



## **KRISTIN L. SMITH**

Partner, Co-chair K-12 Institutions

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### Industry Focus

- Education
- K-12 Institutions

# OVERVIEW

Kristin Smith is a partner in the firm's Houston and Minneapolis offices and a co-chair of the Education Industry group. Her practice focuses exclusively on independent and private schools. She advises, counsels and represents religious and secular schools, including those serving pre-kindergarten-grade 12, kindergarten-grade 8, grades 6/7 – 12, and grades 9 – 12.

Kristin assists schools in a variety of areas, including student and employee discipline; faculty, staff and student contract drafting; handbook and policy drafting, implementation, and enforcement; LGBTQ issues, including transgender students and employees; board governance and training; discrimination claims and EEOC charges; administration and faculty training and development; school entanglement in family court proceedings; and, investigations, litigation, arbitration and mediation.

She is a frequent presenter to independent school associations on current legal issues.

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## Credentials

### Education

- Mitchell Hamline School of Law, J.D., magna cum laude, 2001
- University of Minnesota, M.A., 1998
- University of Minnesota, B.B.A., 1997

### Bar Admissions

- Texas
- Minnesota

### Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas

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## Affiliations

### Professional Activities

- Texas State Bar Association
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- American Bar Association

### Community Activities

- The Awty International School, Volunteer, 2015 - present
- Dress for Success Houston, Advisory Board Member, 2011 - present
- Episcopal High School, Volunteer, 2007 - present
- St. Luke's Day School, Volunteer, 2012 - 2015
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Endowment Board, 2009 - 2010

## INSIGHTS

### Insights

Feb 11, 2026

2026 Updated FAQs and Immigration Enforcement Guidance For K-12 Schools

### Insights

Jan 21, 2026

Texas Attorney General Takes Aim at DEI With New Opinion Letter: 6 Steps For K-12 Private Schools To Consider

### Insights

Jan 21, 2026

US Department of Education Announces 18 Title IX Investigations Related to Transgender Athletes – What Should Your School Do?

**New Final Rules on Texas Education Savings Account Program: Top Takeaways + 3 Action Steps for Private Schools**

**Top 10 Texas Legislative Changes Impacting Private Schools + Your Compliance Plan**

**School Choice Finally Sticks in Texas: 5 Key Takeaways for Private School Leaders**