

*A professional development offering for: K-12 Principals, Assistant Principals, Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, School Counselors, and School Social Workers*



## Addressing First Amendment and Civil Rights Challenges in Schools in the Current Political Climate



### Featuring Presenter

**Atty. Richard Cole, Esq.**

Civil Rights and Safe Schools Consultant

**Monday, October 16, 2017**  
at the MSAA Office, Franklin

**Sign-In/Registration:** 8:00 am to 8:30 am

**Workshop:** 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

**Fees:** Member \$195/Non-Member \$260

6 Professional Development Hours

PD Content Area: Leadership/Administration

This interactive workshop is designed to provide educators with the legal framework for identifying and responding to current and emerging First Amendment and civil rights-related issues in schools and cyberspace in today's political climate. The workshop will examine students First Amendment rights and the legal requirements for addressing incidents under the state's bullying law, and federal and state civil rights laws that protect students from victimization based on their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. Participants will review case studies to learn how to more effectively assess and respond to speech and conduct constituting bullying or discriminatory harassment, without violating students' First Amendment rights. The workshop will also explore challenges administrators face in complying with DESE's discipline regulations and federal civil rights law requirements for protecting victim rights when imposing discipline involving civil rights.

**Atty. Richard W. Cole, Esq.,** is principal of Cole Civil Rights and Safe Schools Consulting in Boston, Massachusetts, [www.colecivilrights.com](http://www.colecivilrights.com). Richard is a nationally known civil rights attorney; and former Assistant Attorney General and Civil Rights Division Chief in the Massachusetts Office of Attorney General. Richard offers a broad range of technical assistance, policy development and training to educators on civil rights, race relations disability rights and sexual violence and in addressing discriminatory harassment and bullying in schools and cyberspace. He also provides legal assistance to parents whose children are victims of harassment or bullying. Richard was national co-chair and contributory author of the acclaimed U.S. Department of Education's publication, "Protecting Students from Harassment and Hate Crime—A Guide for Schools." Richard has provided training to OCR's National and Regional staffs on effective strategies for improving school climate and addressing discriminatory harassment in schools.

[MSAA Registration Policies & Procedures](#)

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