

# Creating & Maintaining A Great Workplace

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# THE SILENCE BREAKERS

Person of the Year



BREAKERS

#### DOLS, TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR Louis Orslene, Job Accommodat HAI FXH В. MENT OR DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT BUILDIN KSHIP? AND RETALIATION PROG Sean Halloran, Littler hirley Kelly University CLOSING SESS POWERFUL PUR Heather Viszia, The Ct

#### 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM

#### **Discrimination, Harassment & Retaliation**

Sean Halloran, Littler

This session will provide an overview and update on federal laws that prohibit discrimination and harassment in the workplace. Familiarity with these regulations and trends is essential for HR professionals. Not only can workplace discrimination and harassment affect employee productivity, it can divert resources from the organization's real business. Improper conduct can also lead to liability for the organization and/or individual employees for workplace discrimination and harassment.

# What's New?



# INDUSTRYEXPOSED.COM

#### Welcome to IndustryExposed.com

You're not the first, but you might be the last.

Put your name (or don't) on the list and out an A-hole here:



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#Me Too. Déjà vu all over again as BAD boy stakes out his latest prey at BrandSoar. Some things never change – I thought Mad Men was just a TV show, not real life.



 Yours Truly
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#Me Too.



I never thought I'd add my name to a list like this or be able to speak up, but you are all sooooo courageous. It was several years ago,





# Are Laws Changing?

- Training is getting legislated
- NDA's disfavored
- Tax bill regulating settlements
- Arbitration Agreements



# What's New?



# What's New?

Proactive strategies:

 Promoting Civility
 Situational Awareness
 Bystander Intervention
 Prepare for Disasters

 #Whattodo



# It's NOT Complicated





# Creating & Maintaining A Great Workplace



Society, all human life, is guided by rules. The only question before us is: What are the rules that we choose to live by?

George Washington - 1796 farewell address

	TIPS ON DEALING WITH WOMEN
DON'T	MAKE THE FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS
0	She's making enough money for a woman.
0	She's happy in her present position.
0	If she doesn't like it, why doesn't she leave.
0	She doesn't need to advance.
0	She likes being a secretary.
0	The fellows would resent her.
0	A woman can't work under pressure.
0	If she's married, of course she is going to get pregnant.
0	The person answering the telephone is a secretary.
DON'T	REFER TO WOMEN AS:
0	The Girls
0	The Gals
0	Sweetie
0	Honey
0	Dear
0	My Girl
WHEN A	A WOMAN ATTENDS A MEETING, DON'T AUTOMATICALLY APPOINT HER SECRETARY.

Identifying Inappropriate Behavior (Including Harassment)

# BARE 2019 A3 CALENDAR

Inappropriate behavior can be classified as:

- Rude
- In bad taste
- Unwelcome
- Hostile
- Hateful
- Hurtful



# The Importance of a Respect-Based Workplace

- What are the benefits of a respect-based workplace?
- What are the consequences of a work environment where employees do not show respect for one another?
- Why is a respect-based workplace important to you? Your co-workers? Your customers? Your brand?



# What is a respect-based workplace?

- What does "a respectful environment" mean to you?
- What behaviors build respectful work relationships?
- What does a respectful conversation look like for you?



 What does professionalism look like to you?

# New Considerations—Think Ahead

#### **Proactively protect your brand:**

- Work with PR to have pre-prepared press releases and social media messages ready to go out when necessary
- Be prepared to be more transparent





#### The curtain has been lifted!

### **Situational Awareness**



We stress that employers need to maintain "situational awareness" - an employer noting surprise that women were being sexually assaulted on the night shift when they worked in isolation and their schedules were controlled by men is cold comfort to the victims of these assaults.

— EEOC Task Force Report





# 57% of employees admit to having had an office romance





### A Designed Organizational Climate

Organizational climate is an important driver of harassment because it is the **norms of the workplace**; it basically guides employees... to know what to do when no one is watching.

— EEOC Task Force Report



### What is *Tone* at the TOP?

- What does this term mean?
- How important it is to have tone at the top?
- How do we get there?



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Leadership and commitment to a diverse, inclusive, and respectful workplace in which harassment is simply not acceptable is paramount.



### **Culture Matters**



### **Rewards & Recognition Programs**

These programs work.

