

*Press Release*

Cliff Rieders Teaches on the Subject:  
Are Colleges Obligated to Give Refunds?  
Third Circuit Weighs In



The program was delivered by Cliff Rieders on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, hosted by Celesq, the educational arm of West Publishing, one of the largest legal publishers in the world.

The seminar was based on recent Court of Appeals decisions from the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and Rieders' own experience in the seminal case of *Ross v. Pennsylvania State University*. Rieders noted that while the law is clear that there is no such thing as "educational malpractice", colleges and universities must comply with their written contracts as well as any implied obligation. Some of the litigation has resulted from COVID-19 when universities went to remote learning, but refused to give any refunds because they could not provide in-person learning. The decisions on the subject have generally recognized a student's right to a refund of at least some fees and tuition as a result of university promises to provide an in-person educational experience. Rieders also discussed in detail other types of claims against colleges and universities, including those based upon the due process clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the First Amendment. Rieders also broached the topic of current issues of free speech on the college campus as opposed to protecting of rights of minorities. Rieders is a regular for West Legal Ed Center and teaches for a number of organizations. The lawyer is the author of five legal texts, is a Past President of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, currently the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, and is a Board-Certified trial lawyer. Rieders is a partner in the law firm of Rieders, Travis, Dohrmann, Mowrey, Humphrey & Waters, with its main office in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and satellite employees in a number of other locations, including Haverford, Pennsylvania.