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Illinois Special Education Due Process Hearing Officers

D. Michael Risen	<p>Michael Risen joined the Department of Educational Leadership at Bradley University beginning in the fall of 2004 where he teaches Graduate courses including American Public School Law, Legal and Social Justice, The Principalship, Special Education Law, School Finance and Research Methods. Dr. Risen comes from a K-12 Public Education background where he has served as an elementary principal for 15 years (2 as an assistant principal) in the East Peoria Elementary #86 school district, two years as Superintendent of Schools of Green Valley CC #695, seven years as Superintendent of Schools at Midwest Central Community Unit District #191 and six years as Superintendent of Byron CUSD #226.</p> <p>Dr. Risen received his PhD in educational administration in 1989 from Illinois State University where he also earned his MS in educational administration in 1975 and his BS in Business Education in 1971. He also earned an Education Specialist degree from Western Illinois University. He holds three Illinois teaching certificates, including high school, a type 75 in education administration and the superintendent's endorsement.</p> <p>Dr. Risen became a hearing officer in July 2008 and is excluded from taking cases in Metamora Community Consolidated School District 1, Germantown Hills School District 69 and the Woodford County Special Education Association.</p>
Mary Schwartz	<p>Mary Schwartz has worked with children with disabilities and their families throughout her career as an attorney and a licensed clinical professional counselor. She received her master's degree from the University of Chicago in educational psychology and her juris doctorate from Valparaiso University School of Law.</p> <p>As Legal Director for the Center for Disabilities and Elder Law in Chicago, she worked extensively on programs to address the needs of children with disabilities, including the programs on special education and Social Security. She also has represented children and families in adoption, mental health, guardianship and family law matters. Additionally, she is a trained divorce mediator, concentrating in mediating child custody and parenting agreements.</p> <p>Ms. Schwartz's work in mental health includes experiences across the mental health continuum, including hospital based outpatient treatment, residential treatment, community-based mental health agency, and private practice. She also has worked as a consultant and in-service training provider for private schools in the metropolitan Chicago area and has presented at local, state and national conferences on many mental health, disability, and legal issues. She has served on community boards, including the Disability Ethics Board at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the Association of Child Psychotherapists, and the Geriatric Advisory Council to the Illinois Department of Human</p>