

Higher Education

Overview

Bond is the preeminent provider of legal services to colleges and universities in New York State and possesses a national prominence and presence in the higher education arena. Our higher education practice provides a comprehensive set of legal services to hundreds of education institutions.

Unique among law firms, our higher education team includes attorneys who have devoted the entirety of their practice to the service of education institutions. Our team brings decades of direct in-house legal experience from institutions ranging from the largest private and public institutions in the country, including leading research institutions and specialized colleges in fashion, teaching, and medicine. Further, our colleagues in Bond's collegiate sports practice are a singular force in the NCAA landscape and beyond, representing colleges and universities across all divisions and athletic conferences.

Our team has experience navigating legal issues arising out of every aspect of university life. We support institutions and their leaders navigating high-profile legal, reputational and financial issues, while remaining sensitive to each institution's unique mission and the wide range of stakeholders impacted. We roll up our sleeves on day-to-day matters, too — by quickly answering legal questions, drafting and revising policies, serving as a judgment gut check and problem-solving issues to manage risk. Our attorneys routinely counsel colleges and universities on compliance with the numerous and constantly changing regulatory obligations to which they are subject, with expertise in every major federal and state law impacting higher education. We appear across federal and state courts and agencies, and counsel clients on matters involving accreditation.

Uniquely, our clients have repeatedly tapped Bond lawyers to serve them in moments of transition, and members of our team have held external interim general counsel roles at several institutions. Bond also regularly serves as outside general counsel to institutions without in-house counsel and supports solo general counsel offices. Our team members are trusted, solution-oriented lawyers who enjoy working in partnership with institutions to help them fulfill their missions and advance strategic priorities.

Our attorneys are leaders in the industry. Our team includes a co-author of the leading treatise, *The Law of Higher Education*. Many Bond attorneys are currently members of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA), where we frequently present to nationwide audiences of legal and compliance professionals. Team members have recently served as NACUA board members and volunteer committee chairs. Our team includes the co-chair of the New York chapter of NACUA, who facilitates frequent meetings for local higher education lawyers to share updates and best practices. We regularly partner with the Commission for Independent Colleges and Universities to keep New York's higher education community updated on legal developments and best practices. Our team includes a current member of the New York City Task Force on Higher Education and current and former members of the NYC Bar Association's Education and the Law Committee (including the chair of its Title IX Subcommittee) and Sports Law Committee

Primary Office Contacts

Albany, NY

Robert F. Manfredo
Thomas W. Simcoe

Buffalo, NY

Vincent O. Hanley
James J. Rooney

Long Island, NY

Howard M. Miller
Craig L. Olivo

New York, NY

Monica C. Barrett
E. Katherine Hajjar
Brittany J. Schoepp-Wong

Kansas City

Richard J. Evrard
Kyle Skillman

Rochester, NY

Edward P. Hourihan, Jr.

Saratoga Springs, NY

Robert F. Manfredo
Thomas W. Simcoe

Syracuse, NY

Peter A. Jones
Philip J. Zaccaro

Westchester

Jane M. Sovern

Many Bond attorneys have also served colleges and universities in a variety of administrator and faculty roles, including chief academic officer, senior policy adviser to the president, Title IX coordinator, chief human resources officer, tenured and adjunct faculty members, senior adviser to vice president of mission and a collegiate football coach.

This experience, coupled with our in-house legal experience, sets Bond apart. We thoroughly understand the inner workings of our higher education clients, grasp campus dynamics and stay up to date on contemporary pressures and the increasingly complicated regulatory environment in which they operate. Bond lawyers don't just understand the challenges and opportunities facing higher education – we have lived them.