

2019 Title IX Compliance Conference

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New to Title IX

Title IX: The Basics

- 39 words
- Cannot discriminate on the basis of sex in education programs receiving federal funds
- Designate Title IX Coordinator
- Policies and Procedures
- Notice: Prompt, Equitable, Appropriate Response



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45 Years of Title IX History In Under Five Minutes

- Modeled after Title VI. Original concern was employment and admissions practices of universities.
- Impact on athletics became apparent early on and proponents beat back repeated attempts to water down legislation.
- Historically, regulatory agencies (HEW and ED) have been lackluster in enforcement.
- Changed significantly with Obama Administration.

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Cannon v. University of Chicago (1979): Facts

- Geraldine Cannon was a nurse at Skokie Valley Hospital, the wife of a Chicago lawyer, and the mother of five children aged 12 to 21.
- Her lifelong dream was to become a doctor. It was a dream that
 was rekindled when her youngest child started elementary school
 and Cannon finally had the opportunity to return to school as a fulltime student at Trinity College.
- Graduated with honors at age 39 and began applying to medical schools, including Univ. of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine.
- Cannon was denied admission in 1975.

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Cannon v. University of Chicago: Supreme Court

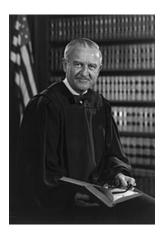
- "This case presents as a matter of first impression the issue of whether Title IX of the Education Amendments 1972 may be enforced in a federal civil action"
- Private cause of action was necessary to ensure that the "sweeping promise of Congress" to end sex discrimination in education was more than "merely an empty promise."
- "Is [Title IX] an empty promise or will it be enforced and for the present, it simply must be enforced by the courts or it's not going to be enforced at all."

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Cannon v. University of Chicago: Supreme Court

- 6-3 opinion crafted by Justice John Paul Stevens & included Justices Brennan & Rehnquist
- Holding: There is an implied cause of action for individuals to sue under Title IX.
- Title IX was patterned after Title VI and that "when Title IX was enacted, the critical language in Title VI had already been construed as creating a private remedy."
- The Supreme Court also accepted the argument advocated by John Cannon and also HEW that private enforcement was necessary to effectuate the purposes of the law.



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Franklin v. Gwinnett County (1992): Facts

- Christine Franklin was a student at North Gwinnett High School between September 1985 and August 1989. Franklin was subjected to continual sexual harassment beginning in the autumn of her tenth grade year (1986) from Andrew Hill, a coach and teacher employed by the district.
- The complaint further alleges that though they became aware of and investigated Hill's sexual harassment of Franklin and other female students, teachers and administrators took no action to halt it and discouraged Franklin from pressing charges against Hill.
- Hill ultimately resigned on condition that all matters pending against him be dropped. The school thereupon closed its investigation.

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Franklin v. Gwinnett County: Issue & Holding

- Issue: Does Title IX implied right of action support a claim for monetary damages?
- Unanimous holding: "[W]e conclude that a damages remedy is available for an action brought to enforce Title IX."



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Gebser v. Lago Vista Indep. School District (1998)

- Gebser was assigned to classes taught by Waldrop. While visiting her home, Waldrop kissed and fondled Gebser. They had sexual intercourse on a number of occasions.
- In January 1993, police discovered Waldrop and Gebser engaging in sexual intercourse and arrested Waldrop. Lago Vista immediately terminated his employment.
- School district did not have an official arievance procedure for lodging sexual harassment complaints; nor had it issued a formal anti-harassment policy.

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High Court to Weigh Liability of Schools in Sexual Abuse of Student

By LINDA GREENHOUSE
WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 — The Supreme Court agreed today to decide
when school districts can be found
liable under Federal law for a teachcr's sexual abuse of a student.
The issue, closely warched hy
school districts around the courtry,
has divided the lower courts in the
five years since the Supreme Court
first ruled that individuals could sue
for damages under a law that prohibiits sex discrimination in educational its sex discrimination in educational

for damages under a law mat promoits sex discrimination in educational
institutions that receive Federal
money. In interpreting that law, Title
IX of the Education Amendments of
1972, to permit private lawsuits, the
Justices did not specify how liability
was to be determined.

