

School District Violated Title IX by Failing to Provide Equal Facilities and Access, and Retaliated Against Students by Firing Their Coach

Burke Education Law Alert

In an opinion that provides clarity for school districts on Title IX standards, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in Ollier v. Sweetwater Union High School District ("Sweetwater") that Sweetwater "intentionally discriminated" against female student athletes by failing to provide them with equal treatment and benefits as compared to male athletes. More specifically, the Court ruled that female students were "deterred from participating" by Sweetwater's differential treatment of female students, and that Sweetwater retaliated against the students when it fired their softball coach. This opinion also provides a warning on the dangers of ignoring complaints from students, parents, and employees.

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