

Robert D Skeels

Description

Robert D. Skeels

Senior Associate

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Robert played a substantial role in overturning a wrongful expulsion of a student of color by a large charter school corporation by successfully arguing for a petition for writ of mandate in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.

- **Representation**

Robert helps with both civil and special education matters. He frequently aides with California

Public Records Act requests.

- **Published Work**

Robert's published works on education include "The Non-Profit Industrial Complex's Role in Imposing Neoliberalism on Public Education", a paper originally requested and juried by the Association of Raza Educators for their journal *Regeneración*.

MEET ROBERT

Robert D. Skeels was a longtime public education advocate and activist before deciding later in life to return to school and become an educational rights attorney.

Robert holds a BA in Classical Civilization from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), a JD from Peoples College of Law (PCL), and passed the California Bar Exam on his first attempt in July 2018. He was sworn in as an attorney in June of 2019.

AT THE FIRM

As an Senior Associate at the Law Offices of Hirji and Chau, LLP, Robert's caseload includes both civil and special education matters. He frequently drafts California Public Records Act requests, and practices in other specialized areas of law like obtaining restraining orders to protect students that are victims of bullying. Robert played a substantial role in overturning a wrongful expulsion of a student of color by a large charter school corporation by successfully arguing for a petition for writ of mandate in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.

Prior to being hired as an associate, Robert interned as a Law Clerk at the Law Offices of Hirji and Chau, LLP.

EDUCATION ADVOCACY

A student of Paulo Freire and Critical Pedagogy, Robert has always been a firm believer in education as a liberating force. He is currently an Adjunct Instructor of 1L Contracts at the Peoples College of Law. Robert's published works on education include "The Non-Profit Industrial Complex's Role in Imposing Neoliberalism on Public Education", a paper originally requested and juried by the Association of Raza Educators for their journal *Regeneración*.

Date Created

Robert was a committed volunteer for of a number of grassroots education organizations including Coalition for Educational Justice (CEJ), Jackie Goldberg's Transparency, Equity, and Accountability in Charter Schools (TEAch), Public Education and Social Justice Advocacy (PESJA), The Trinational Coalition To Defend Public Education, and the Association of Raza Educators (ARE). Robert volunteered ten hours a week teaching life and literacy skills to residents at the Mary Lind Foundation for 15 years. He also taught Catechism at St. Teresa of Avila Church for 12 years. In 2013 Robert ran for the Los Angeles United School District (LAUSD) School Board against a billionaire funded corporate reform candidate. He finished second in a field of five, with over 5,200 votes.

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