

### **Jessica Heiser, Partner**

Jessica is part of the firm's School Law Team, representing traditional public, charter, and private school districts throughout Indiana. Jessica advises school districts on matters related to students, employees, and school boards, including constitutional and civil rights allegations, school board policies, discipline of students and school staff, and special education issues under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), Indiana's special education regulations ("Article 7"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Jessica also counsels clients on family law and immigration law issues.

In addition to representing school clients in civil court, Jessica frequently represents schools in administrative hearings and investigations before the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Indiana Department of Education, Indiana State Board of Education, Indianapolis Civil Rights Commission, and South Bend Civil Rights Commission.

Jessica is currently obtaining a certificate from Northwestern University in Leading Organizations in Equity and Inclusion. This year-long master's program combines research-backed change leadership principles with identity development theories to strive for sustainable and scalable initiatives in organizations.

Jessica is a frequent presenter for school districts and professional groups across the state and nation, including the National Council of School Attorneys (COSA), Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA), and Indiana Council of Special Education Advocates (ICASE). Groups particularly seek Jessica's expertise in special education, LGBTQ students, Title IX, student discipline, service animals and harassment/bullying investigations.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Jessica taught social studies and math in urban school districts in Los Angeles and St. Louis. She ran an educational initiative through the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce to partner businesses and schools in raising graduation rates. Jessica also served students and families in her work for OCR and Chicago Legal Assistance Foundation (LAF). Jessica graduated with honors from Northwestern University and DePaul University College of Law.

Outside the practice of law, Jessica enjoys reading, traveling, gardening, and baking. She lives with her spouse and children in rural Hamilton County.