



Husch Blackwell LLP Partners with Neota Logic to Develop Online Toolset that Helps College Executives to Comply with Clery Act

CUSTOMER PROFILE

With 16 offices across the U.S. and in London, Husch Blackwell has a heritage of nearly a century of exceptional legal service. The firm has created a unique “Industry First” client service model, in which teams of lawyers with a depth of experience within a particular industry work together—across practice specialties—to deliver comprehensive solutions that help clients achieve their business goals. These industry teams include:

- Energy & Natural Resources
- Financial Services
- Food & Agribusiness
- Healthcare, Life Sciences & Education
- Real Estate, Development & Construction
- Technology, Manufacturing & Transportation

Husch Blackwell’s partners, associates and legal professionals collaborate closely on client matters, so that each client benefits from the collective expertise of the firm. The firm has a strong, sustained commitment to diversity and inclusion, and its attorneys are dedicated to serving their communities through a wide variety of pro bono work.

BUSINESS SITUATION

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act—known as the Clery Act—requires colleges and universities participating in federal financial aid programs to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information. The Clery Act is named after Jeanne Clery, a 19-year-old Lehigh University student who was raped and murdered in her campus residence hall in 1986, triggering a backlash against unreported crime on campuses across the country.

Compliance with the Clery Act is monitored by the U.S. Department of Education, which can impose civil penalties of up to \$35,000 per violation against institutions for each infraction—and can even suspend institutions from participating in Title IV federal student financial aid programs.

These enforcement powers are not idle threats. Eastern Michigan University was fined \$357,000 in 2007 for failing to report the suspicious death of a female student whose body was found in her dorm room. Lincoln University, a small Missouri school, was hit with a \$275,000 fine for improper crime calculations. And the prestigious Yale University was slapped with a \$165,000 fine for failure to report four sex offenses in the early-2000s.

The Clery Act establishes a number of specific reporting requirements on colleges and universities:

- Campus safety policies
Institutions must devise emergency response, notification and testing policies, as well as policies and procedures to handle reports of missing students.



- **Crime log**

The institution's security departments are required to maintain a public log of all crimes reported to them, or those of which they are made aware. Each entry in the log must contain the nature, date, time and general location of each crime and disposition of the complaint.
- **Crime statistics**

Institutions must keep and disclose crime statistics for seven major categories and report whether the crimes occurred on-campus, in residential facilities, in non-campus buildings or on public property. The crimes include: Murder (including non-negligent and negligent manslaughter); Sex offenses (forcible/non-forcible, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking); Robbery; Aggravated assault; Burglary; Motor vehicle theft; and Arson. Statistics are also required for campus disciplinary actions involving liquor law violations, drug-related violations, weapons possession and hate crimes.
- **Timely warnings**

Institutions must issue timely warnings of crimes that pose a serious or ongoing threat to the safety of students or employees, and then publish their policies regarding timely warnings in their Annual Campus Security Report (see below). The institution is only required to notify the community of crimes covered by the Clery Act statistics.
- **Annual security report**

By October 1 of each year, institutions must publish and distribute their Annual Campus Security Report to current and prospective students and employees. This report must provide crime statistics for the prior three years, policy statements regarding various safety and security measures, campus crime prevention program descriptions, and procedures to be followed in the investigation and prosecution of alleged sex offenses.

These reporting requirements are not only onerous, they're also highly technical and are subject to change from year to year. Most higher ed executives have traditionally relied on their in-house legal departments and campus security administrative teams to monitor and track criminal incidents, develop Clery Act-compliant policies and procedures and prepare the institution's year end report. However, these teams have often lacked the technical knowledge needed for compliance and the resources needed to effectively and efficiently track the required statistics and compile the information needed to satisfy the detailed reporting requirement.

Unfortunately, this lack of knowledge and resources often results in errors and omissions, placing the institution at risk of non-compliance. No matter how hard an institution tries to get it right, it's easy to make inadvertent mistakes with the complexity of the requirements and the difficulty in pulling together all of the information needed from various sources both on and off campus.

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION

There is good news on the horizon for college executives. A newly developed intelligent software suite is automating the process of collecting, aggregating and reporting campus crime data, in lock-step compliance with the requirements established by the Clery Act.

Husch Blackwell and Neota Logic have partnered to create the Clery Compliance Toolset (CCT), an artificial intelligence-powered solution to support Clery Act compliance. The online solution was developed based on the experience and knowledge of the lawyers at Husch Blackwell who work with higher education institutions nationwide.

As the lawyers at Husch Blackwell reviewed Clery Act reports from academic institutions of all sizes over the years, the firm's attorneys routinely came across a wide range of errors and omissions. They believed there had to be a better way for college executives to comply with their requirements without the expense of seeking outside legal counsel for every single detail covered in the reports.

Meanwhile, the technology experts at Neota Logic have been partnering with professionals of all kinds to create innovative smart advisor software platforms. The Neota Logic technology utilizes Artificial Intelligence to automate the delivery of expertise and other complex workflows—such as providing legal counsel related to compliance with state, federal and global regulations, or an organization's internal policies and rules.

The two organizations came together to develop the CCT, a new online tool to help colleges and universities fully comply with federal crime and safety standards set by the Clery Act. The concept of the tool is to use best legal practices created by experienced attorneys to walk users step-by-step through the annual campus crime and safety reporting process. However, rather than paying hourly fees for that legal counsel, the CCT is available to institutions starting at just a \$5,000 annual subscription fee (which includes an attorney review of the institution's annual security report).

The tool follows the precise requirements set forth by the Clery Act, with three central modules:

1. Safety and Security Policy—Provides required language for all institutions, "best practices" recommended language that can be modified as desired and unique language for the specific campus user.
2. Crime Log—Identifies the kinds of crimes to be tracked and the geographic range for crimes that must be included, then creates a simple online database for collecting and storing all reported crimes.
3. Annual Security Report—Pulls together language from the Safety and Security Policy and combines with statistics from the crime log to create a formal report for submission to the U.S. Department of Education.

The CCT is already in use at several institutions where users are reporting tremendous value through its use.

BENEFITS

The CCT automates the process of collecting, aggregating and reporting campus crime data in order to support compliance with the Clery Act. There are three key benefits to the implementation of this technology solution:

1. Efficiency—By automating a highly manual process, college executives can achieve substantial efficiencies and time savings.
2. Quality—With publicly available campus safety reports that are more accurate and reliable, colleges and universities can protect their integrity and present themselves as more attractive to students, parents and regulators.
3. Risk Management—By minimizing errors in Clery Act reports, the CCT is valuable to higher education institutions because it helps campus executives decrease the risk of fines and public embarrassment to the institutions.

For college executives who confront the same anxiety every Fall when it comes time to submit their campus security report, there is good news emerging in the higher ed community: we're starting to find a better way to meet the challenges associated with compliance with the Clery Act. And as is so often the case with most vexing business challenges, technology is leading the way.

The onerous Clery Act reporting requirements no longer need to be fulfilled by college executives working through the complex regulations without help and manually collecting statistics and other information needed for compliance. The Clery Compliance Toolset comes to the aid of college executives, making Clery Act reporting more efficient and giving higher ed executives more confidence they have fulfilled their federal compliance obligations.

To view a recorded demonstration of the Clery Compliance Toolset,
please [click here](#).