The case the Court accepted today
grew out of a yearlong affair between a teacher in a public high
school near Austin, Tex., and one of
his students, a 15-year-old girl who,
with her mother, eventually brought
a Title IX suit against the Lago Yista
'Independent School District.

Two lower Federal courts ruled
for the school district, holding that it
'could not be found liable in the absence of "actual knowledge" on the

part of school officials of the teacher's misconduct. This is the most protective standard the courts have applied in interpreting Title IX: at the other extreme, some courts have

held districts automatically liable for sexual abuse of students by teacners. This is the third case involving sexual abuse or harassment that the Court has accepted for decision this term, and it may not be the last. The Justices were asked last month to resolve another unsettled question under Title IX: the liablity of a school district for sexual harassment of one student by another. Last month, the Justices agreed to

Last month, the Justicesagreed to resolve a closely related issue in the context of the Federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in employment. The question in that case, Faragher v. Boca Raton, is the liability of an employer for a supervisor's sexual harassment of a lewer-level employee. Just this week, in Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services, the Justices heard arguments an wheth-V. Sundowner Offshore Services, the Justices heard arguments in wheth-er sexual harassment between peo-ple of the same sex can ever violate the employment law, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The anti-discrimination laws involved in these disputeshave been on the books for decades, raising the question of why so many cases posing such fundamental issues of interpretation and application have suddenly made their way onto the courts occket.

The reason may be that only in the last few years have monetary damages become available as a remedy for people who can prove violations.

last few years have monetary damages become available as a remedy for people who can prove violations of the two laws: through the Supreme Court's interpretation of Title IX in a 1992 case, Franklin v. Gwinnett County, and through Congress's 1991 amendment to Title VII, making available compensatory and, in some cases, punitive damages, in addition to the back pay that was the only monetary remedy under the original Civil Rights Act. The prospect of substantial recoveries have made the laws more useful to plaintiffs and attractive to their lawyers just as lower courts have been struggling with what the laws actually mean.

In the case the Court accepted today, Dev Lago Vista Independent School District, No. 96-1866, school officials apparently had no knowledge of the affair between the

of Title IX, under which a school district would be held liable if a

student and teacher. The family's lawsuit asked the Federal District Court in San Antenio to apply a theory of strict liability, holding the district responsible for the wrongful acts of its teachers.

The district court ruled, however, that there could be no liability in the absence of "actual or constructive notice" on the part of school authorities. The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, in New peals for the Fifth Circuit, in New peals for the Fifth Circuit, in New peals for the supervisory power over the offending employee actually knew of the abuse, and the power to end the abuse, and failed to do so."

In its appeal, he family told the Justices that because "the vast majority of instance of sexual abuse is subtler and more covert" than the Fifth Circuit, approach would encompass, the decision would have the effect of "virtually immunizing school district would be held liable if a size of the North Circuit, in which a school district would be held liable if a vailed in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in San Francisco.

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Gebser: Plaintiff's Argument

- Gebser and DOJ claimed that liability should be evaluated using the same standards plaintiffs use in employment sex harassment cases under Title VII.
- A "teacher is 'aided in carrying out the sexual harassment of students by his or her position of authority with the institution," irrespective of whether school district officials had any knowledge of the harassment and irrespective of their response upon becoming aware."
- Alternatively, a school should be "liable for damages based on a theory of constructive notice, i.e., where the district knew or 'should have known' about harassment but failed to uncover and eliminate it."

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Gebser: The Rule

- An "appropriate person" . . . is, at a minimum, an official of the recipient entity with **authority to take corrective action** to end the discrimination.
- "Consequently, in cases like this one that do not involve official
 policy of the recipient entity, we hold that a damages remedy
 will not lie under Title IX unless an official who at a minimum has
 authority to address the alleged discrimination and to institute
 corrective measures on the recipient's behalf has actual
 knowledge of discrimination in the recipient's programs and
 fails adequately to respond."
- "[T]he response must amount to deliberate indifference to discrimination."

