

# Grace Sykes Pennerat

## PARTNER

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Grace advises local boards of education, superintendents, and central office personnel regarding student, employee, and community matters. Grace also assists clients with employment- and family-based immigration matters.



### OFFICE LOCATION

301 Fayetteville St., Suite 1900  
Raleigh, NC 27601

P.O. Box 1801  
Raleigh, NC 27602

### JURISDICTIONS LICENSED

North Carolina

## BIOGRAPHY

Grace began her career as a research assistant and course administrator for the UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Public Policy. During law school, Grace externed with the Legislative Analysis Division of the North Carolina General Assembly, researching and drafting education legislation. This experience sparked her interest in education law. Grace frequently presents to education organizations about the current state of education law and recent changes in state and federal law that impact education. Grace is also a trained Title IX investigator and decision maker. Grace's passion for education runs deep, and she recently earned an M.A. degree in Higher Education Administration. In addition to education law, Grace also helps clients sponsor prospective employees for non-immigrant visas and green cards and attract and enroll international students. Additionally, Grace assists clients with family-based immigration needs, from K visas through permanent residence to naturalization.

## **AREAS OF FOCUS**

**EDUCATION**

**IMMIGRATION**

## **CREDENTIALS**

**EDUCATION**

Appalachian State University, M.A., 2022

Wake Forest University School of Law, J.D., 2017

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, B.A. (Political Science and Global Studies and a minor in Art History), 2013

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® “Ones to Watch” (Education Law) 2024-2025

Ranked among *Super Lawyers* magazine’s North Carolina “Rising Stars”, 2025

**PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

American Immigration Lawyers Association, Member

National Association of College and University Attorneys, Member

North Carolina Bar Association Education Law Section, Member

Wake County Bar Association, Member