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**Teachers Say the Darndest Things -- Again:**

A school district attorney's and school employee attorney's perspectives on the First Amendment line between school employees' speech as public employees and private citizens

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## Teachers Say the Darndest Things -- Again:

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by  
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### Online Speech by Teachers: *Munroe v. Central Bucks Sch. Dist.*, 805 F.3d 454 (3d Cir. 2015)

- High school English teacher
- Started a blog entitled *Where are we going, and why are we in this handbasket?*
  - Did not expressly identify either where she worked or lived, the name of the school where she taught, or the names of her students.
  - Claimed her blog was meant to be viewed by friends that she had asked to subscribe - did not intend for it to be read by the public at large.
  - For most of its existence, only had nine (9) subscribers
- At the top of her January 20, 2010 blog post, there was a depiction of a school bus with a "Short Bus" sign and the following heading: "I DON'T CARE IF YOU LICK THE WINDOWS, TAKE THE SPECIAL BUS OR OCCASSIONALLY PEE ON YOURSELF ... YOU HANG IN THERE SUNSHINE, YOU'RE FRIGGIN SPECIAL."
- "I'm being a renegade right now, living on the edge and, um, blogging AT work...However, as I'm blogging about work stuff, I give myself a free pass of conscience."
- "Also, as the kids get worse and worse, I find that the canned comments don't accurately express my true sentiments about them....if it's a kid that has no personality, I'll put 'ability to work independently.'"
- "Thus, for this blog, I will list the comments I'd like to see added to the canned comment list, as an accurate reflection of what we really want to say to these parents."
  - A complete and utter jerk in all ways. Although academically ok, your child has no other redeeming qualities.
  - Shy isn't cute in 11th grade; it's annoying. Must learn to advocate for himself instead of having Mommy do it.

- Two words come to mind: brown AND nose.
  - Gimme an A.I.R.H.E.A.D. What's that spell? Your kid!
  - Nowhere near as good as her sibling. Are you sure they're related?
  - I won't even remember her name next semester if I see her in the hall.
  - Just as bad as his sibling. Don't you know how to raise kids?
  - Dresses like a street walker.
  - Whiny, simpering grade-grubber with an unrealistically high perception of own ability level.
  - One of the most annoying students I've had the displeasure of being locked in a room with for an extended time.
  - Am concerned that your kid is going to come in one day and open fire on the school. (Wish I was kidding.)
  - Your daughter is royalty. (The Queen of Drama)
  - I hear the trash company is hiring ...
  - I called out sick a couple of days just to avoid your son.
  - There's no other way to say this: I hate your kid.
- Discussing recent disciplinary issues and other problems (for instance, she had to deal with a student and his mother complaining about a test score), Munroe posted:
 

Kids! I don't know what's wrong with these kids today! Kids! Who can understand anything they say? They are disobedient, disrespectful oafs. Noisy, crazy, sloppy, lazy LOAFERS (and while we're on the subject) Kids! You can talk and talk till your face is blue. Kids! But they still do just what they want to do. Why can't they be like we were? (Perfect in every way!!!) What's the matter with kids today? \$? ? My students are out of control. They are rude, disengaged, lazy whiners. They curse, discuss drugs, talk back, argue for grades, complain about everything, fancy themselves entitled to whatever they desire, and are just generally annoying....
  - The school found out about the blog from a reporter, who learned about it from students who were circulating the blog on Facebook and other social media.
  - Principal's description of students' and parents' reaction to blog: "Kids were furious. They were livid. The calls that were coming in from parents, the e-mails that were coming in, kids had copies of it and they were distributing it in the halls."

Also available as part of the eCourse

[School Law Update 2017: Teacher Rights, Hiring, and Firing](#)

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