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Jackson v. Birmingham Bd. of Ed. (2005)

- Roderick Jackson, a teacher in the Birmingham, Alabama, public schools, complained about sex discrimination in the high school's athletic program and was retaliated against.
- Sued pursuant to Title IX
- Does Title IX prohibit retaliation?
 Yes.



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Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education (1999): Holding

- "We consider here whether the misconduct identified in Gebser —deliberate indifference to known acts of harassment— amounts to an intentional violation of Title IX, capable of supporting a private damages action, when the harasser is a student rather than a teacher. We conclude that, in certain limited circumstances, it does."
- Recipients of federal funding may be liable
 "where the recipient is deliberately indifferent to
 known acts of student-on-student sexual
 harassment and the harasser is under the
 school's disciplinary authority."



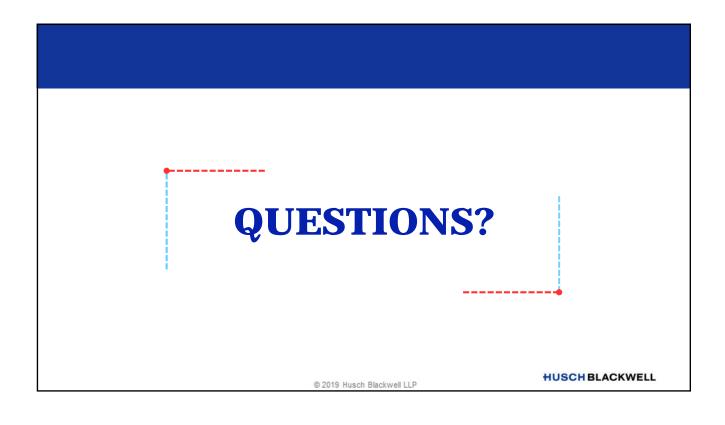
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Davis: Majority Decision

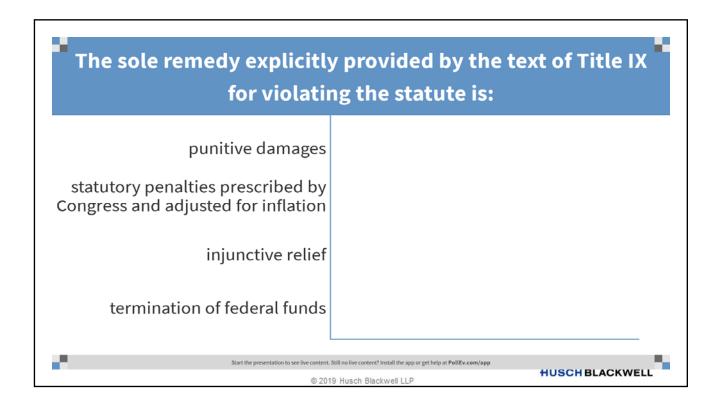
- "School administrators will continue to enjoy the flexibility they
 require so long as funding recipients are deemed 'deliberately
 indifferent' to acts of student-on-student harassment only where
 the recipient's response to the harassment or lack thereof is
 clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances."
- "The recipient must merely respond to known peer harassment in a manner that is not clearly unreasonable. This is not a mere 'reasonableness' standard, as the dissent assumes. In an appropriate case, there is no reason why courts, on a motion to dismiss, for summary judgment, or for a directed verdict, could not identify a response as not 'clearly unreasonable' as a matter of law."

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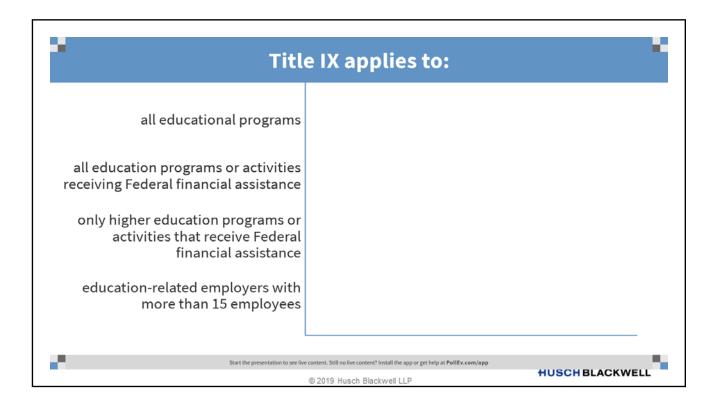


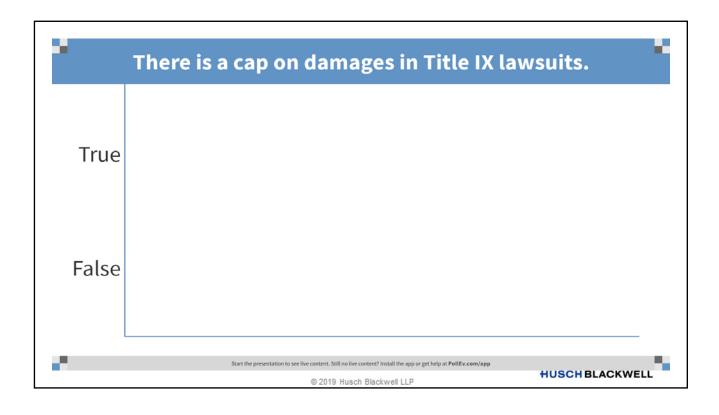


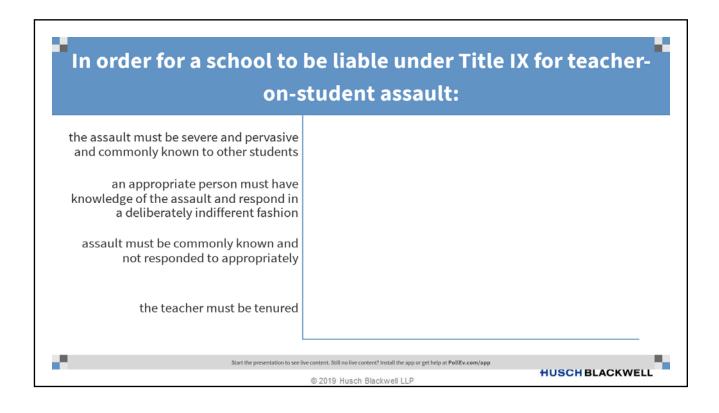
Title IX was patterned after:	
Title VII	
the Equal Protection Clause	
Title VI the Equal Rights Act Amendment	
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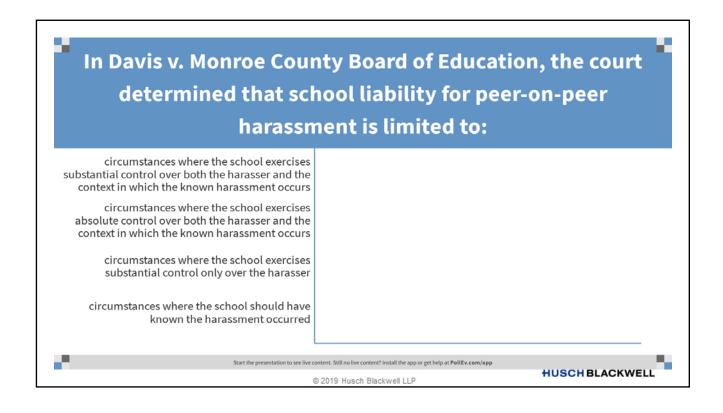














"Era of Rule By Letter Is Over"



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ED's Enforcement Standard

- Adopts "deliberate indifference" standard from Supreme Court
- "Clearly unreasonable response"
- Substantially diminishes force of administrative enforcement
- Safe harbor



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Title IX Jurisdiction



- Sexual misconduct occurring "under any education program or activity"
- Outside the USA is beyond jurisdiction
- Addressed under conduct code anyway?

