



Introducing...

## Atlantic Legal Foundation's Charter School Advocacy Program

For more than five years, Atlantic Legal has represented charter schools and their advocates when charters have been opposed by bureaucrats, teachers' unions, school districts and others who benefit from the conventional public education monopoly.

# Charter School Advocacy Program: Mission Statement

Atlantic Legal believes that charter schools offer a necessary and viable alternative for parents and children locked into failing public schools. Recognizing that entrenched special-interest groups are opposed to the charter school concept and advised by a board of nationally prominent leaders in education, Atlantic Legal has established a program devoted to the protection and strengthening of charter schools:

## Leveling the Playing Field

Atlantic Legal is publishing a series of state-focused legal guides, written by nationally known labor law attorneys, to educate charter school leaders about what they must know regarding unionization efforts.

## Litigation

Atlantic Legal represents charter schools and charter school advocates in court, often as “friends of the court,” focusing on broad policy concerns that are not being developed adequately by plaintiffs and defendants. Atlantic Legal offers its representation at no charge.

## *Pro Bono* Counsel

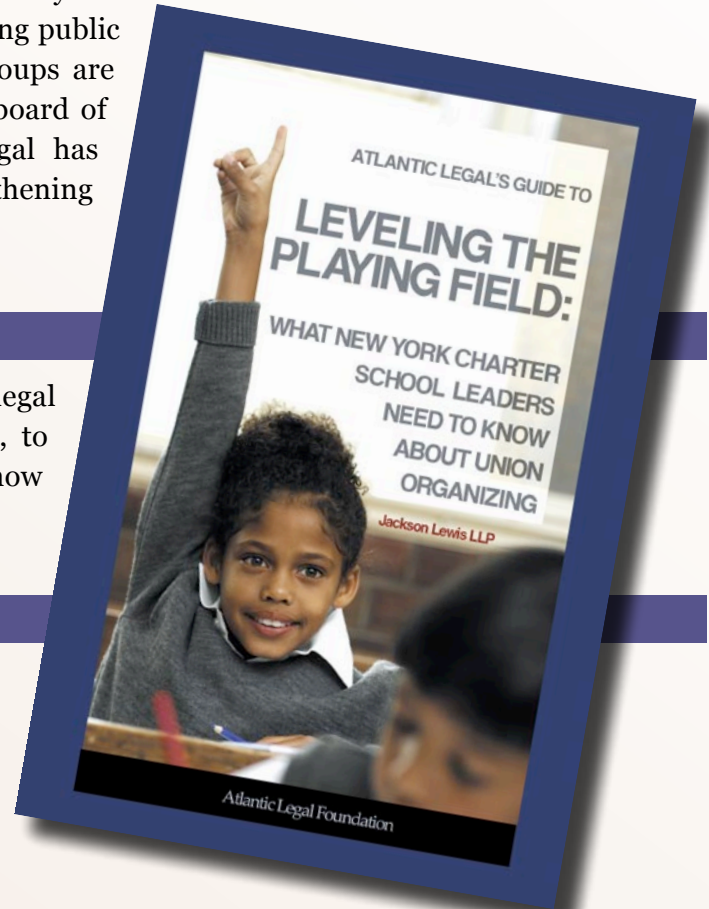
Atlantic Legal gives legal advice to charter school leaders and links charter schools with able private sector lawyers willing to provide representation at reduced rates or at no charge. Atlantic Legal collaborates with other public-interest attorneys who seek to expand school choice options on behalf of their clients.

## Education

Atlantic Legal organizes conferences and workshops bringing national charter school leaders and charter advocates together to explore solutions to common problems. Using its network of charter school leaders, Atlantic Legal will also publish occasional papers discussing national issues impacting charters.

## Website

Atlantic Legal’s dedicated website, [www.defendcharterschools.org](http://www.defendcharterschools.org), will serve to gather the best research and current developments affecting charters.



# Charter School Advocacy Program Advisory Committee

**Jeanne Allen**

President  
Center for Education Reform  
Washington, D.C.

**Peter Murphy**

Director of Development and Policy  
New York Charter Schools Association  
Albany, NY

**Clint Bolick**

President  
Alliance for School Choice  
Phoenix, AZ

**Darla Romfo**

President  
Children's Scholarship Fund  
New York, NY

**Matthew Brouillette**

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Commonwealth Foundation  
Harrisburg, PA

**Gordon St. Angelo**

President & CEO  
Milton and Rose Friedman Foundation  
Indianapolis, IN

**Thor Halvorsen**

Advisory Council  
Atlantic Legal Foundation  
New York, NY

**Jeffrey Wallin**

President  
American Academy of Liberal Education  
Washington, DC

**Rev. Reginald T. Jackson**

Executive Director  
Black Ministers' Council of New Jersey  
Newark, NJ

**Caprice Young**

Chief Executive Officer  
California Charter Schools Association  
Los Angeles, CA

## Client Comments

*"We would not have been able to make the progress we have without the help we received. I feel that we were fortunate to have the support and expertise of Atlantic Legal Foundation to advocate for us and give our students the voice they needed for their cry to be heard."*

George Featherson, Paterson Charter School for Urban Leadership

*"New Jersey parents who want to have a quality public education for their children should be grateful to the Atlantic Legal Foundation for its effective advocacy of their interests."*

Dan Gaby, Executive Director, Excellent Education for Everyone

*"The Atlantic Legal Foundation provides first-rate representation—and can go head-to-head with law firms charter opponents are able to hire. The Foundation is a terrific resource for charters in New York."*

Bill Phillips, President, New York Charter Schools Association

# Atlantic Legal Foundation Charter School Advocacy Program

## **Briscoe R. Smith, Executive Director**

Mr. Smith has had principal responsibility for Atlantic Legal's charter school advocacy as Atlantic Legal's Senior Vice President and Counsel. He is a graduate of Williams College and the University of Virginia Law School, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif and was Executive Editor of the *Virginia Law Review*; he was a law clerk to a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, a general partner of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, general counsel of a leading New York financial institution, and counsel to a prominent litigation firm.

## **Martin S. Kaufman, of Counsel**

Mr. Kaufman is Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Atlantic Legal Foundation. He is a graduate of Columbia College and Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, and Articles and Research Editor of the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*. Prior to joining Atlantic Legal, he was a partner in a prominent New York law firm.

## **Jennifer Whitley, Senior Program Coordinator**

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Ms. Whitley majored in Speech and Language Pathology and was a member of the National Speech, Hearing, and Language Association.

## **Bethany Nichols, Program Coordinator**

Bethany is a recent graduate of Converse College with a major in Political Science, where she was active in debating and a leader in student government.



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