



Eliza K. Abarbanel

Associate

321 North Clark Street
Suite 1100
Chicago, IL 60654
main: +1 (312) 372-5520
direct: (312) 795-3277
fax: +1 (312) 372-7880
ekaye@littler.com



Practice Areas

Discrimination and Harassment
Investigations
Higher Education

Overview

Eliza K. Abarbanel has experience defending employers against employment discrimination litigation and arbitrations, administrative charges, unfair labor practice charges, and labor grievances. Eliza has significant experience specifically representing educational entities, including K-12 districts, charter schools, and higher education institutions. Eliza has successfully defended educational entities in Title IX investigations, student disciplinary matters, special education due process hearings, workplace investigations, unfair labor practice charges, litigation involving the Tort Immunity Act, and discrimination and harassment complaints before federal and state courts as well as administrative agencies.

Eliza obtained her juris doctor, *cum laude*, from Tulane Law School, where she served as a managing editor for the *Tulane Journal for International and Comparative Law*, and participated on the Alternative Dispute Resolution team.

Professional and Community Affiliations

- Member, Young Lawyers Section, Chicago Bar Association
- Co-Chair, Education Law Committee, Young Lawyers Section, Chicago Bar Association, July 2024-present
- Co-Chair, I&E Committee, Young Lawyers Section, Chicago Bar Association, June 2023-July 2024

Recognition

- Recipient, Samuel Lang Award for Excellence in Labor Law, *Tulane Law School*

Education

J.D., Tulane University Law School, 2020, *cum laude*

B.A., University of Pittsburgh, 2016, *magna cum laude*

Bar Admissions

Illinois

New York

Courts

Illinois Supreme Court

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

New York Supreme Court

U.S. District Court, Western District of New York

Publications & Press

OCR Issues FAQs for Schools About Avoiding Racial Preferences Under Title VI

Littler ASAP

March 4, 2025

Trump Bans Transgender Women Athletes from Participating in Athletics

Littler ASAP

February 11, 2025

Recent Executive Orders and Dear Colleague Letter Affecting Educational Institutions

Littler ASAP

February 6, 2025

What Should Educational Institutions Do Next for Title IX Now That Biden's Final Rule Was Blocked by a Federal Judge?

Littler ASAP

January 14, 2025

Events & Speaking Engagements

Balancing Title IX Compliance with CBA Enforcement

April 8, 2026

Higher Ed's "Back to Campus" Fall 2025 Labor and Employment Legal Update

September 11, 2025