



Education

Introducing our
experience



Colleges, universities, schools, boards of education and trustees face a myriad of legal issues, many of them unique to education. Womble Bond Dickinson's multi-disciplinary Education Team has decades of experience helping educators, educational institutions and service providers meet everyday business, legal and regulatory challenges.

We understand that the success of our education clients is reflected in the accomplishments of their students and programs in place to support them. Working together with our clients, we develop a customized service and communication plan to meet their unique needs and business objectives.

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Our Education Team members aim to be true partners with our education clients. We identify trends to anticipate upcoming challenges and opportunities and actively support the improvement of the education industry through participation and leadership in organizations such as the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA), the National School Boards Association and the North Carolina Council of School Attorneys.

Representative clients

- Public and private colleges and universities, including research institutions and medical centers
- Community colleges
- Pre-K–12 schools, boards of education and school administrators, traditional and charter public schools
- Education industry associations and supporting foundations
- Education Management Organizations (EMOs) and Charter Management Organizations (CMOs)
- Lenders to educational institutions and related associations and foundations

Our experience

Public and Private Universities and Colleges

- Experience serving as general counsel or primary outside counsel to institutions of higher education for more than 30 years
- Consult with university leadership, senior college administrators and boards on matters of corporate governance, business and finance, advancement/development, residence life, student affairs, admissions, athletics, tenure and promotion, faculty and staff employment and human resources
- Policy, procedures and corporate documents
- Student and faculty hearings and grievances
- Federal and state regulatory compliance, including implementation of Title IX, financial aid, HIPAA, Campus Security Act and other HEOA requirements, OCR compliance and investigations Workshops and in-service training such as ADA compliance, Title IX compliance, sexual harassment awareness and prevention, basic employment practices relevant to campus hiring, student due process issues, other topics of special interest
- Litigation and dispute resolution in all courts and forums

- Licensure and compliance for on-line and out-of-state campus program expansion including internships, clinicals and other “field experiences”
- Employment including defense of charges made to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; tenure disputes; realignment of college programs and related restructuring/reductions in employment
- Employee benefits including tax-qualified retirement and welfare benefit plans, non-qualified retirement arrangements and executive compensation programs and ERISA compliance
- Non-profit corporation/affiliated foundations such as planned giving, wills and estates, charitable donations, endowment, etc.; establishment of private foundations; alumni clubs
- Real property transfer/receipt and construction; land use, planning, zoning and development
- Intellectual property including procurement of patents, trademarks, copyrights and other proprietary rights; preparation and counseling with regard to licensing arrangements and other related intellectual property agreements; enforcement and defense of intellectual property rights

- Technology/telecommunications such as technology transfer, distance learning, e-commerce, telecommunications, licensing, information security, federal and state Internet requirements
- Audits including environmental, employee benefits and employment practices

Additional Education Business Services

- Immigration Solutions services including temporary visa applications for employment, study and exchanges; permanent residency and naturalization applications; strategic planning and compliance advice.
- State Authorization and Licensure in multistate environments
- Accreditation matters
- Bond counsel and university/college counsel in connection with public finance transactions
- Venture capital and other investment firms in the education arena

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