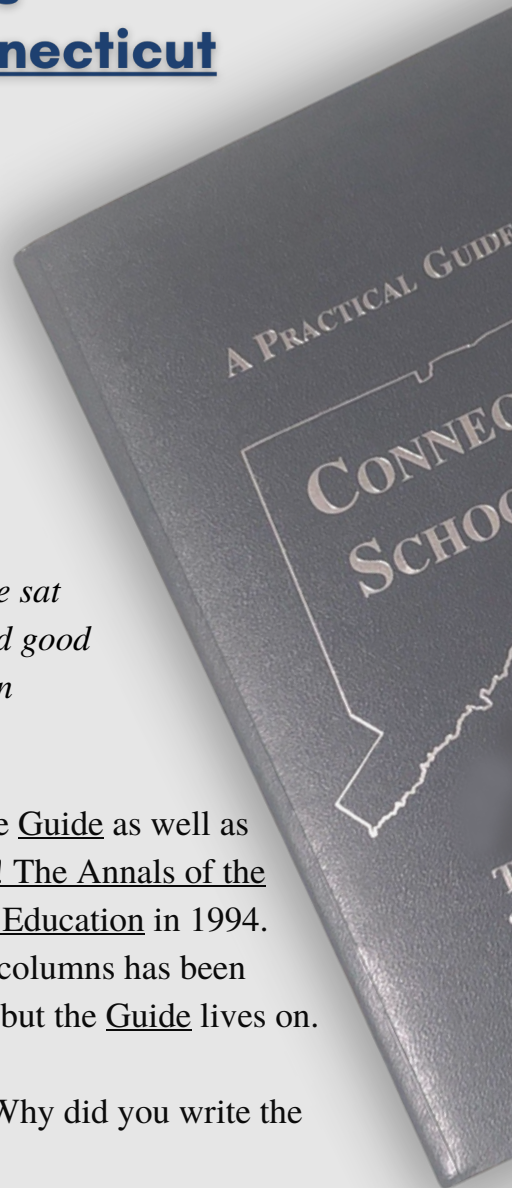
NEWSBLAST: We find the iconic “Blue Book” on school law in the offices of school administrators throughout Connecticut. When did you write the first edition of the Guide, and how did you come to write it in the first place?

TOM: In addition to writing “Legal Mailbag” for the *CAS Weekly NewsBlast*, I have written the “See You in Court!” column for the *CABE Journal* about the Nutmeg Board of Education since 1980. In the early 1990s, CABE asked me to update and collect the columns in a book. As I was doing so, I thought that a brief primer on Connecticut school law would be a good introduction. As I started writing that “introduction,” I realized that I had a lot to say, and I called CABE to say that I was writing a second book, the Guide. CABE published the

first edition of the Guide as well as See You in Court! The Annals of the Nutmeg Board of Education in 1994. The collection of columns has been largely forgotten, but the Guide lives on.

NEWSBLAST: Why did you write the Tenth Edition?

TOM: The Ninth Edition was published in 2018, and an update was sorely needed. Each year, the General Assembly passes new laws affecting education in Connecticut, and the state and federal courts make new law with their decisions every year. The Tenth Edition updates the descriptions of statutory requirements and describes the most important court decisions over the last five years.



NEWSBLAST: This updated version has been warmly received. How long did it take to write the Tenth Edition?

TOM: Over the last two years, I spent over 400 hours researching and writing the Tenth Edition. In addition, it was a group effort with my colleagues at Shipman & Goodwin, who collectively spent another 200 hours in editing and proofreading the Tenth Edition.

NEWSBLAST: What's new with the Tenth Edition?

TOM: Since the First Edition in 1994, the Guide has had seven chapters, Board Organization, Authority and Responsibilities, Religion in the Schools, Teachers, Students, Special Education, Collective Bargaining, and Responsibilities of Boards of Education as Employer. Since the Ninth Edition was published in 2018, there have been significant changes in virtually every area of school law. As a result of the pandemic, the law changed in many ways, including now new FOIA rules on remote meetings, statutory authority for (and limitations on) remote learning, and a new emphasis on the mental health of students. There have also been fundamental changes in the bullying statutes and the statute on teacher evaluation as well. The Tenth Edition is current through the 2023 session of the General Assembly, and it also provides updates on judicial decisions, including recent United States Supreme Court cases on religion in the schools and school admission processes.

NEWSBLAST: The Ninth Edition came with a CD to provide digital access to many cases and other resources. Computers these days rarely come with CD drives. Is there a digital edition available for the Tenth Education of the Guide?

TOM: The digital version is an essential element of the Guide. The Guide is the text for school law courses throughout the state, and students (and others) benefit from being able to review the original source material, including cases, regulations and other guidance. For the Tenth Edition, my colleagues at Shipman & Goodwin created a registration process to make the digital version available for purchasers and recipients of a courtesy copy.

NEWSBLAST: How can one obtain a copy of the Tenth Edition of the Guide?

TOM: The Tenth Edition is available from CABE, which has published the Guide since the First Edition. Interested people can use this link to purchase the Tenth Edition from CABE.

If people have questions about ordering, they should reach out to Nancy Propfe at npropfe@cabe.org or 860-571-7446.

NEWSBLAST: Will there be an Eleventh Edition?

TOM: Of course!