

## Firm Information

Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP  
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Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP (“Miller Nash”) is headquartered in Portland, Oregon and has been providing legal services to Oregon public schools for over 50 years. The firm also has offices located in Seattle and Vancouver, Washington, and a small office in Long Beach, California.

### Firm Experience

Miller Nash is a regional law firm uniquely qualified to serve the legal needs of Rainier School District (RSD). No other Oregon law firm has the breadth of experience of our firm in the combined fields of education, special education, employment, public law, and real estate, and that also has the capability to provide high-level legal support for collateral legal issues in-house without having to search for outside expertise. This not only results in an efficient and high-quality legal product for our clients, but also ensures timely and coordinated responses to all your legal needs.

Miller Nash is a client-focused firm with fresh ideas and strong traditions of service and partnering with clients. With roots in the Pacific Northwest go back more than a century, we pride ourselves on being creative thinkers who are committed to serving our clients, our community, and each other in smart and innovative ways. The firm has grown through the years to ensure that it provides its clients with outstanding legal service. We are proud to serve as counsel to many public bodies, nonprofits, and businesses. Our attorneys have served as counsel for numerous public entities, including:

- North Clackamas School District
- Beaverton School District
- Seaside School District
- Sherwood School District
- Tigard-Tualatin School District
- Clackamas Fire District #1
- Columbia Gorge Community College
- David Douglas School District
- Marion County
- Northwest Regional ESD
- Rainier School District
- Springfield Public Schools
- TriMet
- City of Eugene
- City of Salem
- City of Wood Village
- Oregon Institute of Technology
- Lyle School District
- Oregon State University
- Prosper Portland
- Ontario School District
- University of Oregon
- Portland Community College
- Portland Public Schools
- Mt. Hood Community College
- Silver Falls School District

## Experience with K-12 Educational Issues

Our education team comprises attorneys who regularly work with a variety of public educational institutions and who appreciate the need to thoughtfully evaluate how legal decisions and strategies intersect with each education client's overall educational mission. Our attorneys are passionate about education, and invest nonbillable time in staying current on legal issues that are important to our education clients in a wide array of subject matters, with the goal of providing top-notch legal services to educational institutions in a cost-effective manner.

Our education law attorneys are knowledgeable about traditional legal issues facing educational institutions, including employment issues, such as educator discipline and dismissal; student conduct and dismissal matters; safe schools; serious personal-injury claims, such as concussions; discrimination laws, such as Title IX, IDEA, the ADA, and Section 504; and unique aspects of serving the "business" needs of education clients, such as public records, public meetings, FERPA, and many governance issues. Our work includes front-end compliance work, such as the development and implementation of Title IX regulations and guidance; representation in front of administrative agencies, including BOLI/EEOC and OCR; and defense of lawsuits pursued in state and federal courts. We regularly handle and defend sensitive claims that have consequences beyond the specific party or parties asserting them, and work with a range of school district superintendents and senior leaders in doing so. More recently, we've had to dive into the complicated issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, from addressing potential liability and helping clients develop closing and reopening protocols to navigating the funding and contracting issues arising from the CARES Act and other COVID legislation.

Our attorneys also serve educational institutions in a broad variety of other areas, including electronic data privacy, election law, environmental compliance and toxic tort claims, insurance recovery, land use permitting, public contracting and procurement, including construction contracting, and public finance. Our attorneys are highly attuned to the equity mission of public schools, and work closely with clients in implementing legal strategies that support and accelerate equity.

We are proud of our ability to anticipate and respond to the evolving legal service needs of our education clients and to work with educational institutions to support their missions.

For more information about our full education law team, and resources on a variety of education-related topics, please visit our [Education: K-12](#) team page.

## Core Attorney Team

Our core attorney team has in-depth knowledge of and experience with public entities and K-12 educational institutions. They have a deep understanding of federal, state, and local laws, they value availability and responsiveness, and they have strong academic backgrounds. As a larger law firm, we also have a deep bench of professionals under one roof in the other areas that public entities require. This facilitates a highly efficient and cost-effective delivery of services: we can walk down the hall and ask another expert rather than having to spend hours of time researching the law in a cross-practice area. This approach also allows us to help you identify and resolve legal issues and risk before they become expensive legal problems.

