

Annual Report 2017-2018



The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.
*Protecting the Legal and Civil Rights of Students with Disabilities and
Their Families*

Protecting Rights. Creating Opportunities.
Changing Lives.

Mission and Strategic Goals

COPAA's mission is to protect and enforce the legal and civil rights of students with disabilities and their families. Our primary goal is to secure high quality educational services and to promote excellence in advocacy.

COPAA works to:

- Enable parents to work more effectively with school personnel to plan and obtain effective educational programs for their children with disabilities;
- Encourage more attorneys and advocates to undertake representation of parents of children with disabilities in their efforts to plan and obtain effective educational programs;
- Provide advocate, attorney, parent and other professional COPAA members with the practical resources and information they need to obtain effective educational programs for students with disabilities;
- Enable members to network and share information and legal resources;
- Provide training for special education advocates on all aspects of special education advocacy and informal conflict resolution;
- Provide training for attorneys on legal practice: including due process, litigation, and informal conflict resolution;
- Enable parents to locate advocates, attorneys, and related professionals through COPAA's website directory;
- File amicus curiae briefs in cases of national significance.

Strategic Goals

Goal 1: COPAA will have an active community of 2,500 members.

Goal 2: COPAA will be a diverse civil rights organization whose membership and participation in all COPAA activities is reflective of the community of families and professionals we represent.

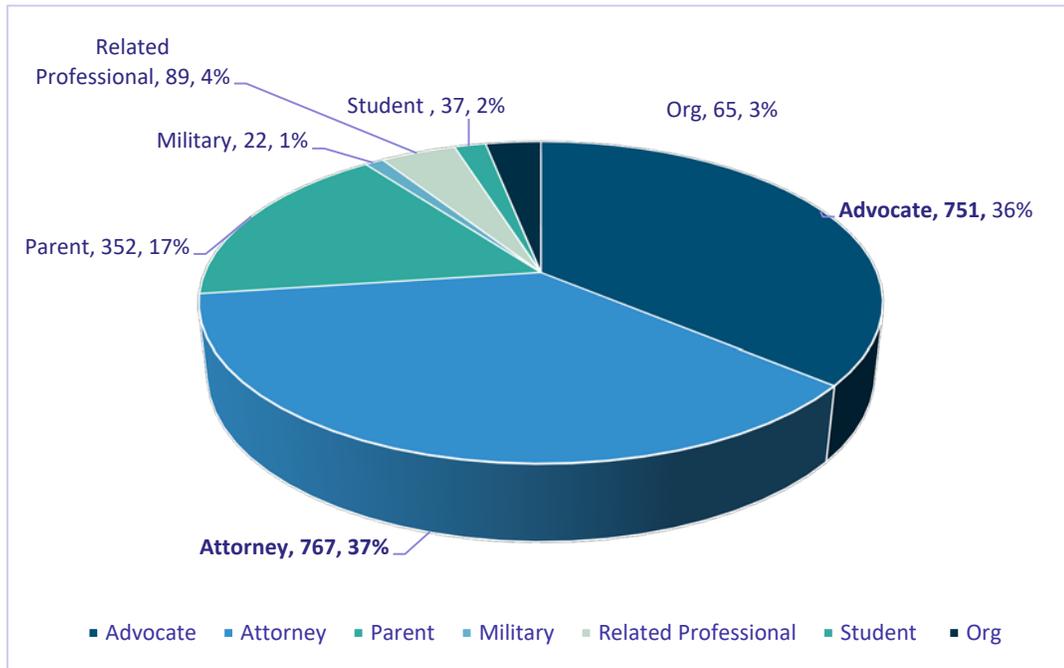
Goal 3: COPAA will expand power and reach through collaborative partnerships to assure each child eligible for services and supports has an equal opportunity to a quality education.

Goal 4: COPAA will clearly articulate a legal and advocacy strategy; and build the capacity to provide direct legal intervention and support on priority issues.

Goal 5: COPAA will remain the leading national authority and resource on educational rights of students with disabilities and their families.

