HUSCH BLACKWELL



Derek T. Teeter

PARTNER

KANSAS CITY, MO
PHONE: 816.983.8331
EMAIL: DEREK.TEETER@HUSCHBLACKWELL.COM

OVERVIEW

Derek represents colleges and universities in complicated, prominent litigation involving federal and state civil rights statutes, constitutional rights, governmental immunities, and class actions. He specializes in cases involving sexual misconduct (Title IX), race and national origin discrimination (Title VI), freedom of speech, due process, and religious liberty.

Derek represents higher education institutions of all types, from major research universities to private religious colleges. He represents clients at all stages of litigation, including pre-settlement negotiations, dispositive motion practice, trials, arbitrations and appeals.

Derek's clients face lawsuits from students, faculty, employees and contractors, as well as regulatory enforcement actions from the U.S. Department of Education and equivalent state agencies. Related to his litigation practice, Derek assists colleges and universities in minimizing litigation risk by ensuring compliance with requirements of federal and state regulations, with a special emphasis on Title IX (sexual misconduct), Title VI (race and national origin discrimination), and the Clery Act (campus crime reporting). He is often called on to conduct sensitive investigations involving allegations of misconduct against prominent employees, student-athletes, and athletic teams.

Industry

Education

Services

Appellate
Collegiate Athletics
Higher Education
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
Title IX

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Derek's compliance practice includes policy and practice audits, policy drafting, and providing training and guidance to key personnel and students. He also frequently negotiates and drafts employment contracts for key institutional leaders such as presidents, chief academic officers, and varsity coaches.

As a former federal appellate law clerk and appellate practitioner, Derek also has extensive appellate experience and maintains a national appellate practice.

Experience

- Obtained summary judgment for major research university in Title IX lawsuit challenging adequacy of institution's response to report of student-on-student sexual assault in a residence hall. Successfully argued and defended judgment on appeal before U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit.
- Represented flagship state university and faculty member in breach of contract, tort and due process lawsuit brought by student dismissed for academic misconduct. Obtained summary judgment in favor of university and faculty member and successfully argued and defended judgment on appeal to state court of appeals.
- Represented major public university and administrators in Title VII and First Amendment lawsuit brought by faculty member who was denied tenure and claimed discrimination and retaliation. Successfully appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit and obtained reversal of district court's refusal to grant qualified immunity to the administrators. Then obtained dismissal of remaining claims against the University.
- Represented private religious college sued by a faculty member who alleged he suffered religious discrimination and was constructively discharged due to disagreement with the college's religious beliefs. Obtained dismissal in the college's favor and successfully defended the judgment on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, which concluded the college was exempt from the faculty member's religious discrimination claim due to the college's status as a religious institution.

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Experience

- Represented public university in internal due process proceeding to terminate faculty member accused of misconduct, successfully prosecuting termination before faculty grievance committee.
- Represented private college in internal proceedings to terminate tenured faculty member for conduct inconsistent with college's mission statement and religious principles. Successfully defended termination in subsequent arbitration before American Arbitration Association.
- Conduct comprehensive reviews of scholarship and fellowship programs for compliance with Title VI regulations and principles derived from the Supreme Court's SFFA decision governing the use of race in admissions.
- Conducted comprehensive historic audit of reports of sexual misconduct by clergy and employees of private, religiously affiliated institution. Advised institution by implementing updated trainings, policies and other measures to address audit findings.
- Led investigations of alleged sexual harassment and sexual assault involving sports teams at a prominent Power Five conference institutions.
- Drafted comprehensive anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies for numerous private and public institutions.
- Trained thousands of administrators, faculty, staff and students on Title IX compliance.

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Recognition

- *Benchmark Litigation*
  - Local Litigation Star, 2025 and 2026
  - Future Star, 2019-2024
  - 40 & Under Hot List, 2019-2021
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, 2021-2027
- *The Legal 500 United States*, Education, Recommended lawyer, 2023, 2025, and 2026
- *Ingram's*, 40 Under Forty, 2017
- Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2009; Business Litigation, 2013-2017

Education

- J.D., University of Kansas School of Law
  - Order of the Coif
  - Rice Scholar
  - *Kansas Law Review*, articles editor, 2005-2006
- B.A., University of Kansas
  - with highest distinction
  - Phi Beta Kappa

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Admissions

- Missouri
- Kansas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, District of Kansas
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims

Clerkship

The Hon. Paul J. Kelly Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit, 2006-2007

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Community Leadership

Derek is the immediate past Board Chair of the Catholic Education Foundation of Northeast Kansas, an organization that helps children in need, of all faiths, attend regional Catholic schools. He also serves as the immediate past Chair of the Board of Directors of the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center, which provides ministry and other support to students at the University of Kansas. He currently serves on the Board of Catholic Community Health, which delivers nursing home, hospice, and home health care through the Northeast Kansas.

- Catholic Community Health, Board of Directors, 2023-present
- St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center at the University of Kansas, Board of Directors, 2017-present; Chair, 2023-2025
- Catholic Education Foundation of Northeast Kansas, Board of Directors, 2010-2023; Chair, 2019-2021



2026 Benchmark Litigation - Litigation Star

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED