

## MICHELE MOLINARIO & JOSEPH POPOLIZIO PRESENT “FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS: CIVIL UNREST & SOCIAL ISSUES ON CAMPUS” AT 2021 COMMUNITY COLLEGE RISK MANAGEMENT SUMMIT

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JSH attorneys [Michele Molinario](#) and [Joseph Popolizio](#) presented “First Amendment Rights: Civil Unrest & Social Issues on Campus” during the 2021 Community College Risk Management Summit hosted by the Arizona School Risk Retention Trust.

The concept of free speech continues to be a controversial topic on college campuses. Protesting the right of a speaker to share his or her controversial viewpoint rather protesting a speaker’s controversial viewpoint has led to clashes on many college campuses, oftentimes between campus security and “First Amendment Auditors.”

During their presentation, Michele and Joe discussed the First Amendment and its limitations on protests (peaceably versus rioting), what it protects (such as the right to film, exercise free speech and expression, and assembly) and the blurred line between protected expressive speech and criminal conduct. They also provided recent examples of First Amendment audits – sensational videos showing confrontations with public employees who supposedly violated the First Amendment and “FAILED” the audit – and what campus administrators can do to prepare for these activities.

*[The Arizona School Risk Retention Trust, Inc.](#), is a non-profit corporation that provides Arizona public school districts and community colleges with property and liability coverages and related services. The Trust was established in 1986 under A.R.S. § 11-952.01(A). It operates as a risk retention pool funded and governed by its members, and backed by the best reinsurance companies in the world.*

[Michele Molinario](#) has dedicated her professional career in the areas of government liability and employment law. She represents private employers and public entities and their employees, including police officers, detention officers, emergency responders, public works directors, building inspectors and traffic engineers, etc. Michele has tried state and federal jury trials and bench trials, as well as administrative law hearings.

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[Joe Popolizio](#) represents governmental entities, law enforcement personnel, elected officials, municipalities and private correctional facilities in matters involving alleged civil rights violations such as wrongful death, excessive force, racial profiling and discriminatory policing. Joe conducts trials in both state and federal courts, defending governmental clients in complex, high-profile matters involving the Department of Justice and ACLU.

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