**Jollee Faber Patterson****Direct:** 503.205.2390 | **E-mail:** jollee.patterson@millernash.com**Title:** Partner**Role:** Primary Point-of-Contact, Education & Employment Law**Education:** University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, J.D.**Years of Experience:** 28 years

Jollee Patterson is a partner on the education and public entities teams. With more than 25 years of legal experience, she works with a wide range of education and public institutions, including public and private universities, community colleges, school districts, private schools, special districts, and other public entities. She supports clients in a wide variety of areas including employment, Title IX and other civil rights, constitutional issues, governance, public meetings and records, compliance audits, and policies and procedures. Jollee also serves as an investigator, trainer, and mediator.

Jollee spent 16 years as the General Counsel for a major urban school district, during which time she served on the superintendent's executive cabinet and was the Secretary to the Board of Education for 13 years. Jollee is highly attuned to the sensitivities of working with public entities, and the need to align legal strategy with the mission of public education. She has significant experience resolving complex and highly sensitive issues within a political and public environment.

**Amy Robinson, SPHR, SHRM-SCP****Direct:** 503.205.2512 | **E-mail:** amy.robinson@millernash.com**Title:** Senior Counsel**Role:** Employment Law**Education:** Lewis & Clark Law School, J.D.**Years of Experience:** 18 years

Amy Robinson represents public and private employers throughout Washington and Oregon in a broad range of workplace-related issues. She provides experienced counsel on compliance challenges and disputes covering the entire employment life cycle from hiring to separation, including employee classification, wage-and-hour issues, employee leaves and protected activities, disability and accommodation, and discrimination, retaliation, and harassment prevention. Amy is also adept at guiding employers through policy and handbook development, as well as drafting, negotiating, and enforcing employment-related contracts, such as noncompete agreements, nonsolicitation agreements, and nondisclosure agreements. Amy regularly performs outside and third-party investigations into a wide range of workplace-related complaints and concerns.

Amy works with a range of business cultures and industries. She knows how to tailor her approach and communication style in order to collaborate effectively with business owners, managers, human resource professionals, and decision-making bodies. Before her legal career, Amy worked as a human resources professional for a variety of employers and believes this foundation has provided her with a unique and keen awareness of the competing pressures, workplace dynamics, and practical challenges that her clients face every day.

**Jeffrey P. Chicoine****Direct:** 503.205.2371 | **E-mail:** jeff.chicoine@millernash.com**Title:** Partner**Role:** Labor Relations**Education:** University of Illinois, J.D.; University of Illinois, M.A., labor and industrial relations**Years of Experience:** 39 years

Jeff focuses on representing and advising public and private employers in labor relations and employment matters. Jeff's labor relations practice includes substantial experience in at-the-table labor negotiations. He also represents employers in grievance arbitrations, interest arbitrations, unfair labor practice complaints, and civil-service cases. Jeff counsels employers on discrimination, harassment, wrongful discharge, wage-and-hour, severance, and other employment law matters. He represents employers before state and federal courts and agencies. He has successfully defended employers in a wide range of employment matters, including wage-and-hour class actions, wrongful discharge, discrimination, and harassment claims, and has both pursued and defended against injunction actions. With expertise in administrative law, he has also assisted clients in dealing with state and federal government agencies in nonemployment matters.

**Michael Porter****Direct:** 503.205.2330 | **E-mail:** michael.porter@millernash.com**Title:** Partner**Role:** Education & Employment Law**Education:** University of Kansas, J.D.; University of South Carolina, M.A., education**Years of Experience:** 20 years

Mike works with school districts, community colleges, and public universities, utilizing his background in education and higher education administration. Mike frequently serves in a general counsel role for institutions that do not have general counsel, while also leading the firm's prominent education team so that it remains cohesive and committed to serving school district clients. In that role, Mike advises schools through their administrations and school boards on topics that include advancing equity initiatives and goals, regulatory compliance, and issues involving freedom of speech, ethics rules, public records and meetings, and labor and employment matters.

Mike's practice focuses on issues involving employment, including K-12 professional educator employment issues, student rights and discipline, education programs, and federal and state regulatory compliance. This education-related work has encompassed litigation, advice, and counsel under Title IX of the Education Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as well as constitutional issues such as public-forum restrictions and equal protection contours related to race and other protected status in educational programs. Finally, Mike frequently advises on school issues including student records and FERPA, due process, search-and-seizure issues, and the full range of issues that arise with respect to students and their families.