



Marissa J. Hotujac

ASSOCIATE

KANSAS CITY, MO

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OVERVIEW

With a background serving as an in-house attorney at a major, public research university, Marissa assists the firm's education clients on a variety of complex legal issues.

Colleges, universities, and schools rely on Marissa for her skill in navigating investigations, compliance efforts, and litigation involving Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Marissa draws on her experience working at various institutions as an in-house attorney, a Title IX coordinator, an ADA coordinator, a civil rights director, and a director of legal affairs to help guide institutions through the multitude of challenges with compliance and nondiscrimination efforts. She routinely assists institutions with OCR investigations and responses, as well as advising on issues related to Clery Act compliance, threat assessment teams, First Amendment issues, and policy development. Marissa also regularly advises preschools, daycares, and K-12 schools on compliance matters involving licensing, safety issues, and homeschooling.

Marissa's background gives her a unique perspective on the needs of educational clients, combining an insider's view of university processes with strategic legal insight. Recognized for her problem-solving skills and clear communication, Marissa understands not just education law, but the nuanced operational contexts of academic institutions.

Industries

Education
Healthcare
Life Sciences

Services

Higher Education
K-12 Education

Experience

- Represented University of Kansas, Kansas University Medical Center and Kansas Athletics in a variety of legal matters including regulatory compliance, student conduct, labor and employment, faculty grievances, contract negotiations, litigation and international affairs.
- Conducted legal research and drafted pleadings, motions and other litigation-related documents on issues including Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act.
- Drafted affiliation, international services, settlement and information sharing agreements, plus due diligence reports and MOUs with foreign institutions for University of Kansas.
- Led faculty and staff misconduct hearings at University of Kansas and achieved favorable outcome.
- Served as an Interim Title IX Coordinator and Equity Director for a state institution, overseeing the institution's compliance efforts with Title IX, the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Title VI.

Recognition

- Education Law Association, August Steinhilber Award for Best Brief Writing in the Appellate Courts, 2023

Education

- J.D., University of Kansas School of Law
 - *Kansas Journal of Law and Public Policy*, Staff Articles Editor
- B.A., Truman State University
 - *magna cum laude*

Admissions

- Missouri
- Kansas

Community Leadership

- Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Business for Education Committee Member



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