

Legal and risk management issues substantially impact the operations of colleges and universities, which face escalating compliance requirements in an increasingly litigious environment. This study used an online survey to obtain input from higher education attorneys across the U.S. regarding their perceptions of frequency and time spent on legal assistance for department chairpersons, chairs' level of difficulty handling legal and risk management issues, matters having highest adverse impact on institutional legal liability and risk management efforts, and issues which are most essential for chair training. Overall, this research provides the first systemic study on higher education attorneys' experiences on how academic department chairpersons are dealing with issues actually or potentially impacting institutional legal liability and risk management.