



## Education

### Education Industry Brochure

Challenged with a changing marketplace for education, institutions of higher education are evolving and embracing innovative ways to become valued community partners, economic development resources and front-runners in the advancement of technology. With these changes come new, unique legal and regulatory challenges that demand a partner who can help.

Our goal is not to be just reactive lawyers to our education clients ? we strive to be partners who look for proactive ways to add to your institution's success. We are proud that we have helped over 30 institutions realize their goals ? attracting and serving students, retaining top faculty and administrative talent, offering state-of-the-art teaching technology, funding research programs and nurturing strategic partnerships.

At Williams Mullen, we provide experienced, cutting-edge legal advice for clients at all levels of education. Our clients include public and private universities and colleges, primary and secondary independent schools, public school districts, vocational institutions, church-related schools, fraternities and sororities and affiliated foundations, among other supporting organizations.

We are actively involved in boards and associations such as the National Association of College and University Attorneys and the Virginia College Building Authority, and we have participated in speaking engagements for various educational organizations such as the Association of University Real Estate Officials and the Council of Independent Colleges of Virginia. In addition, we currently serve as outside general counsel to two private colleges.

The following is a sample of the types of services we provide to clients in the education industry:

### **Physical Plant**

Williams Mullen attorneys have assisted educational institutions with matters related to their campuses, including real estate development and leasing, land use, construction, utilities and infrastructure. We can foresee and assist with common issues that arise when managing a school campus, including environmental regulatory considerations, negotiations and acquisition of real property, negotiation and preparation of master leases for student housing, and more.

### **Financial Management**

Endowments and alumni donations, federal grants, bond and capital markets, tax credits ? educational

institutions must grapple with an array of funding sources each of which has its own considerations. Our attorneys help clients navigate these complex options for fundraising and managing a school's finances. For campuses that wish to expand, we have access to a full economic development team that can help manage public-private partnerships, find financing sources and help your school grow.

### **Administrative/Compliance**

From the classroom to sports programs to student affairs, higher education institutions must follow a growing number of state and federal regulations surrounding students and faculty. Our Education team can help avoid costly legal battles by providing counsel to help keep schools in compliance. Our attorneys are experienced in Title IX and Clery Act compliance, Title IV financial aid programs, athletics (including NCAA compliance), student affairs (including disciplinary boards and the Greek system), and more. When it comes to faculty and staff, our team includes attorneys with extensive experience in board governance, labor and employment, ERISA and other benefits programs, and more.

### **Government Affairs**

As a full-service law firm, Williams Mullen is committed to helping find a solution at the state capital, if necessary. Our lobbying team routinely assists educational institutions and can serve as advocates for your interests within state government and monitor pertinent legislation to ensure that your voice is heard and recognized.

### **Intellectual Capital**

Colleges and universities are often the sources of the latest technology, innovation and research, and our team of attorneys can help protect a school's investment and ensure the best use of these developments. In protecting your intellectual property, advising on regulations, providing export control counsel in case you are sending technology or information overseas, and advising on the use of contractors, our attorneys can offer experienced and knowledgeable information to make the most of your work.

## **Related News**

- [Health Care Reform Challenges for Educational Institutions](#)
- [Amended Clery Act Regulations Mandate New Disclosures and Procedures](#)
- [Charles Cabell discusses Sweet Briar College's closure with the Times-Dispatch](#)
- [Woody Fowler discusses the closing of Sweet Briar College in the Roanoke Times](#)
- [NBC29 covers Sweet Briar case with Woody Fowler](#)
- [Woody Fowler quoted in the Richmond Times-Dispatch about Sweet Briar College](#)
- [The Erosion of Charitable Immunity for Virginia's Colleges and Universities and What it Means for the Administrators and Trustees Who Lead Those Institutions.](#)
- [Are College Athletes Employees? Board Counsel Tackles Controversial Issue](#)
- [Tom Frantz Co-Authors Op-Ed on How to Leverage Virginia's Higher-Education Assets](#)

- Federal Judge Dismisses ERISA Fiduciary Breach Claim against University for Lack of Standing
- Laura Windsor Named to 2021 Class of 'Influential Women of Law' by Virginia Lawyers Weekly
- Accomplished Health Care Lawyer Nathan Kottkamp Joins Williams Mullen
- When May Non-Profit Organizations Draw from Endowments to Meet Needs in Times of Crisis?
- Williams Mullen Bolsters Charlottesville Office with Addition of Employment Attorney Micah B. Schwartz
- Williams Mullen Bolsters Charlottesville Office with Addition of Employment Attorney Micah B. Schwartz
- Schwartz's Move to Williams Mullen Covered by Law360
- Virginia High School League Adopts Name, Image and Likeness Guidelines
- PODCAST: What's Next in VA Higher Education?
- PODCAST: What's Next in VA Higher Education? An Interview Featuring Chris Peace, President of CICV
- Williams Mullen Introduces Gavel & Gown, an Education Law Podcast
- KVCF Attorneys to Join Williams Mullen
- Richmond BizSense Covers KVCF Joining Williams Mullen
- Woody Fowler Interviewed by Law360 Regarding Addition of KVCF Attorneys
- PODCAST: Managing Controversial Books in School Libraries
- PODCAST: Responding to Borrower Defense to Repayment Applications

## Related Events

- Micah Schwartz to Speak at the Virginia School Boards Association's Annual Law School Conference
- Micah Schwartz to Speak at the Western Virginia Public Education Consortium's Annual Conference
- Virginia Association of School Superintendents Annual Spring Conference
- Virginia School Board Association's New Chair and Vice Chair Orientation
- Virginia Association of School Superintendents Annual Winter Conference
- Don't Call It a Comeback: Preparing for a Renewed Focus on Athletics Under Title IX
- Webinar: Cybersecurity Compliance for Higher Education: 2018 and Beyond
- Checks and Balances: How Courts Are Second-Guessing OCR's Directive on Sexual Assault and What It Means for Your Title IX Investigations
- Lessons Learned from Sweet Briar
- The Erosion of Charitable Immunity for Virginia's Colleges
- Seminar: Managing Risk and Legal Issues in the Education Sector 2017
- Education Webinar: College Retirement Plan Compliance in a New Era of Increased Litigation
- Seminar: Managing Risk and Legal Issues in the Education Sector

- Webinar: Best Legal Practices for Addressing Mental Health & Wellness in Education
- Seminar: Second Annual - Managing Risk and Legal Issues in the Education Sector
- Virginia's Higher Education Quarterly Webcast Series
- Virginia Private K-12 and Higher Education Quarterly Webcast Series
- Seminar: Managing Risk and Legal Issues in the Education Sector

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