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Jim Gerl is a special education law consultant, and he is the writer of the award-winning special education law blog <http://specialeducationlawblog.blogspot.com/>. He has been a due process hearing officer and mediator for the West Virginia Department of Education since 1989. He now also works as a hearing officer and/or mediator for Washington, DC, Utah and a portion of Pennsylvania. Jim serves as a consultant to and trainer for a number of state education agencies. He is a frequent speaker on special education law topics. Jim has a law degree from the University of San Francisco; a Masters degree in public policy analysis from the University of Illinois- Chicago; and a BA with Departmental Distinction from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.