



Education

As the education sector becomes increasingly privatized, we help our clients navigate the growing global education market and the challenges posed by the Internet and other distance-learning technologies.

For decades, our lawyers have helped educational institutions of all types and size (and the people who run, govern and advise them), as well as the technology and other companies that service the education sector, to achieve their goals. We work with public, private, non-profit and proprietary institutions and companies to structure transactions, address legislative initiatives, resolve disputes, and protect, enforce and develop IP rights.

Our clients include education companies, institutions, investors and technology and other service providers. They benefit from seamless, firmwide access to skilled lawyers across disciplines and regions. In this way, we deliver timely, cost-effective sector knowledge and insight along with a full range of commercial legal services, many of which are critical to the success of institutions and companies in the education sector.

Our deep knowledge and broad experience in all aspects of the education industry provides the full complement of legal services necessary to invest in, operate, grow and exit investments in educational institutions and related businesses that operate in this highly complex and litigious environment.

FOCUS AREAS

IP protection and technology transfer

We advise on the protection and transfer of intellectual property developed for and within educational institutions to maximize value and use.

Government relations and advocacy

With a worldwide network and years of experience in the sector, we help clients develop stronger relationships with key legislators and policymakers. In addition, our lawyers advise clients appearing before legislative and executive branch decision makers regarding proposed legislation and administrative rules and regulations, and devising overall advocacy strategies at the federal, state and local levels.

Litigation and dispute resolution

Our lawyers defend educational institutions in False Claims Act, or qui tam, litigation, as well as matters involving the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), civil rights and other faculty, staff and student-related disputes. We also help clients respond to state law consumer advocacy claims and handle construction disputes and related litigation.

Transactional services

Our lawyers regularly handle mergers and acquisitions, public offerings, other debt and equity financings, private equity and venture capital investments, and financing and real estate transactions involving for-profit and non-profit educational institutions. We also work with technology and other companies that focus on the education sector, as well as transaction-related due diligence services. We combine our leading M&A, capital markets, and emerging growth and venture capital practices with significant education industry experience, including transactional, litigation and government relations matters.

We have represented education companies, institutions, investors and service providers in a wide variety of education-related needs, including:

- Restructuring overseas operations
- Acquiring or investing in lead generation companies and other third-party education services providers
- Contracting with school systems for curriculum development services, consulting, educational product development and distribution
- Constructing student housing, classroom facilities and athletic facilities
- Developing policies with respect to technology transfer operations
- Advising education policymakers regarding reforms to state tenure systems

Our lawyers have advised clients in IPOs and secondary offerings, going-private transactions and mergers and acquisitions, including both inbound and outbound cross-border transactions.

For decades, leading investors and institutions have relied on us to help form strategic alliances, joint ventures and affiliations involving the development of branded programs and schools, as well as investments in publicly traded and private education companies and agreements involving the licensing and development of online learning management platforms.

Leading education sector clients have turned to us to respond to US Department of Education program reviews and defend False Claims Act and consumer fraud litigation.

INSIGHTS

Publications

FTC seeks comment on proposed changes to COPPA – action steps

12 August 2019

The proposed changes arise from concerns about the safety of the rapidly evolving online environment for children.

Public-Private Partnerships in Puerto Rico

21 MAR 2017

For those considering participating in P3s in Puerto Rico, this handbook summarizes the applicable legal framework and discusses why Puerto Rico is a favorable jurisdiction for entering into P3s.

DLA Piper's Guide to Restructuring Issues for Not-For-Profit Companies and Their Directors

29 OCT 2015

NEWS

DLA Piper announces launch of Artificial Intelligence practice

14 MAY 2019

DLA Piper announced today the launch of its Artificial Intelligence practice, which will focus on assisting companies as they navigate the legal landscape of emerging and disruptive technologies, while helping them understand the legal and compliance risks arising from the creation and deployment of AI systems.

DLA Piper advises Securly in its acquisition of TechPilot Labs

5 APR 2019

DLA Piper represented Securly, Inc., an education technology company and provider of a cloud-based web filtering platform for school computers, in its acquisition of the business of Atlanta-based TechPilot Labs, Inc., a fast-growing provider of K-12 education technology.

DLA Piper advises Grand Canyon Education in its proposed acquisition of Orbis Education Services

18 DEC 2018

DLA Piper advised as outside corporate counsel Grand Canyon Education, Inc. (NASDAQ: LOPE), a publicly traded shared services partner dedicated to serving colleges and universities, in the announced definitive agreement to acquire Orbis Education Services, LLC, an education services company that supports healthcare education programs for 17 regionally accredited universities across the United States, for \$US362.5 million in cash.

DLA Piper wins significant victory for New York University

31 JUL 2018

DLA Piper won a significant victory for its client, New York University (NYU), in an Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)- related class action.

DLA Piper advises IO Education in its acquisition by Illuminate Education

3 JUL 2018

DLA Piper represented IO Education in its acquisition by Illuminate Education, an education technology company.

DLA Piper advises Grand Canyon Education in the return of Grand Canyon University to nonprofit status

2 JUL 2018

DLA Piper advised as outside corporate counsel for Grand Canyon Education, Inc in its sale of Grand Canyon University to a nonprofit entity.
