



Archer Expands Higher Education Team with Former University General Counsel Elizabeth Leo

Press Releases

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Archer is pleased to announce that **Elizabeth C. Leo**, former General Counsel and Title IX Coordinator of Wilkes University, has joined the firm as a partner in its **Higher Education Practice**.

Elizabeth brings more than 30 years of experience delivering sophisticated legal counsel and is widely regarded as a trusted advisor to executive leadership and boards, with a rare blend of higher education legal leadership and senior human resources and employment law experience. At Archer, she advises clients on compliance, governance, policy, regulatory, and operational matters, including the most complex and sensitive issues of campus life.

At Wilkes, Elizabeth advised the University's President, Board of Trustees, and Governance Committee on a wide range of university matters. During her tenure, she played a central role in institutional decision-making, guiding strategy on governance, compliance, real estate and asset transactions, and risk management, while overseeing labor and employment matters, complex investigations, litigation, and Title IX compliance.

Elizabeth's higher education experience is uniquely complemented by her prior service as Chief Human Resources Officer and Employment Counsel for Commonwealth Health, where she oversaw human resources and employment law functions for multiple hospitals and healthcare entities.

"Elizabeth understands higher education from the inside, and when combined with her extensive knowledge of Title IX and her labor and employment background, that perspective makes her an exceptional addition to Archer and an invaluable resource for our higher education clients," said **Mark Oberstaedt**, head of Archer's Higher Education Practice. "She understands the realities institutions face, not just legally, but operationally and strategically."

On joining Archer, Elizabeth said, "I am thrilled to join Archer and work alongside a team that is deeply committed to serving higher education institutions. At a time when higher education faces unprecedented

uncertainty and risk, Archer has a deep understanding of the complex legal, operational, and governance challenges institutions face. The firm's strength across so many practice areas makes it an ideal platform for helping clients achieve the best possible outcomes.”

Earlier in her career, Elizabeth worked in private practice, advising employers on labor strategy, compliance, and employment disputes, as well as handling commercial litigation.

Elizabeth received her law degree from St. John's University School of Law and her bachelor's degree from Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Related People



Elizabeth C. Leo

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Related Services

- Higher Education

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