



Valerie Simons is the first Chief Compliance Officer and System Title IX Coordinator for the University of Colorado. She reports to the President and oversees the Title IX offices on each campus (Boulder, Denver, Anschutz and Colorado Springs), the University Risk Management Office, and the system ethics and compliance program. Ms. Simons has been with the university since 2014, when she was hired at CU Boulder as the first, campus-wide Title IX Coordinator. She founded the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance on the Boulder campus, which now includes case resolutions, safety and support measures, education, training and assessment, and an ADA unit.

Prior to her roles at the university, Simons served as a trial attorney in Washington, D.C. at the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Educational Opportunities Section. She was lead trial counsel on behalf of the United States in dozens of cases around the country involving a variety of civil rights laws. She also consulted routinely with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights on federal compliance issues. While at the Department of Justice, she was the lead attorney for the United States in the *United States v. Virginia Military Institute* case and enforced the U.S. Supreme Court's decision admitting women into the formerly all-male, public university.

Upon returning to Colorado where she was born and raised, Simons clerked for Chief Justice Michael L. Bender of the Colorado Supreme Court and then joined the law firm of Holland & Hart LLP. Following Holland & Hart, Simons served as the Associate Director of the Colorado Association of School Boards' Legal Services Program, where she provided direct representation to school districts in all areas of school law, including civil rights and employment-related matters. She continued to practice education and civil rights law on behalf of students and their parents from 2007-2011 with Choquette & Simons LLP and then from 2011 to 2014 for the firm she founded, Education Law Group, LLC. She was named a Colorado Super Lawyer in Schools and Education Law in 2010.

She received her bachelor's degree in political economy from the University of California, Berkeley and her law degree from Georgetown University.

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