BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

POWAY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2025090165

ORDER OF RECUSAL

JANUARY 2, 2026

On December 29, 2025, Administrative Law Judge Cararea Lucier, from the Office of Administrative Hearings, called OAH, convened a prehearing conference in this matter. An Administrative Law Judge is called ALJ. At the prehearing conference ALJ Lucier disclosed she had become aware that morning that she had a legal services agreement with Parent from 2017, although she could not recall any details such as the school district the child attended at the time or whether she met or advised Parent.

Counsel for Student had no objections with ALJ Lucier hearing the case. Counsel for Poway had no immediate objections but reserved the right to object later if his client had concerns.

On December 30, 2025, counsel for Student withdrew on the basis that Parent terminated the legal representation, and stated Parent would proceed with the matter as a self-represented party.

Upon further investigation of past records, ALJ Lucier discovered she met with Parent on October 25, 2017, and provided general legal advice as part of an initial legal consultation. Student attended Poway Unified School District at the time. Parent entered into a legal services agreement with the former law office of ALJ Lucier. A paralegal under the direction of ALJ Lucier attended individualized education program team meetings for Student, convened by Poway Unified School District.

California Code of Civil Procedure section 170.1, subdivision (a)(6)(A) mandates that a judge shall be disqualified if for any reason:

- The judge believes his or her recusal would further the interests of justice.
- The judge believes there is a substantial doubt as to his or her capacity to be impartial.
- A person aware of the facts might reasonably entertain a doubt that the judge would be able to be impartial.

ALJ Lucier believes her recusal would further the interests of justice, and that a person aware of the facts might reasonably entertain a doubt of her impartiality. Accordingly, ALJ Lucier recuses herself from hearing this matter.

OAH will assign a new ALJ to hear the case.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Cararea Lucier

Cararea Lucier
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings