

DEI Micro-Webinar Series:

Strategic Approaches for Conducting DEIB Reviews

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Seyfarth Shaw LLP

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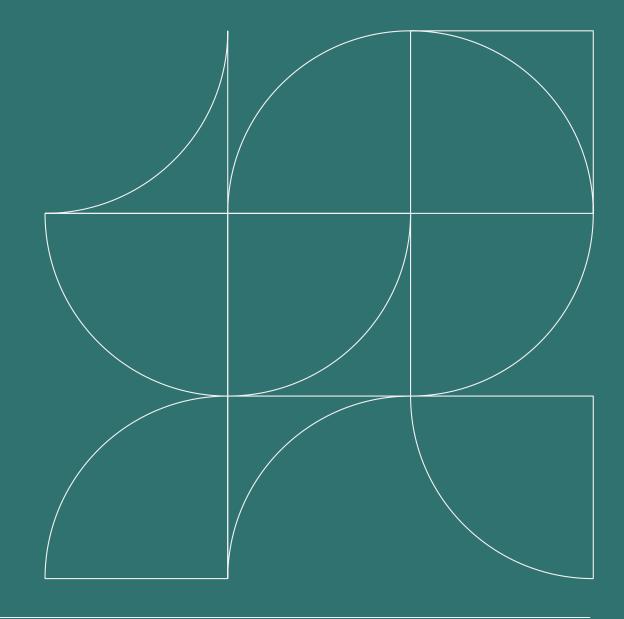
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Agenda

- 1 | Introductions and Description of Series
- 2 | The Importance of DEIB Reviews
- **3** | Stages of a DEIB Review Process
- 4 | Practical Advice for Employers
- **5** | Conclusion and Upcoming Sessions

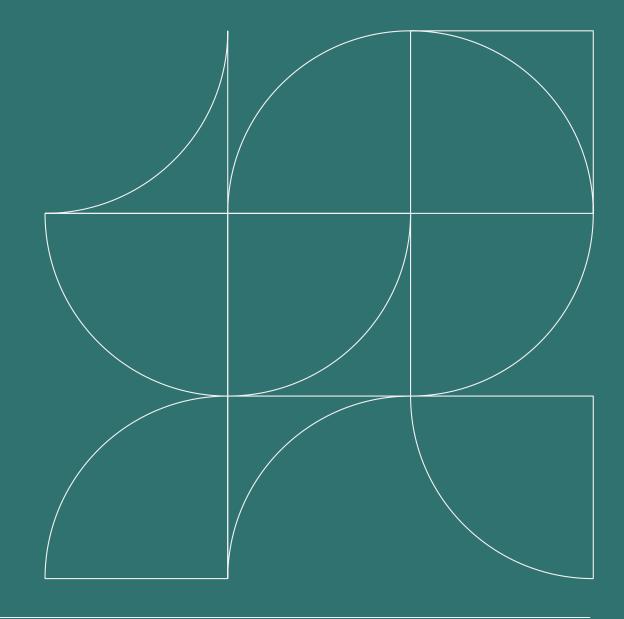
Introductions & Description of DEI Micro-Webinar Series



Upcoming Sessions

- State of DEI (May 15, 2024)
- Strategic Approaches for Conducting DEIB Reviews (Today!)
- An Overview of Common DEI Programs June 19, 2024
- Exploring and Mitigating Risks in DEIB Initiatives July 9, 2024
- Exploring Voluntary Affirmative Action and "Manifest Imbalance"
 Showing to be announced
- Using Artificial Intelligence to Support in DEIB Efforts to be announced
- Leveraging ERGs to Support DEIB Efforts to be announced
- Supporting Faith-Based ERGs to be announced
- Global Self-Identification in support of DEIB to be announced

The Importance of DEIB Reviews



Students for Fair Admissions and Private Employers

- No direct legal implications for private business:
 - The rulings have no immediate impact on the legal standards that govern affirmative action and DEI in private employment.
 - The Fourteenth Amendment does not apply to private companies.
 - The different legal frameworks, interpreting cases, and agency guidance, thus seemingly limit the reach of the rulings and insulate private workplaces and their DEI programming.



[T]o safeguard the civil rights of all Americans, Congress chose a simple and profound rule. One holding that a recipient of federal funds may never discriminate based on race, color, or national origin—period. If this exposition of Title VI sounds familiar, it should. Just next door, in Title VII, Congress made it "unlawful . . . for an employer . . . to discriminate against any individual . . . because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin." §2000e–2(a)(1). Appreciating the breadth of this provision, just three years ago this Court read its essentially identical terms the same way.

Gorsuch, J., Concurring



DEIB Landscape



'America Is Under Attack': Inside the Pop Goes the DEI Bubble Anti-D.E.I. Crusade

DEI efforts are under siege.

Corporate America Tweaks Diversity Initiatives Amid Pushback

Legal pressure and other criticisms have led to a quiet rethinking of the programs

2024 might be do-or-die for corporate diversity efforts. Here's why.

