

## Elizabeth B. Meers

Senior Counsel  
Washington, D.C.

### Biography

Elizabeth Meers has been immersed in the education sector for more than 30 years. Whether the issue involves student financial aid, institutional or programmatic accreditation, state education licensure, civil rights, religious identity, or other education-related matters, Elizabeth has extensive knowledge of the law, agency practice, and education sector norms.

Elizabeth has a broad background with federal and state regulations and accreditation standards governing the education sector. Elizabeth applies her knowledge in counseling clients on compliance with regulatory and accreditation requirements; negotiating contracts, including international initiatives, online programs, and mergers and acquisitions; and representing clients in legal proceedings involving federal and state agencies and accreditors. Elizabeth's clients include colleges and universities, independent schools, education associations, foundations, education companies, investors in the education sector, and other education organizations.

Elizabeth led the Hogan Lovells Education practice area from 2004 to 2014. She has also been a higher education association executive, in-house counsel, and a college trustee. She is also an active member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA).



### Phone

+1 202 637 8676

### Fax

+1 202 637 5910

### Email

[elizabeth.meers@hoganlovells.com](mailto:elizabeth.meers@hoganlovells.com)

---

### Practices

Education

Administrative and Public Law

---

### Industries

Education

---

### Areas of focus

Accreditation and State Licensure

Civil Rights Compliance

Distance Education

Governance

International Programs

Elizabeth has been recognized for her leadership in the education community and for her pro bono legal services. The Best Lawyers in America named her Washington, D.C. Education Law Lawyer of the Year for 2014-15 and 2019. Georgetown University Law Center has honored her twice, with the Alumnae Achievement Award in 1999 and the Paul R. Dean Award in 2005. Catholic Charities Legal Network of the Archdiocese of Washington and the John Carroll Society commended her volunteer service to the Legal Network in 2005 and 2010.

## Representative experience

Representing higher education associations as amici curiae in cases involving student diversity, such as *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin II*.

Assisting the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine with comments on proposed standards and policies of specialized accreditor.

Representing the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities as amicus curiae in cases involving National Labor Relations Board jurisdiction.

Serving as education regulatory counsel in negotiating affiliation between DePaul University and Rosalind Franklin University of Science and Medicine.

Serving as education regulatory counsel to an affiliate of LifePoint Health in acquisition of a hospital with a health professions school.

Serving as education regulatory counsel to higher education clients in negotiating contracts with distance education service providers.

Participating in successful defense of Kamehameha Schools' admissions preference for native Hawaiians, *Doe v. Kamehameha Schools*.

Advising a public university concerning its acquisition of a religious-affiliated museum.

Student Financial Aid

---

## Education and admissions

### Education

Certificate in Theological Studies, Georgetown University, School of Summer and Continuing Education, 1994

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, magna cum laude, 1980

B.A., Radcliffe College, summa cum laude, 1975

---

## Awards and rankings

- Lawyer of the Year, Education Law (Washington, D.C.), *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2014, 2015, 2019
- Education Law, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2013-2020
- Pro Bono Legal Service Award, *The John Carroll Society*, 2010
- Paul R. Dean Alumni Award, *Georgetown University Law Center*, 2005
- James Cardinal Hickey Pro Bono Legal Service Award, Archdiocesan Legal Network, *Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington*, 2005
- Alumnae Achievement Award, *Georgetown University Law Center*, 1999

## Latest thinking and events

- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - Third time's the charm? – U.S. Department of Education issues additional Q&A on implementation of 2016 "borrower defense to repayment" regulations *Education Alert*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - U.S. Department of Education announces changes to College Scorecard, plans for future expansion *Education Alert*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - U.S. Department of Education proposes regulations related to accreditation, state authorization, and other Title IV topics in "kitchen sink" rule-making *Education Alert*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - Spring round-up: State legislators seek to further regulate postsecondary education *Education Alert*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - U.S. Department of Education provides guidance on implementation of 2016 "borrower defense to repayment" regulations *Education Alert*

## Memberships

- President, John Carroll Society, 2013-15
- Chair, Advisory Council, Catholic Charities Legal Network, 2007-09; Member, 2001-2010
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Federal Bar Association; Chair and Vice-Chair, Federal Grants Committee, Public Contract Section, 1985-1997
- Trustee, The William Bingham Foundation
- Member, National Association of College and University Attorneys; Interim Executive Director, September 2000-January 2001
- Member, Board of Regents, Georgetown University, 2002-2007
- Trustee, Radcliffe College, 1979-1987

---

## Bar admissions and qualifications

District of Columbia

---

## Court admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit

---

- Hogan Lovells Publications

- Spring brings promises of change in federal higher education policy *Education Alert*