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- Doe v. Brown University (1st Cir. 2018): Title IX protections do not extend to student who is not enrolled at the defendant institution or otherwise taking part in its educational programs or activities
- **Doe v. University of Kentucky** (E.D. Ky. 2019): Although plaintiff lived on defendant's campus and utilized lab and library services and alleged rape occurred on UK campus, plaintiff could not establish Title IX claim because she was not a UK student or enrolled in a UK educational program or activity.
- Farmer v. Kansas State Univ. (D. Kan. Mar. 17, 2017): Alleged assault of KSU student occurring at an off-campus fraternity house occurred within "an education program or activity" based on allegations that fraternity had faculty advisor, is subject to KSU rules, and is overseen by KSU Office of Greek Affairs. **HUSCH BLACKWELL**

- **NPRM:** Although the regulations do not further define "in an education program or activity," the preamble references following factors:
 - > Whether the conduct occurred in a location or in a context where the recipient owned the premises;
 - > Whether recipient exercised oversight, supervision, or discipline; or
 - > Whether recipient funded, sponsored, promoted, or endorsed the event or circumstance.
 - Existing OCR Guidance (Sept 2017 Q&A): Based on recipient's degree of control over the harasser and environment in which harassment occurs; schools responsible for redressing a hostile environment on campus even if relates to offcampus activities.
 - Prior OCR Guidance (2011 DCL, now withdrawn): Schools must process
 complaints, regardless of where conduct occurred; for off-campus conduct,
 emphasis placed on whether resulted in continuing effects in the educational
 setting. Title IX also protects third parties from sexual harassment or violence in a
 school's education programs and activities.

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Access to the Evidence

- Parties have right to review investigation file upon request
- All evidence "directly related" to allegations, even if school does not intend to rely on it
- Must be made available electronically before report is final



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Standard of Proof



- Permits clear and convincing standard for sexual harassment cases
- May use POTE only if school uses POTE for conduct code violations that do not involve sexual harassment, but carry the same maximum disciplinary sanction
- Same standard of evidence must apply for complaints made against students and employees (including faculty)

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Records Retention



- Three year records retention requirement for case files
- Three year records retention requirement for training materials of involved employees
- Parties have right of access

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Training Requirements

- Institutions must provide training on:
 - The definition of sexual harassment
 - How to conduct an investigation (including hearings, if applicable)
 - The school's grievance process
- "[A]ny materials used to train coordinators, investigators, or decision-makers <u>must not rely on</u> <u>sex stereotypes</u> and instead promote impartial investigations and adjudications of sexual harassment."

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Live Hearings

- Colleges and universities must have live hearings for resolution of formal complaints
- Hearing officer/body cannot be the same as investigator
- Eliminates single-investigator model



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Cross-Examination



- Party's support person allowed to cross examine other party and witnesses
- Testimony of persons who refuse to submit to crossexamination is excluded
- Must provide support person for purposes of cross examination if party does not have one

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What Is Next?



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Lawmakers Examine Higher Ed's Response to Sexual Assault

Efforts to reauthorize the Higher Education Act could derail the education secretary's attempts to finalize rules regarding Title IX and campus sexual assault



Sens. Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray questioned witnesses about campus sexual assault at a Senate hearing on Tuesday.

TOM WILLIAMS/CQ ROLL CALL

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Senators Seek to Break Sexual Assault Impasse on Education Bill

Posted June 27, 2019 By Emily Wilkins







- Bipartisan group looks to balance accuser, accused rights
- · Congress, Education Department working separately

A group of eight senators is working to tackle one of the most contentious issues in higher education—when and how colleges need to respond to allegations of sexual assault.

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and ranking member Patty Murray (D-Wash.) brought the group together in a quest to resolve potentially the biggest remaining obstacle to a bipartisan reauthorization of federal higher education programs.

