



Erin M. Burris

Partner

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“I take a thoughtful approach to my client’s legal problems, making it a priority to get to know the organization to better understand its goals and mission when evaluating legal strategy. My dependability and enthusiasm for my work enables me to provide dedicated service and deliver a holistic and results-orientated approach to navigate my clients’ complex legal issues.”

Erin Burris is an attorney on Miller Nash’s education team, representing higher education institutions, k-12 institutions, public school districts, and private schools. She defends education clients in litigation and advises on issues including student rights and discipline, Title IX of the Education Amendments, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and an array of statutes affecting faculty and students. Erin’s employment practice includes advice and litigation related to wage-and-hour, discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination, and other tort claims.

Before joining Miller Nash, Erin worked as a staff attorney at the Learning Rights Law Center where she practiced education law, with a focus on special education matters and disability discrimination cases under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. She also served as a judicial clerk to Justice Susan Owens of the Washington State Supreme Court, where she gained broad knowledge of Washington law through her work on a variety of civil and criminal cases.

Upon graduating from law school, Erin became a member of the Order of the Coif, an honor society that recognizes the top ten percent of graduating law students from their class. During law school, Erin practiced as a limited license attorney, representing the State of Oregon at the Oregon Department of Justice in its Trial Division and worked on a variety of matters at a general civil litigation law firm. She also gained valuable experience as an extern to the Honorable Judge Ann Aiken of the U.S. District Court of Oregon.

Education

J.D., University of Oregon School of Law, 2015

- Order of the Coif
- Sources Editor, *Oregon Law Review*

B.A., New York University, 2009

- Founder’s Day Honors Recipient

Bar Admissions

Oregon, 2015
California, 2016

Professional Activities

- Oregon State Bar, Member
- OGALLA—Oregon's LGBTQIA+ Bar Association
 - Board Member
 - Mentorship Committee Chair

Civic Activities

- Oregon Pride in Business, Member

Representative Experience

Special Education

- Represented school district with respect to parent's due process complaint asserting that the school district committed substantive and procedural violations of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Advised schools, school districts, and education service districts on a wide variety of early childhood special education and special education matters including implementing IEPs; considerations with respect to evaluation, eligibility, and placement; recovery services and compensatory education; McKinney-Vento Act eligibility and intersection with IDEA; and other topics.

K-12 Schools, School Districts, and Education Service Districts

- Represented school district in Fair Dismissal Appeals Board hearing based on teacher's appeal of dismissal based on neglect of duty, asserting that insufficient grounds for dismissal existed under the Accountability for Schools for the 21st Century Law.
- Favorably resolved former student's state-court lawsuit asserting claims of negligence and negligent infliction of emotional distress against the school district and individually named school district employees based on an altercation between two students.
- Represented school district in lawsuit asserted by former student alleging claims under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (prohibiting sex discrimination in education programs) and negligence based on former employee's allegedly harassing conduct.
- Favorably resolved teacher's grievance against school district asserting contract violations of collective bargaining agreement with teacher's union.

Higher Education

- Prevailed on motion to dismiss graduate student's federal lawsuit against public university, which lawsuit alleged race discrimination and retaliation in employment.
- Prevailed on motion to dismiss former graduate student's federal lawsuit against private university, which alleged that the university was contractually obligated to award student a doctorate degree.
- Favorably resolved university employee's lawsuit asserting claims under Title IX and negligence based on coworker's allegedly harassing conduct.

Employment

- Favorably resolved federal lawsuit asserting Fair Labor Standards Act collective action on behalf of plaintiff and all similarly situated employees alleging that company's overtime compensation practice violated the FLSA and Department of Labor regulations.
- Represented private employer through Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) complaint asserting claims of disability-related discrimination and retaliation under Oregon law and the ADA, including favorably resolving complaint through BOLI's conciliation process.

- Advised private companies and nonprofit organizations (with and without unions) on wide variety of employment matters including preparing employee handbooks and other policies, handling wage and hour issues, analyzing sick and family leave, advising on the interactive process with respect to reasonable accommodations under the ADA, managing employee termination and separation agreements, preparing for reductions in force, preparing memoranda of understanding between employer and union, and many other topics.

