



CHRISTINA D. RIGGS

PARTNER

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SERVICES

Campus Investigations Team
Litigation
Commercial Litigation
Appellate

INDUSTRIES

Higher Education
Insurance

Christina Riggs is vice chair of Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr's Higher Education Practice. In this role, Christina partners with higher education clients in their day-to-day operations by providing advice on a variety of legal and regulatory requirements. This includes navigating clients through compliance with the Clery Act and campus security requirements, with state and federal discrimination laws (including Title IX), and state and federal privacy laws (including FERPA), among others. Christina also assists clients with the complexities of federal laws and regulations governing participation in Federal Student Aid programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education under Title IV.

Whatever the issue, Christina draws on her litigation experience to assist colleges and universities in proactively managing high-profile exposure, minimizing risks, creating policies and procedures to protect against those risks, and identifying escalating issues.

Title IV

Christina's Title IV work runs the gamut from fielding daily compliance questions to representing institutions through program reviews. Given the complexities of the laws and regulations in this area, the daily compliance issues vary by campus. As recent examples, Christina has assisted schools in responding to borrower defense to repayment claims and in complying with the Federal Perkins Loans assignment process. She has also counseled clients on issues ranging from unofficial withdrawals and overawards to incentive compensation and third-party vendor relationships. Christina is a member of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) and has presented on related topics to members of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA).

Clery Act

Colleges and universities nationwide also look to Christina for assistance with their compliance obligations under the Clery Act. She coordinates large-scale proactive and reactive internal investigations of incidents governed by the law, ranging from single-issue concerns involving one-campus institutions to extensive compliance reviews involving many campuses in large university systems. She also reviews ASRs/AFSRs to comply with the yearly filing deadline, and fields compliance

questions on geography, separate campuses, timely warnings, emergency notifications, crime logs, crime classification, and CSA identification. Christina regularly provides basic to advanced Clery Act training sessions for clients.

Title IX

Christina's Title IX work ranges from quick advice to full-blown audits, as well as assisting with creating internal disciplinary processes to defending Title IX litigation. In addition, she regularly leads schools through Title IX investigations brought by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. She also regularly conducts on-site Title IX training sessions for higher education clients.

Hazing

Christina frequently helps institutions of higher education address issues regarding hazing on campus, whether by sororities and fraternities, athletes, or other student groups. Christina is experienced in defending hazing-related claims and drafting anti-hazing programs.

Athletics

She also holds a bachelor's of science in biology and has in-depth experience coordinating with athletic trainers (ATCs) and medical experts in the context of student-athlete injuries. Christina has assessed sports medicine manuals and emergency preparedness policies and procedures to ensure compliance with NCAA mandates, NATA (National Athletic Trainers Association) guidelines, and state requirements.

HONORS

Named one of *The Legal Intelligencer's* Lawyers on the Fast Track, 2018

Leadership Philadelphia, Core Class of 2018

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

National Association of College and University Attorneys

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

University Risk Management and Insurance Association

Litigation Section, American Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Philadelphia Bar Association

DRI Voice of the Defense Bar

EDUCATION

J.D., Villanova University School of Law, 2007, *magna cum laude*

- Member, Order of the Coif
- Chairperson, Moot Court Board
- Finalist, Theodore L. Reimel Moot Court Competition
- Quarterfinalist Outstanding Oralist, Theodore L. Reimel Moot Court Competition
- Recipient, Dorothy Day Award for Pro Bono Service
- Recipient, Dean's Merit Scholarship

B.S., Lehigh University, 2004, *magna cum laude*

- Lehigh University Presidential Scholar
- Lehigh University Good Scholar Representative

BAR ADMISSION

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

FIRM MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

Higher Education, Vice Chair