

2026 VERMONT LEGAL ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE SCHEDULE – All times are Eastern Standard Time

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19			
TIME	SESSION	TITLE	PRESENTER(S)
7:30 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.		Registration and Breakfast <i>Breakfast is sponsored by Fisher Phillips.</i>	
9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.	Welcome and Plenary Session	Welcome Remarks Meeting the Moment: View from the President's Office	Marlene Tromp , President, University of Vermont Carol Folt , President Emeritus, University of Southern California Andres Acebo , Chancellor, Kean Jersey City David Bogen , Former President, Berklee College of Music Jennifer Papillo , Associate General Counsel, University of Vermont
10:30 a.m.- 10:45 a.m.		Break	
10:45 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Session 1	Civil Rights Session: Trends in Federal Enforcement	Beth Gellman-Beer , Partner, Evergreen Education Solutions, LLC Alice Yao , Partner, Potomac Law Group Gina Maisto Smith , Chair, Institutional Response Group, Cozen O'Connor Sonia Jurado , Associate Vice President, Equal Opportunity & Compliance, Emerson College
		Student Death: Lessons Learned through After Action Reviews and Preventive Approaches	Kim Novak , Founder & CEO, NovakTalks; Health & Safety Officer, Pi Kappa Alpha Int. Fraternity Mike Rein , Principal Consultant, COSECURE Katie McGee , Consultant, Lumen Leadership Strategies Kay Heidbreder , University Legal Counsel, Virginia Tech University

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		A Focus on D3 Athletics	Sarah Feyerherm, Vice President for Student Affairs, Washington College Jeffrey Weimer, Partner, Reed Smith LLP Michelle Walsh, Director of Athletics & Physical Education, Vassar College
12:00 p.m.- 1:15 p.m.		LUNCH <i>Lunch is sponsored by COSECURE.</i>	
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Session 2	College Athletics in Transition: Key Legal Developments in NIL, Title IX, Eligibility, and Sports Betting	Nate LaVallee, Deputy General Counsel, University of Connecticut James Nussbaum, Partner, Church Church Hittle & Antrim Greg Pottorff, Vice President of Legal Affairs & General Counsel, NCAA
		Title IX in 2026: Latest Developments, Challenges and Solutions	Jeff Nolan, Partner, Holland & Knight Kai McGintee, Founder & Managing Director, Aleta Law Beth Gellman-Beer, Partner, Evergreen Education Solutions, LLC Marjy Fisher, Associate Vice President & Title IX Coordinator, Columbia University
		Update on Disability Law and Key Issues	Cassandra Doan, Staff Attorney, SUNY Tom Greene, Assistant Vice President for Legal Affairs, Pratt Institute Christine Walz, Partner, Holland & Knight
2:30 p.m.- 2:45 p.m.		Break	
2:45 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Session 3	Title VI: Intersections with Free Speech and Academic Freedom	Timothy J. Heaphy, Partner, Heaphy, Smith, Harbach & Windom, LLP Steven Richards, Partner, Nixon Peabody Douglas Geiger, Vice President of Learning &

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			Development, Plaid, LLC Samantha Harris , Partner, Allen Harris Law
		Are You Prepared for a Campus Emergency?	Brent Paterson , Founder & President, Prepared Campus Consulting Josh Nolan , M.S.Ed, J.D., General Counsel & Secretary, Oberlin College & Conservatory
		Higher Education Mergers & Acquisitions: A Success Story and More	Andres Acebo , Chancellor, Kean Jersey City Paul Lannon , Partner, Holland & Knight
4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Plenary	The Business of Policing: Applying Entrepreneurial Thought & Action to Modern Campus Safety	Joseph O'Leary , Assoc. Director of Public Safety; Deputy Chief of Police, Babson College Police Dept Nashley Gonzalez , Police Officer, Community Engagement Officer, Babson College Police Dept Kevin Carrigan , Community Engagement Officer, Babson College Police Dept
5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.		Welcome Reception Light appetizers & 1 free drink ticket per attendee will be provided. <i>The Welcome Reception is sponsored by Clark Hill.</i>	

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20			
TIME	SESSION	TITLE	PRESENTER(S)
7:30 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.		Breakfast <i>Breakfast is sponsored by Aleta Law.</i>	
9:00 a.m.- 10:15 a.m.	Session 4	Campus Student Health: Responding to High Acuity Mental Health Needs & Suicidal Ideation	Barbara McCall , Assoc. Vice President for Student Health & Well-being, Middlebury College Cassandra Doan , Staff Attorney, SUNY

