



**Kim Karelis**  
**515 South Flower Street, Suite 1100**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90071**  
**Direct: (213) 312-2012**  
**Office: (213) 312-2000**  
**Fax: (213) 312-2001**  
**Email: [kkarelis@rmkb.com](mailto:kkarelis@rmkb.com)**  
**Web: [www.rmkb.com](http://www.rmkb.com)**

Kim Karelis is a partner in the Firm's Los Angeles office. He has broad experience regarding legal fee disputes in complex commercial matters and with respect to attorneys retained by insurance companies, which commonly arise in the context of contribution actions between carriers. Mr. Karelis has served as an expert witness in attorney fee disputes, as well as an auditor with respect to questioned legal fees and costs. He has experience representing both attorneys and consumers of legal services in such matters.

Mr. Karelis also has intensive experience in special education law, where he represents students in disputes with local school districts regarding classroom placement and support services that students with disabilities are entitled to receive under both federal and state law. This is a rapidly-expanding practice area because school districts often ignore or misrepresent their legal obligation to provide students with disabilities with a free and appropriate public education ("FAPE").

Mr. Karelis also represents insurance companies in litigation concerning insurance coverage disputes arising from all types of commercial and personal lines policies. Mr. Karelis has many years of experience defending and prosecuting lawsuits regarding coverage disputes between insurance companies, as well as coverage disputes between policyholders and insurance companies.

## Practice Areas

---

- Litigation Management/Cost Control/Fee Disputes
- Special Education Law
- Insurance Services

## Education

---

- Winona State University, 1976 B.A.
- Southwestern Law School, 1994 J.D.  
cum laude

## Court Admissions

---

- California

- US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- USDC: Central District of California
- USDC: Northern District of California

## Publications

---

- Author, The Right to 'Stay Put', *The Recorder*, 3/14/2012
- Author, State Justices to Rule on Labor Code Fee-Shifting Provisions, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, February 17, 2012
- Author, Recoveries in Self-Representation, *The Recorder*, 11/7/2011
- Author, U.S. Supreme Court Clarifies Recoverable Attorney Fees for Public Entities in Successful Litigation, *Public CEO*, 7/22/2011
- Author, What Fees Can Public Entities Recover From Successful Litigation, *Public CEO*, 4/21/2011
- Author, Getting Their Due – Attorneys Have Right to Jury Trial in Fee Agreement Disputes, *The Recorder; Cal Law*, 10/29/2008
- Author, California Liability Insurance Practice: Claims and Litigation , *Continuing Education Bar*, 1/1/2007
- Author, Keep The Faith: Insurers Can Reduce The Risk of Exposure in Bad Faith Litigation, *The Recorder*, January 5, 2005
- Author, Private Justice: How Civil Litigation is Becoming a Private Institution - The Rise of Private Dispute Centers , *23 Southwestern University Law Review* 621, 1/1/1993

## News

---

- Ropers Majeski Kohn & Bentley Launches Special Education Practice, *Los Angeles Partner Kim Karelis, Father of Two Special Needs Kids, Leads Effort* , 1/20/2011