



## WILLIAM J. WAHRER

Partner

Portland, ME

207.477.7008

### Service Focus

- Counseling and Advice
- Employee Leaves and Accommodations
- Employment Discrimination and Harassment
- Litigation and Trials

### Industry Focus

- Education
- Higher Education
- K-12 Institutions
- Sports

## OVERVIEW

Bill Wahrer is a partner in Fisher Phillips' Portland, Maine office. He defends businesses against claims of employment discrimination and harassment and represents them in cases involving disability accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), whistleblower and retaliation claims, and wage and hour issues. He also regularly provides advice and counsel to help clients comply with varying federal, state and local employment laws and regulations.

Bill's litigation and advisory experience spans a wide range of industries, but he has a particular practice focus representing and advising institutions of higher education. His work with colleges and universities has frequently involved litigating and advising on issues relating to Title IX and student discrimination. Bill's Title IX work

has included advising higher education clients to help them navigate Title IX's everchanging requirements as applied to athletic departments and student-athlete participation opportunities.

Bill pairs analytical skills with a practical approach, allowing him to help employers manage and resolve complex legal issues. In Bill's active litigation practice, he has successfully defended employers in various forums, including the Maine Human Rights Commission, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, the United States District Court for the District of Maine, and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He has successfully defended dismissals on appeals to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and the First Circuit Court of Appeals, including oral argument on appeal. He has been lead counsel defending multiple university clients on claims involving Section 1983, negligence, defamation, and claims under Title IX for discrimination, harassment, and "reverse discrimination."

Earlier in his career, Bill served as Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable John A. Woodcock, Jr., of the United States District Court for the District of Maine. Following his clerkship, Bill was a labor and employment litigator for more than five years with the Portland office of one of Maine's largest law firms.

During law school, Bill served as Executive Editor of the *Maine Law Review* and Head Teaching Fellow of the University of Maine School of Law's Academic Success Program.

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## Credentials

### Education

- University of Maine School of Law, J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2018
- College of the Holy Cross, B.A., *cum laude*, 2014

### Bar Admissions

- Maine

### Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Maine

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## Recognitions

- *Super Lawyers*, New England Rising Stars (2022-2024)
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## Affiliations

### Professional Activities

- Maine State Bar Association

### Community Activities

- The Yellow Tulip Project (Board of Directors)
- American Red Cross, Southern Maine Chapter (Board of Directors)

# INSIGHTS

## Insights

Jan 21, 2026

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

## News

Dec 16, 2025

Fisher Phillips Elects 27 Attorneys to 2026 Partnership Class

## Event

Nov 12, 2025

Tapping Into Restricted or Endowed Funds: The Essentials Independent Schools Need to Know

**White House Proposes Higher Ed Preferential Plan to Access Federal Grant Money: What Your Institution Should Consider**

**New Civil Rights Fraud Initiative Puts More Pressure on Higher Ed and K-12 Schools Receiving Federal Funding: What to Do in Response**

**So You're Concerned About Losing Federal Funding: 3 Things Schools Should Do Right Now**