



Kristin L. Smith

Partner

Houston

t: 713.292.5621

f: 713.292.0151

Email



Industry Focus

- Education
- K-12 Institutions

Trending

- COVID-19/Vaccine Resource Center

Overview

Kristin Smith is a partner in the firm's Houston office 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.

Credentials

Education

- J.D., 2001, magna cum laude, Mitchell Hamline School of Law

- M.A., 1998, University of Minnesota
- B.B.A., 1997, University of Minnesota

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Court Admissions

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

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

03/28/24

A Sigh of Relief for Private Schools: 4th Circuit Rules Tax-Exempt Status Does Not Trigger Title IX Coverage

Brian Guerinot, Kristin L. Smith

[Read more →](#)

INSIGHTS

01/10/24

Arizona Has Entered the Chat: Federal Court Rules That Non-Profit Schools Are Not Subject to Title IX

Brian Guerinot, Kristin L. Smith

[Read more →](#)

FP's Workplace Law Forecast 2024

Cheryl L. Behymer, Steven M. Bernstein, Sheldon J. Blumling, Risa B. Boerner, Colin P. Calvert, Kathleen McLeod Caminiti, Jocelyn Campanaro, Jennifer B. Carroll, Collin D. Cook, Laurel K. Cornell, Germán de la Garza De Vecchi, Michael P. Elkon, Todd Alan Ewan, Todd A. Fredrickson, Christopher C. Hoffman, David S. Jones, Usama Kahf, Karl R. Lindegren, Todd B. Logsdon, Todd A. Lyon, Michael R. Marra, Suzanne Kelly Michael, Michael S. Mitchell, Joshua D. Nadreau, Kristen J. Nesbit, Alden J. Parker, Cheryl Pinarchick, John M. Polson, Andrea Brizio Rivas, Andria Lure Ryan, Nan Sato, Todd B. Scherwin, Matthew R. Simpson, Adam F. Sloustcher, Kristin L. Smith, Shanon R. Stevenson, Hannah Sweiss, J. Hagood Tighe, Travis Vance, David J. Walton, Sheila M. Abron, Erica G. Wilson, William D. Wright, Robert Yonowitz

[Read more →](#)

6 Steps for Private and Independent Schools in the Wake of the SCOTUS Affirmative Action Ruling

Kristin L. Smith

[Read more →](#)

Attorneys Discuss Religious School's Firing of an Unwed Pregnant Teacher

Susan M. Guerette, Kristin L. Smith

[Read more →](#)

New Jersey Supreme Court Sides with Catholic School That Fired Unwed Pregnant Worker: 6 Key Takeaways for Religious Schools

Susan M. Guerette, Kristin L. Smith

[Read more →](#)

Back-to-School Homework for School Leaders: A 6-Step Guide to Refreshing Your Employee and Student Policies

Kristin L. Smith

[Read more →](#)

Top Workplace Law Stories You May Have Missed from June 2023

Alyssa Levy Andelman, Amanda M. Blair, Risa B. Boerner, Suzanne K. Bogdan, Michael E. Bonner, James S. Bradbury, Melissa (Osipoff) Camire, Jennifer B. Carroll, Myra K. Creighton, Jeffrey M. Csercsevits, Deepa K. Desai, Benjamin M. Ebbink, Michael P. Elkon, Darcey M. Groden, Brian Guerinet, Andrew J. Hoag, Wendy Hughes, Matthew R. Korn, Anne Yarovoy Khan, Kenneth A.

Knox, Emily N. Litzinger, Todd A. Lyon, Danielle Hultenius Moore, Andreas Mosby , Joshua D. Nadreau, Raymond W. Perez, George A. Reeves III, Justin Reiter, Jenna B. Rubin, Nan Sato, Brent Sedge , Julia A. Sherwood, Kristin L. Smith, Shane Stover, Henry Thomson-Smith, Megan E. Walker, David J. Walton, Sheila M. Abron, Erica G. Wilson, Franklin Z. Wolf, Annie Ziesing

[Read more →](#)

NEWS

06/29/23

Fisher Phillips Welcomes Experienced Education Industry Professional, Deborah O'Toole, to Growing Charlotte Office

Jennifer B. Carroll, Kristin L. Smith

[Read more →](#)

INSIGHTS

06/29/23

SCOTUS Severely Limits Affirmative Action Admissions in Education: 6 Things You Should Do + 6 Things to Boost Diversity Efforts

Suzanne K. Bogdan, Jennifer B. Carroll, Brian Guerinot, Jenna B. Rubin, Julia A. Sherwood, Kristin L. Smith, Sheila M. Abron

[Read more →](#)

[View All →](#)