Use incentives to encourage ethical conduct and compliance

Incorporate meaningful measures tied to ethical values into compensation decisions and performance evaluations



# Workplace Training

- We believe effective training can reduce workplace harassment, and recognize that ineffective training can be unhelpful or even counterproductive...
- Effective training cannot occur in a vacuum—it must be part of a holistic culture of non-harassment that starts at the top...
- One size does not fit all: Training is most effective when tailored to the specific workforce and workplace, and to different cohorts of employees...
- When trained correctly, middle-managers and first-line supervisors in particular can be an employer's most valuable resource in preventing and stopping harassment.

— EEOC Task Force Report

# **Civility Training**



Focus on what employees and managers *should* do, rather than what they *should not* do

- Interpersonal skills
- Conflict resolution
- Effective supervisory techniques

# Bystander Training—General Strategy



# Assess the Situation

Adjust Your Response Decide How to Help

### When You Observe Potential Harassment

Recognize	Does this issue deserve a response?
Remove	Yourself from participation or assent.
Redirect	Conversation to express your disapproval.
Reeducate	As to the offense, risk and policy.
Respond	What, if any, "formal" response is needed?

# Ask Yourself

Do our employees speak up when they observe something wrong?

- List 5 barriers keeping these employees from speaking up.
- List 5 solutions.



# Be Advised...NO comes in many forms



 Verbal response (or lack of one) "No" means no

"Maybe" also means no

- Expression changes
  - Body language

Every manager & employee needs to pay attention to the responses of others.

# It doesn't matter that ...

- The person intended to be funny
- Others thought it was funny
- The person complaining seemed to go along at the time






# Forms of Bullying in the Workplace



# What does bullying mean?

- It means that an individual or individuals purposefully do something or fail to do something that affects their co-worker negatively.
- It could make the targeted employee feel uncomfortable or can be serious enough as to create a hostile work environment for that employee.
- It undermines legitimate business interests when bullies' personal agendas take precedence over work itself.
- It has been compared to domestic violence at work.

# Impact of Bullying in the Workplace

- Employee complaints
- Client complaints
- Adverse publicity
- Costs (i.e., weakened profits)
- Legal counsel to resolve formal complaints
- Turnover
- Absenteeism
- Loss of trained and effective workers

- Engagement
- Morale
- Attendance
- Client satisfaction
- Reputation and organization's image

# Constructive criticism?





- don't talk about laws
- a focus on compliance, claim prevention and defense is misguided

- explore civility & making a respectful workplace
- encourage speaking up
- reinforce that accusations are taken seriously
- emphasize that retaliation will not be tolerated



- Tailor your training to your company's unique situation
- Train workers on what they should be doing; not just what they shouldn't
- Remember that almost everyone wants to be treated with fairness, respect and dignity.

- Training should be separate for managers and rank & file
- A single training event alone is unlikely to change institutional behavior
- Topics that are continuously talked about and regularly reinforced will establish institutional behavior

# Vast Majority of Reports are Made to Managers & Supervisors



## **Reporting & Intake Procedures**

#### Can you:

- Recognize a complaint when you hear it?
- Address it appropriately (almost always involving HR, Legal, or senior management)?
- Not retaliate against those who complain/participate?

### **Common Mistakes**

• What are some of the big mistakes that employers make in handling reports of alleged misconduct from employees?



#### Let's Practice

What Would You Do?
What Would You Say?

1111

TIME FOI

111















# Is This A Problem?



## Which Is More Effective?

- "I don't think it is appropriate to talk about religion at work the way you did." vs. "Why are you such a bigot?"
- "I'm very uncomfortable with how you joke and make degrading comments about sexual orientation." vs. "You make me feel like "#\*/@?!"
- "Your yelling at me is counterproductive. Please speak calmly so we can work through the problem rationally." vs. "What is wrong with you? That is not the way you speak to people!"

# **Option? Setting a Boundary**

#### Signal your discomfort and give them a way to reconsider their conduct:

- "That is not okay."
- "Don't speak to [them/me/her] like that."
- "How would you feel if someone said that to you?"
- 'I don't think she/he's interested, you need to move on."
- "You're making people uncomfortable."
- "Let's focus on work and keep personal lives outside."

#### Use the "'Call Them Out" approach":

- "I beg your pardon?"
- "Did you really just say [what I think you just said]?"

# **Option? Enforce a Standard**

# A stronger tone may be warranted depending on the severity—remember the Zero Tolerance Standard:

- "Are you aware that we have policies outlining appropriate and inappropriate -- ways to communicate in the workplace?"
- "That's inappropriate, prohibited, not tolerated, unacceptable here, etc."
- "Do you understand how that comment could be considered offensive?"
- Attack the behavior, not the person. Tell them what they are doing that you do not like (e.g. "I feel offended when...." instead of "You are being a jerk!").

# questions?