



Education

Education

**STRADLEY
SR
RONON**

OUR PRACTICE

With nearly 95 years of experience, Stradley Ronon understands the complex issues facing educational institutions. We provide the guidance and skill needed to navigate and resolve the legal, business, financial, practical and political challenges educational institutions face. Our team is deep and broad, composed of lawyers from numerous disciplines whose common focus is to provide the trustworthy counsel our education clients can rely on to address existing problems and prevent new ones.



OUR SERVICES

We advise all sectors of education, including public and private colleges and universities, community colleges, teaching hospitals,

educational foundations, pre-K through postsecondary schools, charter schools and religious institutions in the following areas:

- Accreditation
- Asset management & finance
- Civil rights & discrimination
- Data security & privacy
- Employee benefits & compensation
- Employment & labor
- Environmental & energy
- Free speech & other constitutional matters
- Governance
- Health care
- Intellectual property
- Internal investigations
- Litigation
- Public & tax-exempt finance
- Real estate & construction
- Regulatory & compliance
- Risk management
- Student affairs, including hazing and sexual misconduct
- Tax
- Title IX litigation & counseling
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)

OUR EXPERIENCE

HIGHER EDUCATION

Stradley Ronon's high-level practice is adept at handling the issues that are specific to colleges and universities while remaining sensitive to the priorities of each institution. We have represented higher education institutions in real estate acquisitions, contract negotiations and financings, including tax-exempt bond transactions, provided Title IX advice, performed internal investigations, defended civil rights claims and claims of unlawful fraternity hazing, provided a broad range of intellectual property services and appeared before zoning and planning agencies and before city government agencies regarding taxation issues, licenses, zoning, and land-planning and tax-exempt issues at the local, state and federal levels.

We have served as outside counsel to **Saint Joseph's University** for more than 50 years and as general counsel to **Manor College** and **Chestnut Hill College**, and have provided legal counsel to **Temple University**, **LaSalle College**, **Villanova University**, **University of the Arts**, **Eastern University**, **Lafayette College**, **Rowan University**, **Andrews University**, **Reconstructionist Rabbinical College** and many others.

Our experience includes:

- Representing **Temple University**:
 - In a significant victory in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The Court granted summary judgment to Temple on all the plaintiff's discrimination claims, entering judgment in Temple's favor and ending the case without the need for a trial.
 - In a significant win. The matter involved a Plaintiff who brought race claims under Section 1981 and Title VII for his discipline

and termination against Temple and two individual defendants. The Stradley litigation team had five days of trial, and the jury deliberated for six hours before returning a complete defense verdict on all counts.

- Advising **Saint Joseph's University**:
 - In connection with the construction and equipping of a new residence facility for approximately 410 students.
 - On intellectual property law matters, including securing trademark protection for logos and brands.
 - On a \$7 million suit arising from actuarial malpractice and the University's pension plan, which was settled for less than six figures.
- Assisting the **University of Scranton** in parsing and applying the religious employer exemption in faculty negotiations.
- Representing the Jewish Campus Board on behalf of **Hillel House** in connection with the permitting, development, financing and construction of new, state-of-the-art dining facilities on both the **University of Pennsylvania's** and **Temple University's** campuses.
- Representing **Andrews University** where an employee was terminated for repudiating the teachings of the church in a letter that referred to the church's beliefs as "heresy."
- Assisting the **Reconstructionist Rabbinical College's** counsel in changing the U.S. Department of Education's rules on student loan forgiveness to allow rabbinical students to participate by filing a petition for rulemaking with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos,

seeking revocation of that restriction as not intended by the authorizing statute and not required by the First Amendment.

- Representing the **Penn State University** Interfraternity Council, a student-run organization, against allegations by a former student that it was negligent and responsible for hazing that he allegedly endured while pledging for a fraternity, and securing early dismissal of virtually all the claims asserted.
- Representing the **University of the Arts** in merging a well-known nonprofit organization into the University and separately serving as University counsel in connection with a nonprofit affiliation with and sale of real estate to the Kimmel Center for the Arts.

PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 12

Stradley Ronon attorneys represent public, private and religious schools on a wide range of issues. We have represented:

- **Saint Joseph's Preparatory School**, a premier Jesuit college preparatory school, in a variety of matters, including the recovery of a seven-figure settlement from a professional services provider to the school.
- **AIM Academy**, a private school of approximately 310 students with language-based learning differences, in the purchase of its 4.5-acre campus and in its initial interim and subsequent tax-exempt refinancings.
- **The Green Tree School** in its relocation and consolidation into a new school to be constructed on a 3-acre site in Oak Lane, including obtaining zoning approval for the new site, financing and construction of the new school, and the disposition of existing school buildings.

- **The Archdiocese of Philadelphia – St. Edmond’s Parish** in connection with the acquisition of a 30-acre environmentally sensitive site, and obtaining conditional use zoning approval for the development of an 1,800-seat church and a K-8 elementary school with a gym, rectory and related facilities.

CHARTER SCHOOL

We have represented a number of charter schools in a variety of areas, including lobbying, tax-exempt financing, zoning, acquisition and leasing, construction and development projects, tax assessment and tax-exemption appeals and labor and employment matters. Our charter school clients include:

- Alliance for Progress Charter School
- Antonia Pantoja Charter School (an affiliate of Aspira)
- Catholic Partnership Schools, Inc.
- Franklin Towne Charter Schools
- Imani Education Circle Charter School
- Imhotep Institute Charter High School
- Lancaster Leadership and Learning Academy Charter School
- Maria Bracetti Academy Charter School
- Northwood Academy Charter School
- Nueva Esperanza Academy Charter School
- Pan American Academy Charter School
- People for People Charter School
- Philadelphia Academy Charter School
- Philadelphia Montessori Charter School
- Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION FINANCE & REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

Our skilled team handles all aspects of financing and development transactions for various educational institutions, giving us deep experience with owners, developers, institutional lenders, investors, REITs, contractors and brokers. Our lawyers have negotiated and drafted a variety of financing documents and grants through government agencies on behalf of colleges and universities, including:

- Serving as bond counsel:
 - In the issuance of \$170 million of **Central Bucks School District Bonds**.
 - In the issuance of Pennsylvania Higher Educational Facilities Authority Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Securities, **Drexel University** Revenue Bonds, Series A of 2007, in the aggregate amount of \$95 million.
 - In the issuance of \$94.9 million in Pennsylvania Higher Educational Facilities Authority **La Salle University** Revenue Bonds, Series 2012.
- Acting as underwriter counsel:
 - In the issuance of \$34.7 million in Revenue Bonds (**Rowan University** General Capital Improvement Projects), Series 2015A; \$69.5 million in Revenue Refunding Bonds (Rowan University Project), Series 2015B; and \$51.5 million in Revenue Bonds (Rowan University Business and Engineering School Projects), Series 2015C.
 - In the issuance of \$51.6 million in Industrial Development Bonds (**University of the Arts**).

- On behalf of **Drexel University**, for Jefferies & Company in connection with the issuance of \$156.7 million in Pennsylvania Higher Educational Facilities Authority Bonds.
- Representing the **Archdiocese of Philadelphia** in several tax-exempt financings, the most significant of which was a \$30 million public bond issue for construction of the new Bishop Shanahan High School.
- Advising **Lafayette College**:
 - On hedge fund investments, including the negotiation of side letters related to the investments.
 - In analyzing and negotiating a \$25 million investment in Anchorage Capital Partners Offshore Ltd., a Cayman Islands-domiciled private investment fund.
 - In analyzing and negotiating an investment by its endowment into the Radcliffe Ultra Short Duration Fund Ltd.
- Representing affiliates of Radnor Property Group in connection with the development of a parcel at **Drexel University** – comprising a 16-story mixed-use tower, including a 180-person early-learning child care center and 164 market-rate apartments – in all phases of the transaction, including a long-term ground lease with Drexel University, a sublease with a child care operator, and debt and equity structuring and negotiation.
- Representing lenders in providing credit facilities in support of tax-exempt bonds to finance student housing projects at **West Chester University, East Stroudsburg University** and **Indiana University of Pennsylvania**.
- Procuring Redevelopment Capital

Assistance Grants from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for **Philadelphia University** (now **Thomas Jefferson University**), **AIM Academy** and **Holy Redeemer Health System**.