Goal 6: COPAA will have an annual operating budget of >\$1,000,000.00

Current Membership



2084 members nationwide and many more involved in our community – COPAA is everywhere the voices of students with disabilities and their families need to be heard

Demographics

66% (1368) of current members opted to provide demographic information. Of those 89% have a family member with a disability; 45% have a disability themselves; 76% are Caucasian and 24% are persons of color: Spanish/Hispanic/Latino 8%, Black /African American 7%, Multiracial 5%, other 4%.

Membership by State

At the time of this report COPAA has members in every state, including the District of Columbia, except North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota. California, New York, and Texas are the highest member states. There are 24 states with less than 10 members.

Much of COPAA’s work is done by volunteers through our committee structure. Over 30% of COPAA members participate on at least one, if not more, committees, sub-committees and workgroups.

Amicus Committee

Co-Chairs: Catherine Merino Reisman and Ellen Saideman



In 2017, COPAA filed a record 16 amicus briefs, 14 in federal circuit courts of appeals and 2 in state appellate courts. [See full list of Amicus Briefs](#). COPAA is able to increase amicus work thanks to the increased capacity of having a contractual Legal Director Selene Almazan and a contractual part-time staff attorney, Jessica Salonus. COPAA Amicus Committee members play an important role; we thank Roy Attwood, Alexis Casillas, Judith Gran, David Grey, Andre Larose, Leslie Margolis, and Alice Nelson for their work on amicus briefs. We also want to thank Mark Gross, Kimberly Jackson, and Leslie Margolis for assisting with technical assistance. In 2017 COPAA also received assistance from three firms: Strook Strook, Pillsbury, and Frankel & Kershenbaum. We filed amicus briefs in a wide variety of issues, such as exhaustion after *Fry*, FAPE after *Andrew F.*, statute of limitations, bullying, inclusion, and attorneys’ fees. Some issues have been briefed on multiple occasions. Some were Brandeis briefs, providing the court with social science. Some were purely legal in nature, and others provided information on legislative history. While most of the cases in which we filed briefs in 2017 are still pending, we did get two favorable decisions (Kirsch and Jefferson County) as well as a number of favorable decisions in cases in which amicus briefs were filed in 2016 and earlier, including the two Supreme Court cases *Andrew F. v. Douglas County* and *Fry v. Napoleon*. The committee provided one-on-one technical assistance to members and also presented a webinar in April 2017 on *Andrew F.* to the COPAA membership. [Archive webinar and materials are available on the website](#). The Litigation Workgroup continues to meet on specific issues, such as advocacy in light of the *Andrew F.* decision.

Advocate Committee

Co-Chairs: Cynthia Daniels-Hall, Naomi Grossman, Diane Willcutts and David Beinke

The Advocate Committee continues its work on two sub-committees:

- **The Credentialing Committee** is led by Cynthia Daniels-Hall. The purpose of the sub-committee is to consider possible voluntary credentialing of advocate that decide to seek

that path. They may include micro-credentialing, specific certifications or something more broad such as state wide certification.

- **COPAA Interstate Advocacy Sub-Committee**- Michael Kaczor leads this sub-committee which is focused on assuring availability representation in every state. (Aka-COPAA advocates in 50 states or bust sub-committee) The 3rd meeting occurred in February with eleven active members.

The committee will be conducting a survey of members in 2018 to find out more about the strengths and needs of members and engage all members in the Advocate Committee projects.

The Advocate Committee continues Late Night Sessions. In its 7th year, Late Night keeps rocking along with sessions on Wednesday and Sunday nights. Special kudos to Cynthia Daniels-Hall and David Beinke, the co-hosts, who invite speakers and facilitate discussion. Applause to the SREC, Amicus and GR committees who have participated in regular, cross pollinations of information meetings as part of Advocate Late Night. The committee plans to continue with special guest speakers, continuing with regulars such as Dr. Lesli Doan on the monthly Ask- a-Psychologist Session, and will be inviting other COPAA committees, such as Development and Membership committees to participate.



