

MAJOR, LINDSEY & AFRICA

INTERIM LEGAL TALENT:

Higher Education

Interim Legal Talent is positioned uniquely to support colleges, universities, academic medical centers, and affiliated research institutions, and their Office of the General Counsel, with experienced interim counsel and compliance consultants who can step in quickly to address complex commercial matters and highly regulated initiatives of great concern to higher education.



MLA Interim connects talented interim counsel and compliance consultants with public and private higher education institutions and affiliated organizations, including:

- Public and private colleges and universities
- Research universities and institutes of technology
- Academic medical centers and affiliated hospitals
- University systems and governing bodies
- Arts, music, and performing arts institutions
- Nonprofit and mission-driven educational organizations
- Athletics departments and conference-affiliated entities
- University-affiliated foundations and endowments

How We Can Help:

MLA Interim attorneys and compliance consultants integrate directly with an institution and their Office of General Counsel to provide practice-area specific, solutions-oriented legal support across a wide range of higher education matters, including:

- Regulatory compliance, including FERPA, Clery Act, Title IX, Title IV, and accreditation standards
- Privacy and data security matters involving student data, health information, financial records, and cybersecurity response
- Intellectual property and technology transfer related to faculty research, patents, copyrights, and commercialization
- Research compliance and sponsored agreements, including export controls, Bayh–Dole obligations, and federal grant requirements
- Employment, faculty affairs, and labor matters, including tenure policies, faculty contracts, collective bargaining, and HR compliance
- Athletics compliance involving NCAA regulations, Title IX equity, and name, image, and likeness considerations
- Nonprofit tax, endowment, and fundraising matters, including UBIT, donor restrictions, and charitable gift agreements
- Healthcare regulatory matters for academic medical centers and affiliated hospitals
- Governance, board advisory, and enterprise risk management support

What Makes Us Unique:

Engaging experienced interim legal professionals in support of higher education institutions offers meaningful advantages:

Flexible, mission-aligned support

- Scales with fluctuating workloads and regulatory demands
- Provides continuity during leadership changes or institutional transitions
- Supports complex initiatives without long-term staffing commitments

Cost-conscious alternative to outside counsel

- Reduces reliance on high-cost external firms

- Provides experienced practitioners at a predictable engagement cost
- Preserves budget flexibility during periods of uncertainty

Practice-area specific expertise

- Attorneys with direct higher education, nonprofit, and public-sector experience
- Ability to step into senior advisory or execution-focused roles
- Trusted partners for institutional leadership and boards

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Case Study Spotlights:

CASE STUDY #1

Client: Public Research University and Institute of Technology

The Challenge

The Office of the General Counsel at a large public research university faced increased compliance demands following the implementation of new federal data protection requirements under the Department of Justice's Bulk Sensitive Data Rule. The university's Chief Privacy Officer was tasked with leading a comprehensive program design and implementation effort while simultaneously managing ongoing cybersecurity, data governance, and student privacy matters. Limited bandwidth and specialized compliance expertise created operational strain across the institution.

The Results

Following a targeted needs assessment and candidate vetting process, MLA Interim placed an experienced compliance professional to support the Chief Privacy Officer. The interim consultant brought deep experience building and operationalizing government and regulatory compliance programs. The consultant stood up a comprehensive compliance framework aligned with DOJ requirements and collaborated with university leadership and cross-functional stakeholders to ensure effective adoption. The engagement delivered the needed expertise and capacity while allowing the Chief Privacy Officer to maintain oversight of broader institutional priorities.

CASE STUDY #2

Client: Leading Institution of the Arts

The Challenge

A leading institution in the performing arts experienced rapid growth alongside increasing regulatory and operational complexity. Institutional leadership required additional legal support across commercial contracts, employment matters, student aid programs, and higher education regulatory compliance. Reporting directly to the Chief Financial Officer, the institution sought an interim legal professional who could operate across disciplines and integrate seamlessly with internal leadership and outside counsel.

The Results

MLA Interim advised the CFO on a secondment-style engagement and placed an Interim Associate General Counsel with experience spanning higher education, nonprofit, and public institutions. The interim counsel onboarded quickly, partnered with outside AMLAW counsel on specialized matters, and took direct responsibility for commercial negotiations, employment issues, and compliance matters related to Title IX, FERPA, the Clery Act, and the Higher Education Act. The engagement provided immediate legal stability and breadth without expanding permanent headcount.

Together we bridge the gap between exceptional interim legal talent and the dynamic needs of legal departments and law firms.