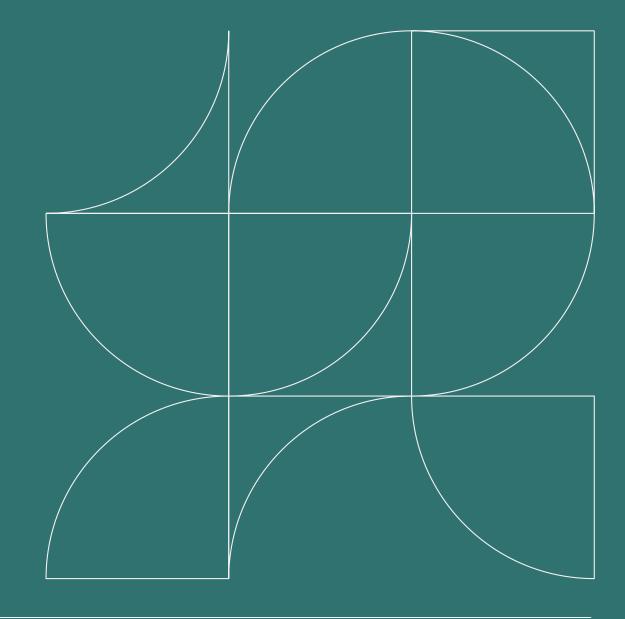
DEIB Reviews



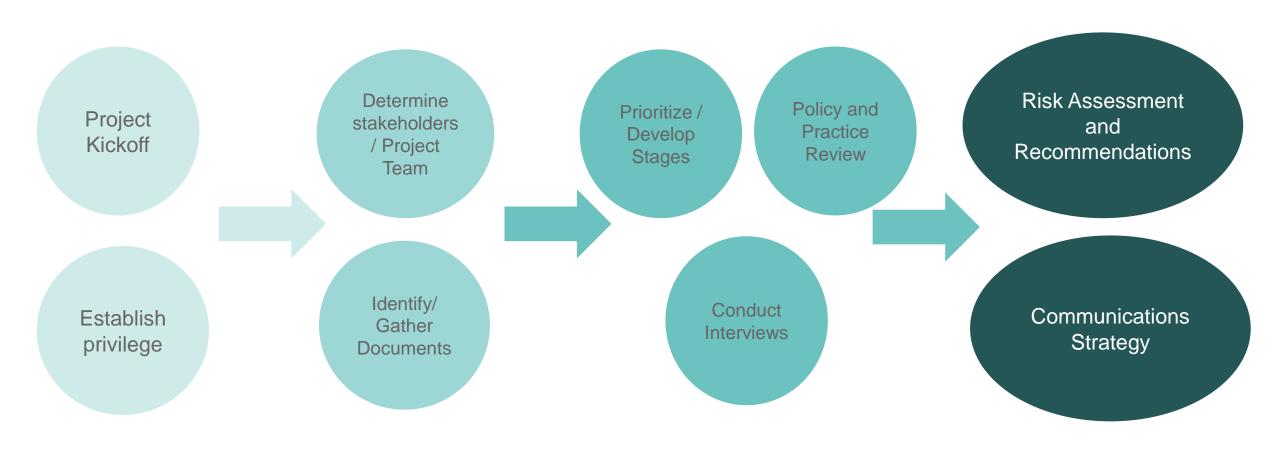
Responding to the Increased Scrutiny

- A privileged DEIB review is one method
- DEIB policies and practices may have become lax with lack of threatened legal enforcement and spotlight
 - Misconceptions about what is "legal"
- Presents a good opportunity to look under the hood and kick the tires of company's DEIB programming
- Highlights potential vulnerabilities in current litigation environment and allows for discussion to shore those up going forward
- Provides an opportunity to "reset"
 - Update policies
 - Update communications (internal and external)
 - Define stakeholders and their respective roles (e.g., HR, DEIB, legal)—who should have a "seat at the table?"
 - Streamline policies and practices
 - Promotes discussion about risk appetite and strategy