"We're all looking for the same thing: an environment that encourages reporting when there is a problem and a process that gets at the truth and is fair to the person bringing a claim and fair to he person who is accused," said Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), a member of the working group.

Murray and Alexander are members of the group, as well as Republicans Tim Scott(S.C.), Susan Collins (Maine), and Richard Burr (N.C.), and Democrats Kaine, Maggie Hassan (N.H.), and Tammy Baldwin (Wis.).

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When Finalized?

- Review of comments by ED
- Litigation?
- Will we get final regulations in advance of school year?



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What Will Final Regulations Look Like?



The Honorable Betsy DeVos Secretary U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20202

RE: Docket ID ED-2018-OCR-0064; Public Comment on Proposed Title IX Regulations Dear Secretary DeVos:

uy Haball

Sincerely,

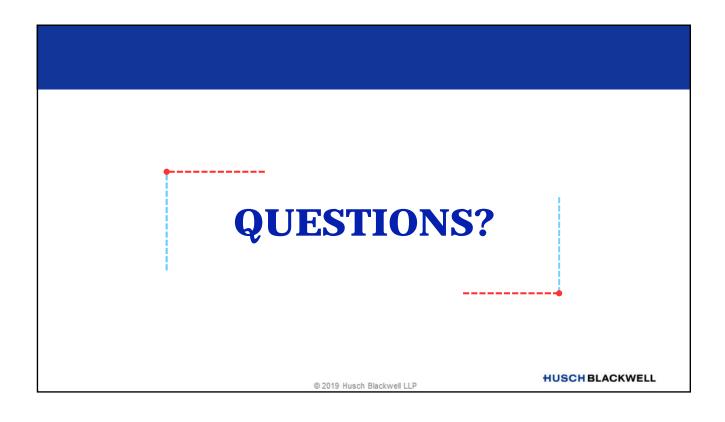
Jerry Falwell President

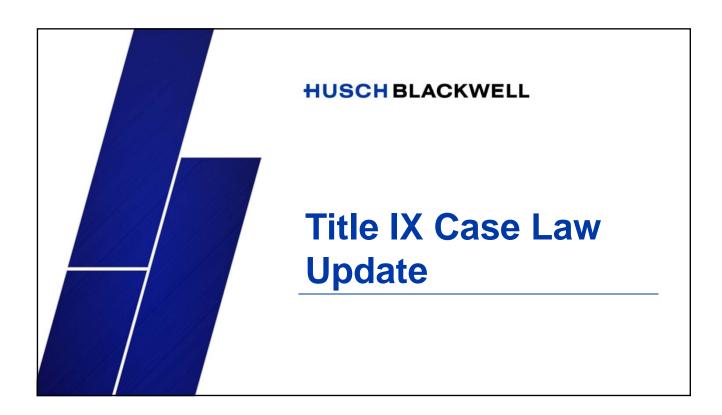
Schools Say Betsy DeVos' Title IX Rule Changes Would Be A Total Nightmare

By TYLER KINGKADE | 2 months ago | f



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Some Perspective on Sex Misconduct Litigation

- 12(b)(6) motions versus summary judgment
- It is imprecise to say "universities are losing tons of Title IX due process cases"
- Respondent litigation is like the bulk of litigation – the economics favor settlement (and even more so – damages are small)
- There is a lot of it
- Keeping apprised of circuit and state specific precedent





