

Bringing education to all

Education is a global enterprise, and so is our Education team. We guide institutions through international teaching, scientific research, and humanitarian projects, and many other transnational initiatives.

The issue

Education is the most powerful and proven vehicle for global progress and development. UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education) aims to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. This affirms the globally-held principle that children and young people must have quality and accessible education in order to thrive.

Demand for education is surging across the world as more and more students seek to enhance their future. In addition to public investment in the education sector, there is rapid growth in the private sector education market, with significant funds pouring in through education companies, foundations, and nonprofits.

Interest in online education and digital education has increased exponentially as the pandemic closed schools and drove learning into virtual environments. Remote learning has great potential to reach the masses as the digital divide narrows around the globe. Moreover, international cooperation and partnerships in the Education sector are the “new normal”, as educators and institutions see the richness of a truly transnational curriculum.

In cross-border transactions, the company making the investment is often required to use local employees and contractors. Improving educational opportunities allows the local workforce to take technical and managerial positions in the new investment.



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What we do

Long before law firms focused on the education sector, Hogan Lovells pioneered the concept of a dedicated practice area centered on representation of educational institutions. Since the founding of our practice in 1980, Hogan Lovells has guided more than 200 educational institutions as well as elementary and secondary schools, education associations, sector investors and service providers, and many others involved in the space.

We have guided projects in over 100 countries, addressing the spectrum of international acquisition and operational challenges, including several university branch campus initiatives in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

From high-profile regulatory challenges to investigations, litigation, and transactions, our team operates at the forefront of the education industry. We are daily embedded in the broader educational institution context in terms of governance, faculty rights, intellectual property, accreditation, non-discrimination, research, and student matters. We offer clients practical and informed solutions developed across the whole sector.

The multidisciplinary talent on our team allows us to ‘see the entire field’ and leverage specialized advice in diverse areas of law. Under one roof, we advise educational institutions on issues that demand cross-specialty attention, such as:

- Accreditation, state licensure, and student financial aid
- Civil rights
- Cybersecurity and privacy
- Institutional governance
- Intellectual property, technology transfers and incubation
- International projects and distance education
- Government relations and policy advocacy
- False Claims Act and government and internal investigations
- Immigration
- Labor and employment
- Litigation
- Mergers, acquisitions, minority investments, JVs, and collaborations
- Sponsored research
- Tax

We actively participate in major education legal associations, and our thought leadership has been featured in the primary education law journals.

Our impact

- Leveraging legal technology to help institutions provide international online education around the world in compliance with global regulatory standards. Our Education GOES International service was recently commended in the 2019 FT North America Innovative Lawyer Awards and the service was short-listed for the Africa Legal Innovation Awards in 2020
- Establishing more than 60 offices across sub-Saharan Africa on behalf of educational institutions and hospitals for academic cooperation and capacity building, training, and treatment programs related to HIV/AIDS, clinical support, and scientific research
- Guiding dozens of academic medical institutions to bring telemedicine and remote patient care services to developing countries and treat patient populations across the world – serving a critical need in the pandemic environment
- Training hundreds of employees in Africa and Asia through onsite presentations and case study discussions to sensitize staff to common challenges in the education development sector
- Partnering with social enterprise institutions to make quality education accessible to all, for example advising the non-profit PEAS on its development of an innovative model to open affordable and quality secondary schools in East Africa
- Partnering with the International Senior Lawyers Project to provide training on a pro bono basis to governmental officials managing the development of natural resources and other commercial development and investment

Useful links

- [Education practice – International Programs](#)
- [International online education programs: A global regulatory perspective](#)
- [Education GOES International](#)
- [Doing your homework when offering online programs internationally](#)
- [Africa regional practice](#)

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