Awards Committee

Chair: Dana Jonson

The Awards committee is responsible for reviewing nominations and making a recommendation to the COPAA Board for the Diane Lipton Award for Outstanding Educational Advocacy. This award honors the memory of Diane Lipton, a tireless advocate for children with disabilities for over two decades. Diane began as a parent-advocate on behalf of her own daughter, Chloe, who had been placed in a segregated school, separated from her peers without disabilities by a chain link fence. Diane became an attorney for the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, where she championed the civil rights of children with disabilities. The 2018 Diane Lipton Award honoree is [Janeen Steel of the Learning Rights Law Center.](#)

Attorney Committee

Co-Chairs: Craig Goodmark and Jennifer Laviano



The Attorneys' Committee has worked on finding a balance between supporting "new" attorneys (those who are new to the practice of law and those who are new to special education law) as well as providing resources to our experienced attorney members. The active Committee members are a mix of both groups. The committee is operating the first year of the CAMP (COPAA Attorney Mentor Program). Committee created and disseminated a data collecting survey to determine whether the pilot program has been well received and whether there are any issues to be resolved.

The Survey results were positive and promising. All respondents actively participated in the program (meeting their mentor/mentee) and appreciated the experience. The engagements were mostly for over an hour and a majority of the participants met in person. All mentee responses indicated that meeting and engaging with their mentor was helpful (a majority said extremely helpful) and described their mentors as available, experienced, and very importantly "willing to work with" the mentee. Almost all of the mentors provided some form of technical support, including providing forms or samples, to the mentees, including letters, briefs, pleadings, due process complaints, and legal research. Finally, a majority of the responses indicated they would recommend the program to other COPAA members. In the upcoming year the Attorney Committee is wholly focused on sustaining and expanding CAMP and evaluate our capacity to support more pairing and decide the best method for that to occur; focus on increasing members volunteer contributions and to exploring specific ways we can utilize technology to provide web based support for all members – providing informational, technical or emotional support. We have initiated a file sharing program by having the group web page updated and intend to seek contributions to that site in 2018.

Conference Committee

Co-Chairs: Melissa Alexander and Mandy Favaloro

The 2018 Annual Conference, COPAA's 20th Anniversary, was a resounding success with: 35 sponsors, 14 exhibitors, 605 registered attendees and 6 participants in the 3rd Annual Student

Rights Initiative SRI). Total of all attendees is 660. This is a new record for overall participation, with the previous high of 603 being in Philadelphia (2016). Each year we have held a Wednesday night Fun(d)raiser. This year the event was generously co-sponsored by A2Z Educational Advocates and The Law Offices of Alexis Casillas. Close to 100 participants gathered at Scales Steak and Seafood on Monterey's iconic Fisherman's Wharf. Great views, great food, and great company! Thank you to this year's sponsors (see list in text box).

The Committee is currently reviewing the conference evaluations to inform decisions and goals for our 2019 Conference to be held in New Orleans, LA March 7-10, 2019. Planning for this Conference will start in May of 2018, with the Request for Proposals issued in June, 2018. *Laissez le bon temps rouler!*

Development Committee

Co-Chairs: Maureen van Stone and Carrie Watts

The Development Committee undertakes many activities throughout the year, including: supporting the Wednesday night fun(d)raiser at the Annual Conference; supporting fundraising through AmazonSmile (If you haven't signed up already, please do so at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0877085>); cultivating donors, including working to secure 100% board support for calendar year 2017. Thank you to all of our donors (see below) for your generosity and support. The committee also works to contribute to the "Our Stories" section of the website. We welcome submission of stories for site and for use in our giving campaigns, please send to <COPAA@copaa.org>. The development committee is continuously looking for possible funding opportunities that comport with our work and our mission and the development committee urges membership to join this committee!