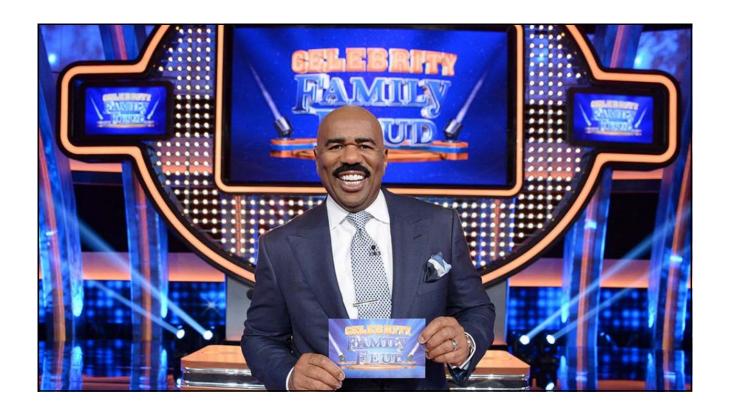
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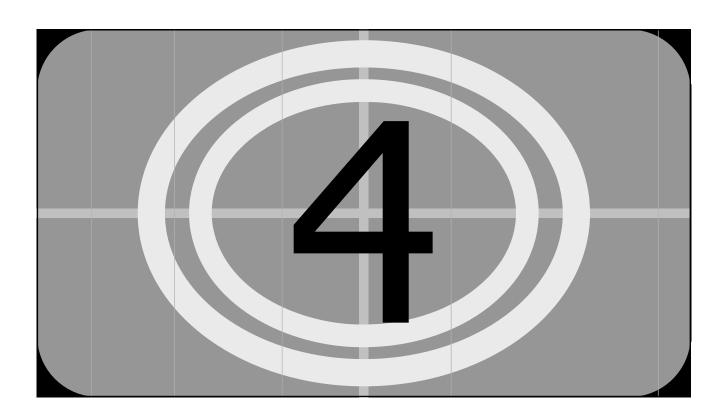
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Respondent Litigation

- Due Process
- Title IX ("Erroneous Outcome": Doubt + Gender Bias)
- Breach of Contract
- Other Tort Claims

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In the

Hnited States Court of Appeals For the Seventh Circuit

No. 17-3565 IOHN DOE,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

υ.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY, et al.,

Defendants-Appellees.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, Hammond Division. No. 2:17-cv-00033-PRC — Paul R. Cherry, Magistrate Judge.

ARGUED SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 - DECIDED JUNE 28, 2019

- "Two members of the panel candidly stated that they had not read the investigative report. The one who apparently had read it asked John accusatory questions that assumed his guilt. Because John had not seen the evidence, he could not address it."
- Title IX Coordinator "chose to credit Jane's account without hearing directly from her" and Jane "did not even submit a statement in her own words"

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Center for Advocacy, Response & Education
A DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Alcohol isn't the cause of campus sexual assault. Men are.

Archived Information

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

April 4, 2011

Dear Colleague:

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Doe v. Valencia College, et al. (11th Cir. Sep. 13, 2018)

Court backs suspension of Valencia College student in sexual harassment case



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Doe v. Colgate Univ., et al. (2d Cir. Jan. 15, 2019)

Judge Tosses Suit Against Colgate Univ. Over Expulsion for Sexual Misconduct

A lawsuit filed by an anonymous former student claiming that Colgate University unlawfully expelled him based on allegations of sexual abuse by three female students was dismissed Wednesday by a federal judge for the Northern District of New York.

By **Josefa Velasquez** October 31, 2017 at 04:54 PM

- Erroneous Outcome under Title IX
- References to "female complainants" and "male respondents" in Title IX training reflected a statistical reality as opposed to gender bias.
- Likewise, the trainer's instruction to refer to "complainants" in the presence of respondents and "victims" or "survivors" in the presence of complainants reflected a "desire to be sensitive" as opposed to gender bias.
- Colgate's procedures did not discriminate against Plaintiff, even though Plaintiff was not
 afforded an opportunity to cross examine his anonymous accusers, because his accusers
 were similarly denied the opportunity to cross-examine Plaintiff.

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Due Process Cases

US Court of Appeals rules University must allow cross-examination in sexual assault cases

Friday, September 7, 2018 - 12:40pm



model Friday Buy this photo

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Doe v. Allee



- Due process requires live cross examination where severe discipline is possible and credibility matters
- Neutral arbiter required too

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Maher v. Iowa State University (8th Cir. Feb. 15, 2019)

 Female former student sued state university alleging it was deliberately indifferent under Title IX when it refused to force student accused of sexually assaulting her to move until completion of investigation of her charges against him.



