



EdCounsel LLC
SCHOOL ATTORNEYS

MASA/MOSPRA Spring Conference

The Loudest People in the Room: Legal Issues Facing Boards

THE MISSION-CENTERED LAW FIRM EXCLUSIVELY DEDICATED TO SERVING
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT MISSOURI.

www.edcounsel.law

EdCounsel Insights Podcast





EdCounsel LLC
SCHOOL ATTORNEYS

Emily Omohundro

573.777.9645 eomohundro@edcounsel.law



Growing up, many amazing teachers touched Emily's life. Whether at Fulton High School, Missouri State University, or University of Missouri School of Law, the teachers who made the biggest impression and inspired her the most were the teachers who injected passion and humor into the subject matter. Those experiences are part of the reason why Emily is a committed supporter of public schools.

As a longtime member of the EdCounsel team, Emily defends public schools in a variety of legal matters ranging from discrimination claims to complex contract disputes. She is an experienced advocate who uses her prior background in general defense litigation to provide practical, timely guidance for clients.

The nature of schools and the education business is constantly changing. This, as well as her clients drive to do what is best for kids, fuels Emily's love for what she does. She enjoys collaborating with her clients, problem-solving and consulting with colleagues to help do what is most valuable in this important field.

Areas of Emphasis:

Board Operations, Policy and Procedure, Compliance, Discrimination Claims, Teacher Tenure Act, Student Rights

Emily's passion for public schools is evident in her work, as well as her personal life, having served on the Fulton School Board for the last three years.

Emily and her husband Matt, live in Fulton with their children Lila, Max, and Moses.





EdCounsel LLC
SCHOOL ATTORNEYS

J. Drew Marriott

816.252.9000 dmarriott@edcounsel.law



As the son of a fourth generation public school teacher, Drew's family instilled a deep appreciation and respect for public education. As a student in the Excelsior Springs School District, Drew had the opportunity to learn from his grandmother, mother, and aunt – all teachers in the district. His great-great grandmother started the family in the profession, teaching in a one-room schoolhouse near Lone Jack, Missouri.

Drew graduated with honors from the University of Chicago, where he captained the wrestling team and was an Academic All-American. During college, he worked with EdCounsel attorneys, assisting with several important matters. He obtained his J.D. from Saint Louis University School of Law, where he also interned with a federal magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Missouri. Joining EdCounsel with significant litigation experience, Drew focuses on helping districts and insurers successfully navigate disputes and lawsuits.

Areas of Emphasis:

Litigation, Labor and Employment, School District Insurance Defense, Personal Injury Defense, Contract and Construction Disputes

When Drew is not busy with litigation matters, you can find him spending time with his family, reading, or watching collegiate wrestling. He is well versed in Junie B. Jones, Dr. Seuss, Hank the Cow, and is fortunate to share those literary masterpieces with his wife Kirstin, and daughters Clara and Anna.



The Loudest People in the Room: Legal Issues Facing Boards

MASA/MOSPRA Spring Conference

Emily Omohundro & Drew Marriott



1



Check out our podcast!

Listen on
Apple Podcasts

Listen on
Spotify

Follow us on social media!

f **t** **in**

www.edcounsel.law

#edcounsel @EdCounselLaw
#trustedcounsel

2



-  *Book Bans*
-  *LGBTQIA+ Matters*
-  *CRT Matters*
-  *Policy Perspective*
-  *In the Moment*
-  *Following up and Messaging*

3

Book Bans



www.edcounsel.com

4

Book Bans

Book banning a hot topic at Iredell-Statesville Schools meeting

Ben Gibson Mar 15, 2022 Updated 8 hrs ago 0



5

LGBTQIA+ Matters



6

LGBTQIA+ Matters

Controversial presentation at Becker school board draws outrage from LGBT groups

By Babs Santos | Published March 14, 2022 10:12PM | Updated 10:38PM | Education | FOX 9



The Becker school board heard a presentation by a group, which has been deemed an anti-LGBT group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

BECKER, Minn. (FOX 9) - LGBT students, teachers, and supports showed up to protest a presentation by a controversial group to the Becker school board that activists say espoused anti-Transgender rhetoric.



www.fox9.com

7

CRT Matters



www.fox9.com

8

CRT Matters

NORWIN STAR

Norwin debate continues in regards to systemic racism, critical race theory



JOE NAPSHA | Wednesday, March 16, 2022 12:01 a.m.

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM



JOE NAPSHA | TRIBUNE-REVIEW

The disagreement over whether a Norwin High School lesson on racism in the United States was an example of critical race theory laid bare a split over what to teach about race relations in 21st-century America — including whether systemic racism exists in a country that has laws intended to ban such actions.



www.edjournalist.com

Policy Perspective



www.edjournalist.com

Policy Perspective

- *Public Comment to the Board*
- *Requests to Add Agenda Items*
- *Open vs. Closed Session*
- *Public Forums?*
- *Grievance Procedures*



11

In the Moment



12

In the Moment

- *Setting the Board up for Success*
- *Handling Outbursts*
- *Consequences*
- *Changing Procedures*
- *Board Action (or Inaction)*
- *Directives to the Administration*
- *Board Member Participation and Commentary*



13

Following Up and Messaging



14

Following Up and Messaging

- *Public and Media Statements*
- *Individual Conversations/Communications*
- *Handling Board Member Conduct*



15

The Loudest People in the Room: Legal Issues Facing Boards

MASA/MOSPRA Spring Conference

Emily Omohundro & Drew Marriott



16