2017 Donors

Beatrice Adams, Melissa Alexander, Selene Almazan, Fred, Andresky, David Beinke, Robert I. Berlow, Gwen E. Campbell,

Thank you 2018 Conference Sponsors

[\(Click here for descriptions and link to sponsor website\)](#)

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Alexis Casillas, Eileen Crumm, Matthew D. Cohen, Cynthia Daniels-Hall, Mandy Favaloro, Andrew A. Feinstein, Mallory Finn, Michai Freeman, Michael Gilbert, Craig Goodmark, Mark Gross, Kimberly Griffie Jackson, David Jefferson, Kathleen and Kennon Jones, Dana Jonson, Robin P. Keller, Margaret Kohn, Michele G. Kule-Korgood, Andree M. Larose, Jennifer D. Laviano, Richard C. Levin, Marcie Lipsitt, Honey J. Low, Mark B. Martin, Denise Marshall, Barbara D. Merino Mayer, Melanie Mueller, Alice K. Nelson, Catherine Merino Reisman, Jasleen Sabharwal, Ellen Saideman, Diana M. Savit, Susan Shapiro, Linda Skrypski, Joyce Isabel Steingass, Richard and Kathleen Stile, Elizabeth Stoff, Torin Togut, Sharon Tropf, Maureen L. van Stone, Carolina Watts, Diane Willcutts, Jonathan A. Zimring.

Government Relations Committee

Co-Chairs Michele Kule-Korgood and Andrew Feinstein (Diane Willcutts co-chair until 12/1/17)

The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) is the nation's leading authority on protecting and enforcing the legal and civil rights of children with disabilities. COPAA has secured major public policy and public affairs achievements which have directly impacted the federal policy affecting children with disabilities and supported the mission of the organization.

Policy Priorities:

- Safeguarding the protections of IDEA, Section 504 and ADA;
- Ensuring excellence and equity in education for all children;
- Enforcing State compliance with the IDEA and ESSA;
- Leading initiatives that stop the overuse of exclusionary disciplinary practices, especially seclusion and restraint;
- Fully funding the IDEA;
- Protecting IDEA formula funding to states from being used as a source to pay for federal voucher programs;
- Ensuring federal public education funds are not used to pay for federal school choice programs;
- Ending discrimination toward students with disabilities in school choice and charter school programs;
- Creating seamless transition for students with disabilities from infancy to post-secondary life.

Highlights of the Year

- **Seclusion and Restraint:** COPAA has been a leader in pushing for a federal bill that eliminates use of seclusion and reducing and preventing the use restraint in schools since 2008. We are working closely with Senator Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Scott's (D-VA) offices to ensure current data and best practices inform the legislative language a Federal bill that will hopefully be introduced this legislative session. Importantly, COPAA is working to raise the bar of protection in the upcoming bills by securing a provision to ban seclusion in schools in the House version, this was previously only available in the Senate bill.

- **Special Education Expertise:** Denise Marshall was invited to the Senate Democratic Steering Caucus Roundtable in December 2017 as the sole special education expert. Select Senators and their staff were keen to hear about the status of students with disabilities especially considering the recent Supreme Court decision on *Endrew F.* As a result, new and strengthened relationships are developing for COPAA in these and other offices: Sen. Durbin (D-IL), Sen. Duckworth (D-IL), Sen. Hassan (D-VT), Sen. Klobuchar (D-MN), Sen. Shaheen (D-NH).
- **Charters/Vouchers Programs:** COPAA's knowledge and expertise regarding the rights of children with disabilities under charter schools and voucher programs leads the organization to be called upon to present, advise and meet with education groups, congressional staff and advocate partners about how programs and funding proposed by the Administration and legislators impacts students with disabilities. This is an ongoing area of work that crosses the spectrum of public policy: authorizing law, appropriations, regulations, research and the media.