Publications

- “Public School Districts—Get Ready for Change! The New Title IX Regulations Have Landed,” Miller Nash (Apr. 2024)
- “California Employer’s Good-Faith Belief That Freelance Model Was Not an Employee Defeats Penalty Claims,” Miller Nash, *Employment Law in Motion*, coauthor (Jun. 2022)
- “The Risks Hybrid Models Pose for Employers,” Miller Nash, Employment Law Seminar (Dec. 2021)
- “Monitor Growing Protections for LGBTQ+ Employees,” Campus Legal Advisor, coauthor (May 2021)
- “Comply With Latest Protections Against Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity,” College Athletics and the Law, coauthor (Apr. 2021)
- “Four Quick Tips for Keeping Your Special Education Programs on Track Before School Year 2019-2020 Becomes a Distant Memory,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, *K-12 Education: News You Can Use* (Apr. 2020)
- “Be Prepared: ICE Immigration Enforcement Actions,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, *K-12 Education: News You Can Use* (Aug. 2019)
- “Know How to Handle Employee Protests, Refusals to Engage in Work” *Campus Legal Advisor*, coauthor (Feb. 2019)
- “Combating Bullying By Amending the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act,” *Oregon Law Review*, Act, 93 Or. L. Rev. 229 (Nov. 2014)

Presentations

- “Keeping Your Eye on the Prize: Effectively Addressing Challenges to your District’s Equity Mission,” Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA), Annual School Law Conference (Dec. 2023)
- “No Whammies: Don’t Press Your Luck on Wage and Hour Issues,” Miller Nash, Employment Law Seminar (Oct. 2023)
- “A Day in the Life: Legal Opportunities, Challenges, and Unknowns for Supporting Gender Diverse Students,” Coalition of Oregon School Administrators, Equity Summit (Sept. 2023)
- “Beyond the Gender Binary: Legal Implications and Practical Guidance for Navigating Student Gender-Identity Issues,” Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, 42nd Annual Oregon School Law Conference, copresenter (Dec. 2022)
- “When Crisis Comes Knocking,” Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, 42nd Annual Oregon School Law Conference, copresenter (Dec. 2022)
- “Hop on the Bullet Train: Hiring and Retention Considerations in a Fast-Paced Employment Market,” Miller Nash, Employment Law Seminar (Oct. 2022)
- “The Risks Hybrid Models Pose for Employers,” Miller Nash, Employment Law Seminar (Dec. 2021)
- “Religious Freedom—Beyond Vaccines and Masks” Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA), 41st Annual School Law Conference (Dec. 2021)
- “Equity Opportunities With the Passage of House Bill 2001 Permitting Consideration of Cultural or Linguistic Expertise in Layoffs,” Oregon School Personnel Association, 2021 Fall Summit, co-presenter (Oct. 2021)
- “Managing a Build from a Distance: Hearings in the Remote Environment,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, Employment Law Seminar (Dec. 2020)

- “Before and After Fixer-Upper Reveals: 2020 Federal Employment Law Update,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, Employment Law Seminar (Dec. 2020)
- “No Major Renovations: 2020 Oregon Employment Law Update,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, Employment Law Seminar (Dec. 2020)
- “Student Mental Health Issues During COVID-19,” Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, 40th Annual Oregon School Law Conference (Dec. 2020)
- “Activism, Racial Justice, and Its Impact on Legal Issues Concerning Employees,” Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, 40th Annual Oregon School Law Conference, cospeaker (Dec. 2020)
- “Investigations: Tips and Traps for Managing and Conducting Effective Investigations,” Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, Oregon School Law Conference (Dec. 2019)
- “Course Corrections Ahead: An Update on New Laws to Avoid Running Aground,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, Employment Law Seminar (Oct. 2019)
- “Bracing for the Plot Twist: HR’s Role in Crisis Management,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, Employment Law Seminar (Oct. and Nov. 2018)
- “Understanding Compliance Complaints and Due Process,” (May 2018)

Recognition & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® (Portland, OR)
 - Labor and Employment Law—Management, 2022-present
 - Education Law, 2021-present
- Selected for inclusion as an Oregon Super Lawyer—Rising Star, 2022-present

Personal Activities

Erin enjoys going to the movies, vegetarian cooking, and cheering on her favorite sports teams.