



**Heather Harris advises clients in the areas of government services, education and healthcare law. Practical and analytical, Heather is an ardent team player who is able to create synergy among even the most diverse parties, working through issues collaboratively while realizing her client's goals.**

Heather co-chairs the firm's Charter School and School Innovation group. She advises on education reform, including innovation network agreements with public school districts, charter school application development, nonprofit application assistance, the development of governing documents and bylaws, and implementation of and accountability to charter school authorizers. Heather has been intimately involved in the charter school and school reform movements since the inception of the laws in Indiana in 2001.

In addition, Heather works with education service providers and schools to provide high-quality educational options to Indiana students and families. She serves as counsel to charter school boards and school leaders by providing guidance on educational questions, public access, school discipline and open records, business, finance and personal matters.

She helps charter school authorizers develop application, review and accountability systems, and has worked with public and private school leaders and reform organizations to promote and seek assistance from state elected and administration officials for support of new school programs and opportunities for students and families.

Healthcare matters are also an important component of Heather's practice. As a member of the firm's Healthcare Industry Practice Group, she advises healthcare providers on issues related to billing policy, state reimbursement and health policy. She also advises on new rules and regulations – particularly impacting healthcare providers, insurers and pharmacy benefit managers. Moreover, Heather represents clients in their interactions with state government and assists clients in connecting with state regulators on matters that impact the day-to-day business operations of virtually all sizes of healthcare entities.

## Heather D. Harris

### Partner

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### EDUCATION

Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, (J.D.), 2004, Health Law Student of the Year Award from William S. Hall and Christine S. Hall Center for Law and Health

Indiana University, (B.A.), 1996

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Indiana

### COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana

### LANGUAGES

English

### PRACTICES

Economic Development

### INDUSTRIES

Bidding and Procurement

Economic Development

Government and Public Finance

Government Services

Healthcare

Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities

Hospitals and Other Healthcare

Heather's practice extends to broad governmental and municipal law issues for cities, towns and counties. A registered Indiana lobbyist, Heather has been involved in policy development, analysis and negotiations at the local, state and federal levels. She helps companies, individuals, nonprofits and governmental units achieve legislative solutions before the Indiana General Assembly, Indiana State Administration and Indiana Department of Education.

Prior to the law, Heather worked in the office of Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon from 1997 to 2003. She acted as the governor's special assistant for legislative affairs and served as a liaison to the members of the Indiana General Assembly. Heather was also special assistant to the governor, assisting him on various projects and later as the executive assistant for education. In this role, she supported the implementation of Indiana's first charter school law and standards and accountability reform, and worked as the governor's chief advisor on K-12 education matters.

Regardless of the challenge at hand, Heather is able to sort through complicated issues and win over difficult personalities by building the requisite consensus needed to succeed. She is dedicated to cutting through red tape and working diligently with elected officials, agency professionals and other matter constituents in support of client objectives.

## Professional and Community Involvement

Former adjunct faculty, IUPUI School of Health Informatics, Medicine and the Law course

Member, Indianapolis Bar Association

Member, Indiana State Bar Association

Member, American Bar Association

Member, Indiana Municipal Lawyers Association

Board member, Business Advocacy Committee member, Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce

Board member, Chair – Governance Committee, member – Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, member – Government Relations Committee - Arts Council of Indianapolis

Advisory Council, Indiana State Museum

Board member, Public Policy Committee member, chair of the Tocqueville Council Committee, United Way of Central Indiana

Member, K-12 Education Policy Committee, Indiana Chamber of Commerce

Board vice chair and secretary, Institute for Quality Education

Chair, Maestro Open Golf Outing Committee, Indianapolis Symphony

Fellow and past member of the Steering Committee, Indianapolis Bar Foundation

Former Commissioner, Indiana Commission on Women, appointee of Sen.

Providers

Licenses and Permits

Mergers, Acquisitions, Joint Ventures and Healthcare Innovation

Public Policy and Lobbying

David Long (R- Fort Wayne)

Former board member, Indiana Charter School Association

Former board member, YMCA at the Athenaeum

Former board member, Riley Society, Riley Children's Foundation

Former board member, Indianapolis Public Schools Education Foundation

Former board member, Christel House Academies

Former Steering Committee member, Hall Center for Law & Health

Graduate, 2006 Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership Series

Graduate and former steering committee member, Indianapolis Bar Association Bar Leader Series

Member, Barnes & Thornburg Legal Personnel Administration Committee

Member, Barnes & Thornburg Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Member and Barnes & Thornburg liaison, Lacy Leadership Association

Barnes & Thornburg corporate fundraising chair, United Way of Central Indiana

Liaison for former Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon to the Indiana Charter Review Panel, Indiana School for the Blind, Indiana School for the Deaf, Indiana Professional Standards Board, Indiana Education Employment Relations Board, Indiana Communication on Proprietary Education, Indiana State Board of Education, Indiana Education Roundtable, and the Center for Character Development

## **Honors**

The Best Lawyers in America, 2018-2024

Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon, 2003

Distinguished Hoosier Award, 2003