Government Relations – Legislative and Regulatory

COPAA continues to push for our priorities with the current Administration; COPAA staff and advisors met with: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Kim Richey, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS); Ruth Ryder, Director, OSERS; and Acting Asst. Secretary Candice Jackson, Office for Civil Rights. COPAA participates actively with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR), the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and the Federal Coalition on Discipline on all matters relating to the rights and opportunities of children with disabilities. COPAA will continue to push for protection of parent and student rights in areas that the Administration has identified plans to roll back; specifically at this time relating to discipline guidance, delaying significant disproportionality, and recently, the administration has issued a new case processing manual which in effect renders OCR meaningless. The manual permits OCR to dismiss any complaint at any time; eliminate the appeals process for families; and reduce the time for complainants to give evidence. These changes gut the protections afforded parents and, at the same time, will force more parents into expensive administrative appeals process. COPAA is working with our colleague to urge OCR to take action to restore rights and to acknowledge and address violations rather than dismiss and ignore them. Our children's lives depend on responsible action to address unlawful inequity and discrimination.

COPAA staff and advisors are frequently called by staffers for Ranking Member Murray (Senate HELP Committee) and Ranking Member Scott (House HELP Committee) to discuss developments on issues such as: ESSA implementation questions and concerns; ESSA monitoring accountability and discipline; nomination hearings; Bureau of Indian Education, Higher Education Act) language and bill negotiations (e.g. Higher Education Act, seclusion and restraint); regulatory concerns (e.g. significant disproportionality).

COPAA proactively seeks to keep the ‘four corners’ informed of our priorities and makes recommendations and communicates throughout the legislative process which they lead. We work with and are known to Chair Foxx (R-NC) and Chairman Alexander (R-TN) and COPAA is relied upon by Ranking Member Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Scott (D-VA) to advise and to act. With the Democrats in particular, we provide strategic input to their work and see our efforts reflected in their proposals. Legislative results are:

Young children: Children with disabilities and their families included in meaningful ways in the Democrats early childcare bill: *Childcare Working Families Act*

Young adults: Students with disabilities, training for faculty, improvements in teacher preparation and extensive fixes to barriers in postsecondary education included in the Democrat substitute bills in the House Higher Education Act reauthorization.

Grassroots Advocacy/State Work

Engaged COPAA membership in grassroots activity regarding:

- Preserving Medicaid funding
- Protecting public education funding consistent with COPAA’s priorities on IDEA rights o Opposing changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act (e.g. H.R. 620)
- Other topic of interest to members in specific states, such as proposals that would limit or curtail special education advocates, restraint and seclusion bills, and statewide violations i.e., systemic denial of FAPE in Texas.

Launched a State Coordinator initiative to help COPAA members engage on key policy issues and connect to COPAA policy agenda.

To date, state policy action planning is underway in Tennessee, North Carolina and Vermont. The Tennessee work has already resulted in COPAA engaging through state coordinator Anna Caudill with state legislators to support pending legislation that will end the use of corporal punishment for students with disabilities. COPAA has also supported one superintendent’s policy decision to end corporal punishment across the district for all students. More activity is expected as legislative initiatives spur activity.

Media Relations Committee

Chair: Julie Swanson

The Media Relations Committee, together with members of our policy team Laura Kaloi and Evie developed a COPAA Media Relations Toolkit Webinar. The webinar aired on April 11th. The archived recording and materials are [here on the COPAA website](#). This overview is designed to be “step 1” in the committee’s goal of continuing to design support and instruction to our members in supporting COPAA’s national public relations efforts and State-specific special education stories. The committee was instrumental in connecting COPAA with the Education Writers Association (EWA). Executive Director Denise Marshall is presenting as part of a panel to 300-400 journalists at the EWA national conference in LA on May 18th in the session “Covering Special Education.” Next Steps for the Committee: Expand membership of Media Relations Committee; Continue development of Public Relations Webinars / Presentations.



Membership Committee

Co-Chairs: Michael Gilberg, Carolina Watts, Mallory Finn

COPAA is on track in regards to membership goals related to overall growth. COPAA membership is currently at its highest numbers ever! Areas of focus for the coming year are related to specific target areas: Geographic areas with low membership (example: low membership states); Underserved populations and communities (looking at our diversity data and in collaboration with other committees); Specific member groups within COPAA (such as Parents and Students). Compared to the previous two years our attrition rate is *3 percent lower* than this same time last year with 391 lapsed members compared to 401 lapsed members from July to December 2016. Our new memberships in 2017 are *32 percent higher* than our rate for the same time period in 2016 and are *39 percent higher* than the same time in 2015. In the past year COPAA provided 64 membership Scholarships.