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			Felix Pizzi , Assistant Vice President for Student Health & Well-being, Southern New Hampshire University
		From Reactive to Ready: Preparing for Campus Protests and Expressive Activity	Kelly Hendricken , Managing Counsel, Student Affairs, SUNY Office of General Counsel Katie McGee , Consultant, Lumen Leadership Strategies
		Risk Prioritization in Today's Higher Education Litigation Landscape	AJ Kornblith , Senior Resolutions Counsel, United Educators Heather Salko , J.D., Manager of Risk Research, United Educators Sharon Reich Paulsen , Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel, University of Vermont
10:15 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.		Break	
10:30 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Session 5	Untying Knots: Navigating Complex Issues in the Title IX Process	Alyssa-Rae McGinn , Vice President, Dan Schorr, LLC Meaghan Borys , Partner, Bowditch Attorneys Maureen Holland , Member, Cozen O'Connor
		Current Challenges and Solutions in Higher Education Threat Assessment	Jeff Nolan , Partner, Holland & Knight Marisa Randazzo , Executive Director of Threat Assessment, Raptor Technologies, LLC
		Care-Compliance Continuum and Digital Transformation: Meeting the Moment in the New Compliance Environment	Gina Maisto Smith , Chair, Institutional Response Group, Cozen O'Connor Felicia Washington , Vice President for Human Resources, University of Pennsylvania Amanda Ames , Managing Director, Aleta Law

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11:45a.m.- 1:00 p.m.		Keynote Lunch: Advancing Civic Engagement <i>Lunch is sponsored by Holland & Knight.</i>	Jonathan Alger , American Council on Education/American Association of Colleges & Universities America 250 Fellow Laurie L. Patton , President, American Academy of Arts & Sciences
1:00 p.m.- 2:15 p.m.	Session 6	Update on Federal Issues Impacting Higher Education	Allie Mitropoulos , Counsel, Nixon Peabody Amanda Fuchs Miller , President, Seventh Street Strategies David Bogen , Former President, Berklee College of Music Marie Johnson , Director of Student Financial Services, University of Vermont
		International Programs	Alan Grose , Associate, XL Law & Consulting Emma Swift , Director, Office of International Education, University of Vermont
		Minors on Campus: Balancing Access, Safety, and Institutional Responsibility	Elizabeth Taylor , Managing Counsel - People Team, Vanderbilt University Erin Oliver , Assistant Vice President for Institutional Equity & Title IX Coordinator, University of Notre Dame Natalie Mason-Kinsey , Esq., Los Angeles Community College District Office
2:15 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.		Break	
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Session 7	Effective Preparation: Identifying and Responding to Campus Safety Risks	Kathleen Shields Anderson , Vice President for Public Safety, University of Pennsylvania Steven Healy , CEO, The Healy+ Group Marlon Lynch , Principal Consultant, COSECURE
		Navigating Complex Investigations in Higher Education	Alex Wolf , Partner, Steptoe Melanie Soberal Danny Shaha , Assistant Vice President for

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			Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Penn State University
		TBD	
3:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.		Ice Cream Social <i>The Ice Cream Social is sponsored by Saul Ewing.</i>	
4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Session 8	Preventing and Responding to Antisemitism in the Campus Context	Elizabeth Conklin , Associate Vice President for Institutional Equity and Accessibility; University Title IX Coordinator, Yale University Leslie Gomez , Vice Chair, Institutional Response Group, Cozen O'Connor Kelly Hendricken , Managing Counsel, Student Affairs, SUNY Office of General Counsel Gabrielle Lincoff , Deputy General Counsel and Chief Risk Management Officer, Case Western University Meredith Ainbinder , Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel, Brandeis University
		Student Organizations: Legal Relationships, Operational Risks, and Liability Management in Higher Education	Kim Novak , Founder & CEO, NovakTalks; Health & Safety Officer, Pi Kappa Alpha Int. Fraternity Eva Chatterjee-Sutton , Vice President of Student Life & Dean of Students, Washington & Jefferson College Gerard St. Ours , Counsel, Saul Ewing LLP
		Labor and Employment Law Update	Meghan Siket , Associate General Counsel, University of Vermont Damien DiGiovanni , Partner, Morgan Brown & Joy Dr. Rachel Pereira , Esq.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21			
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7:30 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.		Breakfast <i>Breakfast is sponsored by Reed Smith.</i>	
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Session 9	Impact of Governmental Oversight on Academic Freedom	Tom Sullivan , President Emeritus, University of Vermont Joe Cohn , Executive Director, Center for Academic Freedom and Free Speech, Yale Law School Jennifer Papillo , Associate General Counsel, University of Vermont
		Navigating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Legal and Practical Considerations	Caroline Laguerre-Brown , JD, Principal and CEO of Designing Equity, LLC Dr. Rachel Pereira , Esq. Seema Rambaran , Associate, Saul Ewing LLP
		AI Tools in Student Affairs: Opportunities, Risks, and Governance	Emma Bahner , Senior Associate, XL Law & Consulting Deanna Garrett-Ostermiller , M.Ed., Assistant Director, Center for Student Conduct, University of Vermont Andrew Zehner , Associate General Counsel, University of Vermont
10:15 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.		Break	
10:30 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Closing	Closing Plenary: Expert Perspectives: Crystal Ball for The Future of Higher Education	Lynn Pasquserella , President, American Association of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlap , Senior Director of Research, Policy, and Civic Engagement, NASPA Dr. Chuck Welch , President/CEO, American Association of State Colleges and Universities Marjorie Haas , President, Council of Independent Colleges

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Note that the schedule may be subject to change.