

Higher Education

PRACTICE GROUP

- Advising and defending public and private colleges, universities, and career and technical schools
- Providing on-point experience in litigation, compliance, day-to-day advice, and training
- Helping institutions navigate today's higher education legal environment
- Collaborating with in-house counsel and campus leaders to resolve legal matters

Ogletree
Deakins





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OUR EXPERIENCE

Ogletree Deakins is an industry leader in higher education defense. Our higher education attorneys have decades of experience representing public and private colleges, universities, multi-campus systems, and vocational schools. With over 200 attorneys practicing in a wide range of higher education matters throughout the United States, we provide compliance assistance, litigation defense, training, legal analysis, and day-to-day client advice. We understand the culture of higher education and the business of academe.

Our practice areas include:

Employee Relations

- Internal investigations
- Labor relations
- Immigration
- Workplace violence
- Employee discipline
- Family and Medical Leave Act
- Benefits
- Severance agreements
- Military leave
- Union avoidance
- ERISA litigation
- Drug testing

Equal Opportunity

- Disability access and accommodation
- Title VII
- Equal Pay Act
- Title IX
- Employment litigation
- Grievances
- Age discrimination
- Affirmative action
- Pay equity

Regulatory

- OCR complaints
- EEOC charge responses
- OFCCP audits
- DOL investigations
- Workforce reductions and program closures
- Conflicts of interest
- Research misconduct
- Training
- Compliance
- Accreditation
- Data privacy
- Wage and hour
- OSHA

Student Matters

- Clery Act
- FERPA
- Title IX
- Student discipline
- Title VI
- Honor codes
- Financial aid
- Social media
- Online education
- Student organizations
- Athletics
- Admissions

Our attorneys include past and present university counsel, former higher education administrators, and past and present members of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). This range of experience distinguishes us from other firms.

FLEXIBLE PRACTICE MODEL THAT FOCUSES ON CLIENT NEEDS

Our practice model is flexible, depending on client needs. If an institution has in-house counsel, we assist with litigation and other legal matters. For institutions that do not have in-house counsel, we provide core legal support. For all clients, we offer a well-coordinated team that provides speed, knowledge, experience, bench depth, and economies of scale. We help college and university leaders respond to challenges in today's increasingly complex higher education legal and regulatory environment.

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DEPTH AND EXPERIENCE

Ogletree Deakins attorneys bring higher education-specific experience and knowledge to the institutions we represent. This allows us to provide the following benefits:

- Higher education counsel with on-point experience
- Unparalleled bench depth in litigation, policy, and compliance
- Training and presentations for students, executive employees, staff, and faculty
- Experience working with university presidents, general counsel, and senior leadership teams
- Guidance concerning pending legislation affecting institutional operations, compliance requirements, and legal trends in higher education
- Preventive counseling about legal risks associated with business practices
- Experience as institutional liaisons with the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Attorney's Office, federal offices of inspectors general, and other agencies
- Higher education legal alerts, blogs, newsletters, and webinars for institutional clients



COMMUNICATION

Communication is a vital part of serving the needs of higher education leaders, colleges, and universities. We regularly update clients on the status of their cases and are available for consultation at every step of the decision-making process. This practice style promotes information-driven decision-making and helps to build strong and lasting relationships.

VALUE

We are a leader in offering value-based billing for clients. We work closely with our clients to develop fee arrangements that are tailored to their needs, and we are happy to discuss alternative fee agreements that may be of interest to our clients.

With offices across the United States and in Europe, Canada, and Mexico, the firm represents a diverse range of clients.

We operate efficiently without compromising our commitment to service.

Ogletree Deakins is one of the nation's largest labor and employment law firms, representing management in all types of employment-related legal matters.



Ogletree Deakins

Ogletree Deakins is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Ogletree Deakins does not discriminate against any candidate or employee on the basis of race, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or veteran status.