Parent Committee

Chair: Dana Jonson

The role of parent members (consistent with COPAA’s stated purpose and work) is to protect the legal and civil rights of students with disabilities and their families on an individual basis (for their own families and other families as peer to-peer support) and also through systemic efforts and policy action. The Parent Committee seeks to increase available resources for COPAA parent

members and provided access to archived webinars, as well as select fact sheets and publications, such as IEP and Parental Consent. Twenty resources through our website that would otherwise be an additional cost to members have been provided to parent members at no cost as a celebration of our 20th Anniversary. The resources will remain free and available to all parent members through 2018 (members [click here to access](#)). We would like to continue this trend and provide additional no cost resources to parent members each year.

Scholarship Committee

Co-Chairs: Dana Jonson, Robert Berlow, Michael Gilberg, Amber Foote

This committee is responsible to manage the Board of Directors Restricted Fund (solely financed by member donations) that is used to award 5-7 Beth Goodman memorial scholarships each year to defray conference expenses for COPAA members who meet the financial requirements and who have made significant contributions to special-education advocacy, or who have a demonstrated interest and commitment to make future contributions to special education advocacy but could not otherwise afford to attend the conference. The scholarship honors the memory of Beth Goodman, a member of the COPAA Board until her death in 2002. Beth was an outstanding attorney who dedicated her life to fighting for the rights of students with disabilities in Washington D.C.

COPAA also provides a Registration Fee Discount (Financial Hardship) Scholarship to a limited number of qualified individuals whose family income is at or below the federal poverty level or have extenuating circumstances may apply for a conference registration fee discount. Attorneys, Advocates, Family members or Related Professionals with a demonstrated hardship are eligible to apply. Each year 10-12 attendees who qualify receive a discounted rate off the conference fee; first come, first served. Attorneys who qualify receive at least a 50% price reduction for the course.

Special Projects

National Council on Disability IDEA Report Series

This contract concluded in 2017. Many thanks to Selene Almazan, Project Director, The Advisory Board and the research team of Carol Quirk, Candace Cortiella, Laura Kaloi and Laura Schifter. The IDEA National Council on Disability (NCD) 5 report series, is now publicly posted <https://ncd.gov/publications/2018/individuals-disabilities-education-act-report-series-5-reportbriefs>

National Council on Disability Charter/Voucher Impact on Students with Disabilities Report

COPAA began this contract in September of 2017 and the work will wrap up in the summer of 2018. Selene Almazan, COPAA Legal Director is the Project Director for both reports. Selene, Denise Marshall COPAA Executive Director and Eve Hill of Brown, Goldstein and Levy are writing/researching the Voucher Paper. COPAA is collaborating with Kathy Boundy and Joanne Karger of the Center for Law and Education on the Charter Paper. Focus groups and interviews across the country inform the research for these reports and we thank all who participated in the research.

Social Racial Equity Committee

Chair: David Jefferson

The SREC Committee has Increase depth of tangible member benefits or new services to meet the identified needs, which included adding the following pate Resources for African American Students, Resources for Latino / Hispanic Students, Resources for American Indian Students, and Resources for LGBTQ Students. The SREC is still working to add website pages on Resources for Asian Students and Resources for low SES Students Resources. The committee also added several documents to the website that were translated into Spanish for advocates and families. Finally, the SREC has developed an implicit bias toolbox for the Board and membership. The committee will continue its work cross collaborating with COPAA's conference, training, government relations and other committees to raise awareness of and address implicit bias and any identified structural, financial, cultural or linguistic needs of the organization. In March the SREC identified four national organizations with whom to increase collaborative work (NAACP, MALDEF, Urban League and ACLU) that have work which is aligned with the work of COPAA as it related to minority students and their families.

