# The Ins and Outs of IE&D in US and Non-US Jurisdictions

Alyesha Asghar Dotson & Lavanga Wijekoon

















## Today's Webinar Host



Kimball Norup
CEO of ComplianceHR
norup@compliancehr.com

#### What You'll Receive

- Full slide presentation (pdf format)
- Link to recorded audio presentation
- ComplianceHR demonstration and free trial!

#### Questions?

 If you have any questions, please use the Q&A box on your screen

### Request a Demo

 Interested in a demo? Send a request in the Q&A box, or use the link in the "Links" panel

## Compliance HR

## Introducing the Navigator Suite







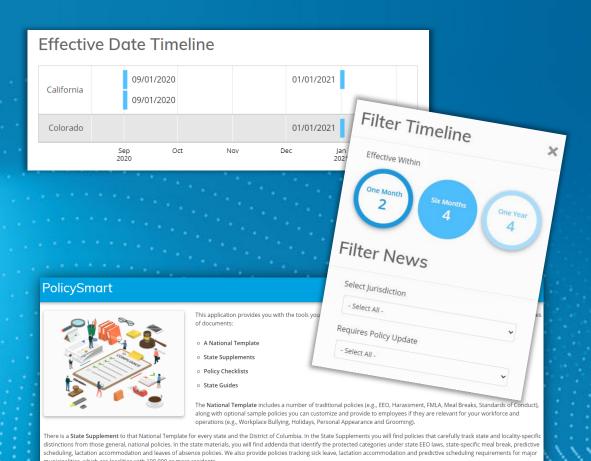






- Simplify the complexity of employment law
- HR professionals and in-house or organizational attorneys
- **US-only**, federal, state, and local law guidance and labor law updates
- Al technology that leverages Littler content and best practices

## PolicySmart<sup>™</sup>



- Comprehensive library of customizable federal and state specific model policies
- Innovative compliance timeline of important legal changes soon to take effect
- Access to jurisdiction-specific checklists
- Monthly automated emails with a summary and analysis of relevant legal documents

\*PolicySmart is applicable for US-only employees



## Benefits of PolicySmart

- Handbook creation tool to compile all policies applicable to your organization
  - Easy to edit Word document
- Bi-weekly email news alert for upcoming compliance changes
  - Newsfeed with state-by-state compliance changes
  - Notes required policy updates
- Quick reference tool to search applicable policies



## What Our Clients Are Saying

"I regularly access PolicySmart to view Policy News and, in particular, the effective date timeline that shows when and where all the new laws/regulations go into effect."

"More than 60 HR, Payroll and Time & Labor professionals at our company use ComplianceHR as a valid, trusted resource to help us support our thousands of clients located in all 50 states. We appreciate that ComplianceHR is always evolving, seeking new and different ways to keep up with the ever growing compliance landscape."

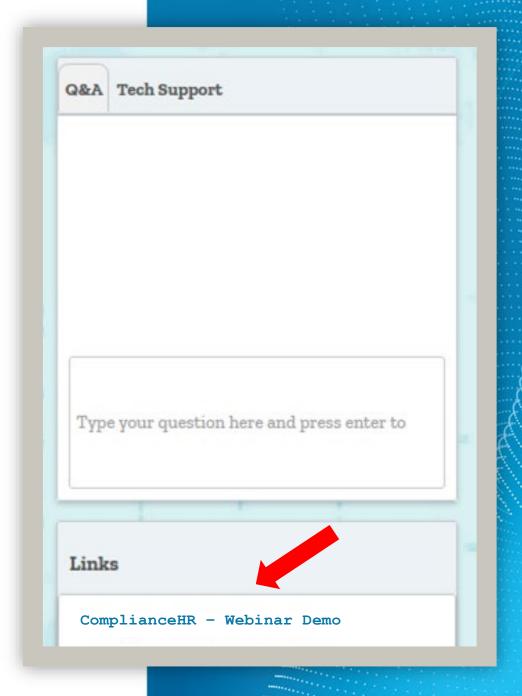


## Register for a Navigator Suite Demonstration

#### Benefits of a custom demonstration:

- Custom complimentary walkthrough based on your organization's compliance strategy
- Free trial of the solutions
- Open Q&A with compliance consultant