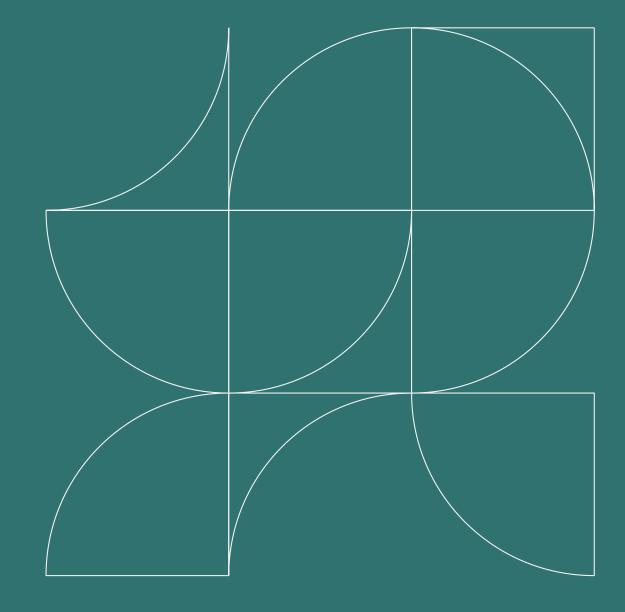
Stages of a DEIB Review Process



DEIB Review Process

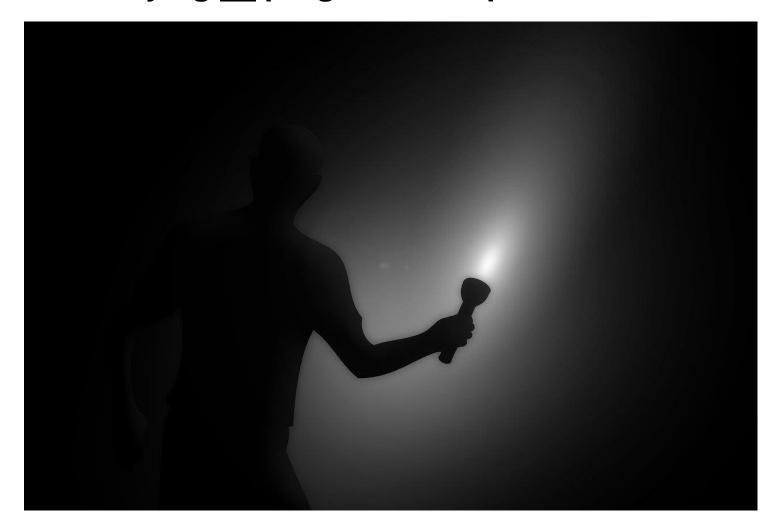


Practical Advice



Potential Challenges in DEIB Reviews

Identifying all programs and policies



Potential Challenges in DEIB Reviews

Generating buy-In



Potential Challenges in DEIB Reviews

Defining the scope of review





Low Risk

Acceptable; initiatives focus on DEI as a concept, but do not, expressly or implicitly, motivate leaders to make any employment decision "because of" a protected trait.

Low-Moderate

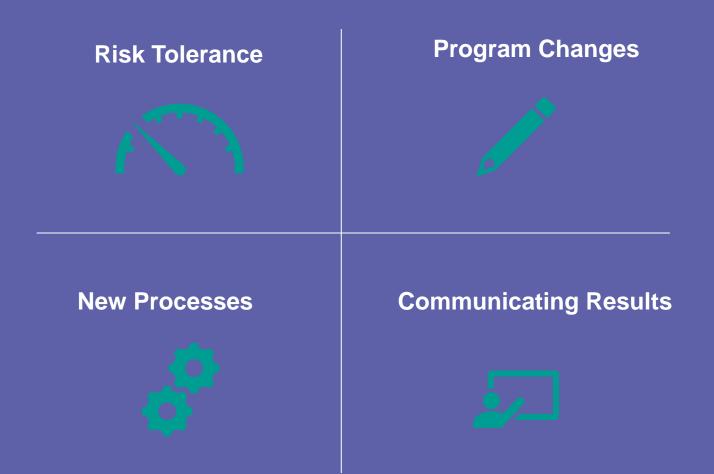
Limited risk; initiatives are facially focused on race and/or gender, but do not incentivize trait-conscious decision making.

Unacceptable; initiatives either do, or could be (mis)construed to, instruct leaders to consider race/gender in employment decisions, like hiring or promotions.

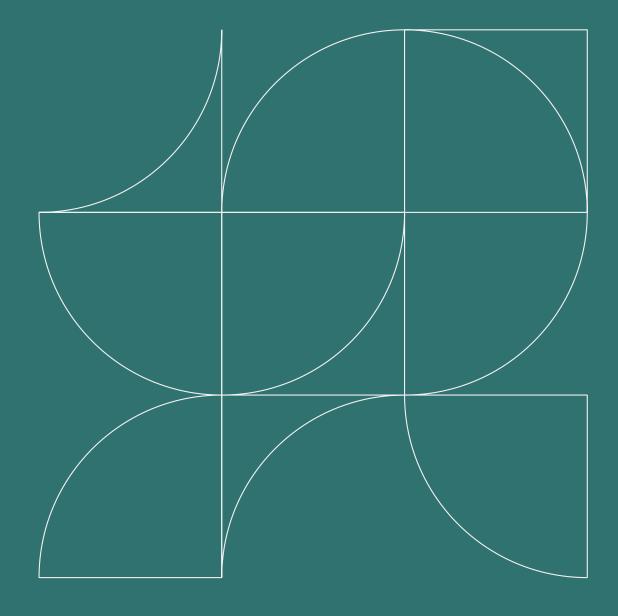
 Moderate-High / High Heightened risk; initiatives could be construed to encourage or tolerate the consideration of race or gender with regard to programs, opportunities or assignments.

Moderate Risk

Implementing DEIB Review Results



Conclusion and Upcoming Sessions



Concluding Thoughts

 Now is a good time to consider a DEIB Review

- DEIB Reviews Can
 - Help assess legal risk in the current environment
 - Catalogue the organization's DEIB programming
 - -Provide benchmarking data
 - Demonstrate commitment to DEIB values

Join Us for Our Upcoming Series:

An Overview of Common DEI Programs on June 19, 2024

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- **1. Title:** Strategic Approaches for Conducting DEIB Reviews
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State-specific CLE credit information can be found in the form.

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