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Maher v. Iowa State University

- "A school is deliberately indifferent when its response to the harassment or lack thereof is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances."
- "This clearly unreasonable standard is intended to afford flexibility to school administrators."
- "[V]ictims of peer harassment do not "have a Title IX right to make particular remedial demands."
- "And while Maher's preference was that ISU move Whetstone, it
 was not deliberately indifferent for ISU to wait to take such
 action until the hearing process concluded because ISU was
 respecting Whetstone's procedural due process rights."
- "[D]issatisfaction with the school's response does not mean the school's response can be characterized as deliberate indifference."

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The Supreme Court just took up a set of very big cases on LGBTQ rights

The Supreme Court will hear big cases on LGBTQ rights — after an LGBTQ ally left the Court.

By German Lopez | @germanrlopez | german.lopez@vox.com | Apr 22, 2019, 12:00pm EDT







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~\$500 Million Settlement

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASE

THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASE (the "Agreement") is made and entered into as of this __day of July, 2018 (the "Effective Date"), by and between Plaintiffs and Derivative Plaintiffs (as defined below), on the one hand, and Michigan State University, the MSU Sports Medicine Clinic, the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University, Dr. Douglas Dietzel, Kathie Klages, Dr. Jeffrey Kovan, Dr. Brooke Lemmen, Kristine Moore, Lou Anna K. Simon, Dr. Gary Stollak, Dr. William Strampel, and Destiny Teachnor-Hauk, on the other hand.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs filed the Actions (as defined below) against some or all of the MSU Defendants (as defined below); and

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs allege that Lawrence Nassar, a former employee of Michigan State University, sexually assaulted and abused them at various times and in various locations;

WHEREAS, the MSU Defendants acknowledge that Lawrence Nassar admitted to engaging in criminal conduct involving sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs further allege that the MSU Defendants, or some of them, are liable for Lawrence Nassar's misconduct, abuse, and assault of Plaintiffs and any damages resulting therefrom; and



Larry Nassar and Why Your Institution Could Really Be Next

Published on January 29, 2018 / Edit article | 🔟 View stats



Scott Schneider
Labor & Employment Law Partner, Head of Higher Educatio...

② 285 ③ 14 ③ 7 4
28 articles





'A big day for women': Jury sides with Miller, orders UMD to pay \$3.74 million

By Tom Olsen on Mar 15, 2018 at 8:12 p.m.



They do similar jobs as men but get paid less. Now 3 female coaches are fighting back



BY PABLO LOPEZ



January 24, 2018 04:35 PM Updated January 25, 2018 07:13 AM

Three female coaches at Fresno City College and Reedley College have sued the State Center Community College District for gender discrimination, saying the district employs an unfair system that pays male coaches more money.

The three coaches also contend in their Fresno County Superior Court lawsuit that the district has violated Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex in federally funded educational programs and activities.

In their lawsuit, the coaches claim that SCCCD "has a longstanding and pervasive policy, pattern and practice of gender discrimination and unequal treatment of female coaches, female athletes and female athletic programs."

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"Skeleton" Claims

- Allegedly abused by Dr. Richard H. Strauss from 1979 to 1997 (Strauss dead since 2005)
- Independent investigation commissioned
- Investigators have interviewed more than 200 former students, 100 of whom accused Dr. Strauss of sexual misconduct, including former athletes from 14 different sports teams. Investigators expect to interview an additional 100 former students in the weeks to come
- What happens next?
- Harvard University, Rutgers University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Washington and the University of Hawaii

More Than 100 Former Ohio State Students Allege Sexual Misconduct

By Catie Edmondsor

July 20, 2018



WASHINGTON — More than 100 former Ohio State University students have come forward with allegations that a team doctor and professor at the school committed some form of sexual misconduct with them, university officials announced Friday, as the university begins to grapple with the sheer scope of a scandal that continues to grow.

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