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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

HUTCHISON & STEFFEN FILES AMICUS CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT-CENTERED EDUCATION POLICY

LAS VEGAS — On Monday, October 26, 2015, the law firms of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP and Hutchison & Steffen filed an amicus curiae, or friend of the court, brief on behalf of the Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcelinEd), a bipartisan organization that promotes student-centered education policy. The Foundation's brief supports the State of Nevada's motion to dismiss the plaintiff's constitutional challenge to the recently enacted Education Savings Account (ESA) legislation in the case of *Duncan v. Nevada*, Case No. A-15-723703-C.

The brief underscores two main claims. The first is the opinion that the ESA program fully comports with the Nevada Constitution. The brief claims that nothing in the text, purpose, or structure of the relevant provisions of the Constitution prohibits the legislature from promoting a variety of educational options for Nevada students. According to the brief, decisions by courts in other states that have considered the issue have rejected challenges similar to the plaintiff's challenge.

The second claim that the brief make is that the unique benefits of the ESA program fulfills the legislature's constitutional mandate to encourage education. From a public policy standpoint, parents are undoubtedly in the best position to decide which school is best for their child. According to the brief, the ESA program broadens the choice for parents.

This summer, Nevada became the first state to empower all public school parents with the right to choose their children's schools. They can direct a portion of the state funds that would have been spent on their child in a traditional public school into an education savings account. They can then decide how to spend those funds to meet their child's educational needs.

To learn more about Nevada's ESA program and ExcelinEd's support, visit DropTheSuitNV.org.

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Hutchison & Steffen, a Martindale-Hubbell® AV-rated law firm, provides a wide variety of legal services, including business law and commercial litigation, trust and probate litigation, appellate litigation, insurance litigation, landlord/tenant law, healthcare professionals advocacy, professional liability defense, alternative dispute resolution, personal injury, bankruptcy law, creditor's rights, construction law, employment law, asset protection and business planning, real estate law, corporate and commercial law, family law, and administrative law. For more information about Hutchison & Steffen, please contact Teresa Tokumon-Phillips at 702.385.2500 or visit the Firm's Web site at hutchlegal.com.

ABOUT FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

The Foundation for Excellence in Education is transforming education for the 21st century economy by working with lawmakers, policymakers, educators and parents to advance education reform across America. ExcelinEd is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In 2014, ExcelinEd received more than 85 percent of its operating revenue from private family foundations. Learn more at ExcelInEd.org.