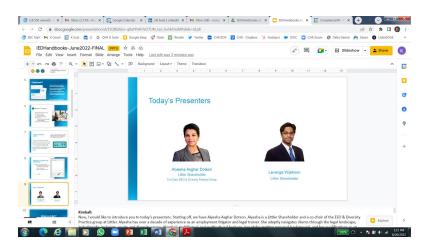




## Today's Presenters



Alyesha Asghar Dotson
Littler Shareholder
Co-Chair, EEO & Diversity Practice Group





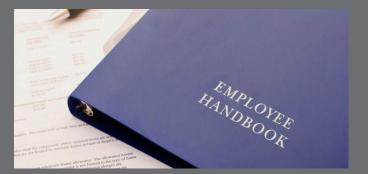
Lavanga Wijekoon
Littler Shareholder

## What is IE&D?

#### IE&D Is...

"Inclusion, equity, and diversity "encompasses the symbiotic relationship, philosophy and culture of acknowledging, embracing, supporting, and accepting those of all racial, sexual, gender, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds, among other differentiators." – Inclusion Hub







## Why would I include IE&D policies in

my employee handbook?



### IE&D Should Be in an Employee Handbook Because...

- Promote a welcoming, diverse and discrimination- and harassment-free workplace
- Highlight the values and best practices that your company prioritizes to both internal and external stakeholders
- Establish your company's status as visionary forward-looking and dynamic

#### IE&D Should Be in an Employee Handbook Because...

According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, companies that institute DE&I policies tend to see tangible benefits, likely because:

- Diversity of thought, backgrounds, experiences and skills promotes more idea sharing and innovation, rather than homogeneity and groupthink, which can lead to competitive advantages.
- Employees' feelings of inclusion and contentment with their workplace can raise morale and productivity, which can improve retention rates.
- Companies that publicize their diversity initiatives may attract an expanded talent pool.
- Companies with <u>diverse management</u> may enable heightened awareness of, and sensitivity toward, discrimination and harassment issues. This can aid in faster detection and resolution of these incidents.

And, frankly, having a DE&I policy is what current and prospective employees *expect* of companies – especially among more junior employees, whose members tend to prioritize diversity at their place of employment.

## Is it legally necessary to include IE&D

policies in my handbook?

## Some Jurisdictions May Require IE&D Training

- Employers have an obligation to provide employees with a safe work environment free from discrimination, harassment and intimidation.
- However, the U.S. does not mandate a diversity policy for private employers.
- The vast majority of employers publish a statement on their websites and employment applications and in their employee handbooks that indicate a commitment to equal opportunity employment.
   Employers that fulfill their obligations as equal opportunity employers ensure the company is recognized as one that values diversity through its commitment to fair employment practices.

#### Whitehouse Executive Order on IE&D THE WHITE HOUSE Administration Priorities COVID Plan Briefing Room Executive Order on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce the United States of America, including sections 1104, 3301, and 3302 of title 5 United States Code, and in order to strengthen the Federal workforce by promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, it is hereby ordered a Section 1. Policy. On my first day in office, I signed Executive Order 13985 (Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government), which established that affirmatively advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity is the responsibility of the whole of our Government. To further advance equity within the Federal Government, this order establishes that it is the policy of my Administration to cultivate a workforce that draws from the full diversity

## What's the cultural impact?

### IE&D Programs Can Lead to...

- Increased Satisfaction
- Better productivity
- Diversity of thought and innovation
- Better decision making
- Collaboration





## Can I Extend IE&D Measures To My

Non-US Workforce?

#### Beware of "trip wires" outside the US:

- Data privacy concerns;
- Cultural concerns;
- Discrimination concerns

## Notable and Recent IE&D Legislation Outside the US:

- Canada; and,
- Singapore

# Why is it necessary to update an employee handbook?

## You should update your employee handbook because...

- Shape company culture
- Communicates operational policies
- Minimizes risk of employment-related legal liabilities
- Keeps HR process running smoothly





# How often should I update my employee handbook?



#### Your employee handbook should be monitored monthly and updated every quarter

- Thousands of updates to compliance law each year
- Changing jurisdictional requirements for remote workers
- Learn more about updating your handbook at next month's webinar: July is the new January

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## Thank you!

To register for a demonstration of the Navigator Suite, please email demo@compliancehr.com or submit the form on our website: Compliancehr.com/webinar-demo