Training Committee

Chair: Eileen Crumm

The training committee has been focused on the SEAT series in the past year. A subcommittee designed and implemented the new SEAT 1.0 (35 participants). Denise Marshall and SEAT TA staff (Gretchen Adams, Paula Senigar and Lorraine Bees) led the implementation of SEAT 2.0 (59 participants). Finally, another group is starting planning on SEAT 3.0 (Starting an advocacy business). COPAA also continues the webinar series. In 2017 we held 4 series, for a total of 12 webinars. COPAA also offers the New Attorney Online Training which is led by Selene Almazan. In 2017 we had 25 participants. Many thanks to all of the SEAT Instructors, SEAT volunteer Practicum

Supervisors, Webinar Presenters and New Attorney guest speakers for their pro bono participation in COPAA's training efforts.

Financial Statements

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$441,745	\$277,102
Accounts receivable, net	20,100	50,750
Prepaid expenses	15,878	31,559
Total current assets	\$477,723	\$359,411
Investments	\$122,999	\$106,076
Property and Equipment Computer equipment	2,263	3,516
Website	14,839	14,839
	17,102	18,355
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	15,935	17,065
Total net property and equipment	1,167	1,290
Total assets	\$601,889	\$466,777
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$37,515	\$17,108
Accrued expenses	\$16,279	21,067
Deferred revenue	\$293,250	225,650
Total current liabilities	\$347,044	\$263,825
Net Assets		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	\$146,269	\$92,738
Board designated	100,000	100,000
	246,269	192,738
Temporarily restricted	8,576	10,214
Total net assets	254,845	202,952
Total liabilities and net assets	\$601,889	\$466,777

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Support and Revenue Donated services	\$770,093	\$743,265
Conference fees	314,815	330,665
Membership dues	180,395	163,969
Webinars/Training	134,192	132,926
Grants and contracts	141,420	81,731
General Contributions	22,629	12,718
Interest and dividends	3,488	2,567
Unrealized gain on investments	13,834	7,351
Other	9,350	2,706
	<u>1,590,216</u>	<u>1,477,898</u>
Net Assets Released from Restriction		
Satisfaction of restriction	7,005	7,000
Total unrestricted support and revenue	<u>1,597,221</u>	<u>1,484,898</u>
Expenses		
Program services	1,469,374	1,357,234
Management and general	74,316	72,826
Total expenses	<u>1,543,690</u>	<u>1,430,060</u>
Change in unrestricted net assets	<u>53,531</u>	<u>54,838</u>
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Contributions to Beth Goodman Fund	5,367	6,505
Net Assets Released from Restriction	(7,005)	(7,000)
Change in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>(1,638)</u>	<u>(495)</u>
Change in net assets	51,893	54,343
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>202,952</u>	<u>148,609</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$254,845</u>	<u>\$202,952</u>

COPAA Board of Directors

Current Officers:

Alexis Casillas, Esq.(CA), Chair
Maureen van Stone, Esq., (MD), Vice Chair
David Jefferson (AZ), Treasurer
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Denise Smith (TX)
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Michele Kule Korgood, Esq. (NY)
Jennifer D. Laviano, (CT)
Mark B. Martin, Esq. (MD)
Shenikwa Medlock (TX)
Catherine Merino Reisman (NJ)

Founding COPAA Board Members

The COPAA Board recognize our founding Board Members whose hard work in 1998 and beyond formed the roots and gave wings to the organization: Barbara Bateman, Catherine L. Blakemore, Donna Chewning, Matthew D. Cohen, Susan Dawson, Nancy Diehl, Kathryn E. Dobel, William L.E. Dussault, Thomas Gilhool, Joyce Lane Ginsberg, Judith Gran, Beth Goodman, Stewart Hakola, Howard Klebanoff, Sheryl Lilly, Diane Lipton, Deborah Mattison, Eileen Ordover, S. James Rosenfeld, Valerie Vanaman, Nikole Whitehead, Pam Wright, Peter D. Wright.

COPAA Staff

Denise Stile Marshall, Executive Director
Selene Almazan, Contractual Legal Director
Marcie Hipple, Meetings and Membership Coordinator
Jamie Anderson, Data Assistant
Jessica Salonus, Contractual Staff Attorney