



HUSCH BLACKWELL

Title IX Services

With a strong Title IX practice, the Husch Blackwell Higher Education team has a deep understanding of the legal and practical issues inherent in proactively addressing potential campus sexual misconduct and related retaliation. We understand the personal side of these issues and are experienced in working with institutional stakeholders on emotionally charged issues interlaced with mental health and trauma related concerns.

Our team provides a range of services related to Title IX compliance, as well as nationally recognized training for higher education institutions. We regularly assist colleges and universities in developing policies and procedures that satisfy current regulatory requirements while still reflecting institutional needs and mission.

When allegations of sexual misconduct or gender discrimination are made, we draw on extensive investigation experience to support and defend our clients. Furthermore, with shifting regulatory expectations and increasing claimant and respondent complaints, we support institutions in investigations from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. We have successfully negotiated numerous resolution agreements and investigation closures. Likewise, our team's litigators, trial attorneys and appellate specialists have significant experience with high-profile civil rights litigation involving Title IX claims.

30

attorneys on Husch Blackwell's
higher education team

250+

higher education
institutions served by
Husch Blackwell

Practice Highlights

- Successfully defended large research institution against respondent Title IX claim seeking a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction.
- Assisted board member committee investigating Title IX-related student complaints against university president.
- Led audit of public university internal complaint system for Title IX and related diversity and discrimination issues for faculty and employees.
- Completed audits of and revisions to a variety of Title IX-related policies and procedures at colleges and universities across the country.
- Advised for-profit education client on Title IX gender-equity issues relating to athletic program adjustments and developments.
- Assisted with briefing in Title IX respondent case in Seventh Circuit and obtained ruling in university's favor.
- Served as outside investigator for schools and universities, providing independent analysis of sexual misconduct complaints raised under Title IX policies.
- Advised universities on Title IX issues related to LGBTQIA students.
- Represented numerous universities in Office for Civil Rights (OCR) complaint responses involving Title IX and Section 504 issues, including sexual misconduct, gender discrimination, scholarship/program sex discrimination and athletics concerns.

Training

Our higher education team provides Title IX training customized for coordinators, investigators, advisors and hearing panel members. Available in-person or in interactive, virtual modules, these trainings focus on the practical, day-to-day realities of Title IX concerns. In addition to individual colleges and universities, team members have presented to the National Association of Colleges and University Attorneys, the Chicagoland Title IX Consortium, the Southeastern Conference Title IX Consortium, the Big 12 and the Big 10 Academic Alliance.

Title IX Compliance Reviews

Our professionals offer comprehensive compliance reviews of institutional policies and procedures, practices and systems. We identify areas of inconsistency with the latest U.S. Department of Education guidance, relevant laws and emerging case law, and benchmark against industry best practices and cutting-edge trends. Our reviews often include climate assessments based on interviews of key administrators, Title IX team members, staff, faculty, alumni and students—including student athletes and student-government officials.

Title IX Coordinator Desk Reference

As part of our day-to-day support for our clients, we have developed a manual for those overseeing an institution's response to sexual misconduct and other Title IX/VAWA issues. The manual can be customized to reflect each institution's procedures and practices and can be used as a practical tool in handling complaints and in monitoring a campus's climate.

Aligned by industry. Built on relationships.

Husch Blackwell is an industry-focused business and litigation law firm delivering innovative and strategic solutions to organizations around the world. Drawing on extensive industry knowledge and experience, we move clients forward.