

Randolph Geller

Of Counsel | Eugene Office

Randy Geller has over 19 years of legal experience at two public research universities. He most recently served as the General Counsel to the University of Oregon. In his capacity as General Counsel, Randy was an executive officer of the University of Oregon, which has approximately 25,000 students, 4,500 regular employees, and a one billion dollar annual budget.

Randy has in-depth knowledge of most aspects of higher education law and administration. He played a key role in drafting and negotiating Oregon Senate Bill 270 (2013) establishing independent government boards and independent authority for Oregon's public universities – the first major governance change in Oregon since 1929. He also assisted in developing and implementing the University's transition plan and drafted the bylaws and other foundational documents for the newly-established Board of Trustees.

In other areas, Randy helped steer the University of Oregon through a major NCAA investigation of the Ducks' highly-ranked football program and has handled a wide variety of complex regulatory and transactional matters. He is the author of *Criminal Conduct by Students: The Institution's Response*, National Association of College and University Attorneys (2007).

Randy is available to help clients with the following: ✓

- Outside general counsel services
- Governance and governing boards
- Management of major institutional projects and initiatives
- Legal aspects of fundraising, development and relationships with affiliated foundations
- Public-private partnerships and town-gown relationships
- Policies and procedures
- Intercollegiate athletics, including multi-media and apparel rights, Title IX, and the NCAA
- Transactional work, including procurement and purchasing, contracts for performing artists and speakers, academic affiliation and internship agreements, faculty and student exchange agreements, facility use agreements, leases, easements, purchase and sale of real estate, and complex business and financial agreements
- Risk management and insurance
- Strategies to achieve a diverse student body and faculty
- Federal and state regulation of higher education, including the Clery Act, financial aid, grants and contracts, mandatory child abuse reporting, degree authorization, and program approval
- Federal and state investigations, including by the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI)
- Privacy, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and HIPAA
- Reasonable accommodations for students under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as well as similar state laws
- Tenure, promotion, academic freedom, and other faculty employment issues
- Labor and employment law
- Negotiation of employment contracts for highly compensated employees, including presidents, faculty, coaches, and athletic directors



Contact Information

[Email](#) | [PDF](#) | [vCard](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Eugene Office

360 E. 10th Avenue
Suite 300
Eugene, OR, 97401-3273

Tel: 541.485.0220

Fax: 541.686.6564

Practice Emphasis

Consulting, Facilitation, and Training

Ethics in Government

Government Law and Legislative Affairs

Higher Education

Intellectual Property

Oregon Public Records Law

Regulatory (Administrative) Law and Proceedings

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- Legal aspects of student affairs, including discipline and codes of conduct, Title IX, sexual assault, student organizations, student health services, and student health insurance
- Public law, legislation, and government relations
- Tax issues specific to non-profit and public colleges and universities

Education ∨

Randy received his J.D. in 1992 from the University of Washington School of Law. Prior to law school, he received his B.A. in Political Science/Political Economy in 1987 from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

Admissions & Memberships ∨

He is a member of the Oregon State Bar, the Washington State Bar, the United States Supreme Court, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Publications & Presentations ∨

- Author, *Criminal Conduct by Students: The Institution's Response*, National Association of College and University Attorneys (2007).
- Co-editor (with Abigail Byman), *Intellectual Property in Academe: A Legal Compendium*, National Association of College and University Attorneys (2001).
- Speaker, The Times They Are A-Changin': Surviving Transition, National Association of College and University Attorneys Annual Conference (2014).
- Speaker, Fundamentals of Real Estate Transactions: Due Diligence and Practice Pointers, National Association of College and University Attorneys Annual Conference (2010).
- Speaker, P2P War Stories: Tales from the Trenches, Cornell University Institute for Computer Policy and Law (2009)
- Discussion Leader, P2P File-Sharing News: A Peer-to-Peer Discussion Group, National Association of College and University Attorneys Annual Conference (2008).
- Speaker, Student Disciplinary Issues in Higher Education, National Association of College and University Attorneys Annual Conference (2007).
- Moderator, The Return of *In Parens Patriae* -or- What Makes Our Relationship with Students Special? National Association of College and University Attorneys Annual Conference (2005).
- Speaker, Legal Issues in Student Housing, National Association of College and University Attorneys Annual Conference (2001).
- Moderator, Revisiting *In Loco Parentis: A Crazy Notion?*, National Association of College and University Attorneys Annual Conference (2000).
- Speaker, Legal Issues in Admissions and Financial Aid, National Association of College and University Attorneys Annual Conference (1999).

Portland

1001 S.W. Fifth Avenue, 16th Floor
Portland, OR 97204-1116
Tel: 503.242.0000
Fax: 503.241.1458

Eugene

360 E. 10th Avenue, Suite 300
Eugene, OR 97401-3273
Tel: 541.485.0220
Fax: 541.686.6564

Salem

530 Center Street, N.E., Suite 725
Salem, OR 97301-3761
Tel: 503.371.3330
Fax: 971.304.7352

Member of the **State Capital Group**
Toll-Free: 800.315.4172



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