- Representing Customers Bancorp and Customers Bank in connection with its \$42 million agreement to acquire the higher education disbursement business of Higher One Holdings, which included a service to streamline the financial aid refund disbursement process for more than 800 colleges and universities.

OUR INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Stradley Ronon lawyers are professionally and personally engaged in the education industry. Several are members of the National Association of College and University Attorneys and numerous attorneys serve on education boards.

- Chairman Emeritus William R. Sasso is a long-serving member of **La Salle University's** board of trustees.
- Co-Chairman and Managing Partner Jeffrey A. Lutsky served as chairman and member of the board of trustees of the **University of the Arts**.
- Partner Michael O'Mara serves on the boards of **The Center for Autism** and **Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS)**.
- Partner Philip J. Foret serves on the board of directors and as treasurer for the **Great Valley School District** in Malvern, Pennsylvania and served on the board of directors for the **Chester County School Authority**.
- Partner William T. Mandia serves as vice chair on the board of trustees for **Holy Family University** and as vice chair on the board of specified jurisdiction for **Father Judge High School**.

- Partner and Co-Chair, Nonprofit & Religious Practice Chair Mark E. Chopko serves on the advisory board of the **Theological College/ Catholic University of America** and served two terms on the board of advisors of the **National Center on Philanthropy and the Law at New York University Law School**.
- Partner and Securities Litigation Co-Chair Paula D. Shaffner serves as president of the **West Chester University Foundation** and on the advisory board at **Bridge Way School**.
- Partner and Insurance Practice Chair Steven B. Davis serves on the board of governors of **Saint Joseph's University Academy of Risk Management and Insurance**.
- Partner Gretchen Santamour serves as vice chair on the board of trustees at **Arcadia University**.
- Partner and Investment Management Co-Chair Bruce G. Leto is a long-serving member of **Settlement Music School's** board of trustees and executive committee.
- Partner and Environmental Co-Chair Catherine M. Ward serves as the board chair of the **Wynnefield Overbrook Redevelopment Corporation**, a nonprofit redevelopment entity affiliated with **Saint Joseph's University**.

- Partner and Vice Chair of Business Caroline C. Gorman serves on the board of directors of **Pan American Academy Charter School**, a local bilingual charter school in North Philadelphia and works with the alumni board for **Mount Saint Joseph Academy**.
- Partner John C. Hook serves on the board of directors and development committee for **Catholic Partnership Schools**.
- Partner Stephanie E. Sanderson-Braem serves on the board of directors for **The Catholic Partnership Schools** and serves as secretary on the board of directors of the **Knights Education Foundation**.
- Partner Thomas O. Ix serves on the law alumni board of **Georgetown University Law Center** and is president of the board of trustees at the **Princeton Child Development Institute**.
- Managing Counsel Samantha Kats serves as vice president of the board of directors of **Children's Village**, a nonprofit organization that provides early childhood education and school-age academic enrichment distinguished by excellence and family diversity.



For more information on our Education practice, visit www.stradley.com/education.



CONTACT

Jeffrey A. Lutsky
215.564.8087
jlutsky@stradley.com

ABOUT STRADLEY RONON

For more than 95 years, Stradley Ronon has helped private and public companies – from small businesses to Fortune 500 corporations – achieve their goals. With nine offices and more than 200 attorneys, Stradley Ronon is proud to help companies manage their legal challenges and grow their businesses.

www.stradley.com

LOCATIONS

Pennsylvania
Washington, D.C.
New York
California
New Jersey
Illinois
Delaware



This communication is provided as a general informational service to clients and friends of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP. It should not be construed as, and does not constitute, legal advice on any specific matter, nor does this message create an attorney-client relationship. The enclosed materials may have been abridged from other sources. They are provided for educational and informational purposes for the use of clients and others who may be interested in the subject matter. This material may be considered attorney advertising in some states. Please note that the prior results discussed in the material do not guarantee similar outcomes.

© 2024 Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP