

ADA Audio Conference Series April 15, 2014

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1

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Customize Your View continued



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7

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- Depending on your system settings you may receive visual and audible notifications when individuals enter/leave the webinar room or when other actions are taken by participants. This can be distracting.
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 - 2. By Email webinars@ada-audio.org; or
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8



Googling Job Applicants

Joe Bontke
Outreach Manager and Ombudsman
EEOC Houston

April 15, 2014









Can I Google Applicants?

Yes you can*

...* BUT During this session we want to look at more:

- What's legally allowed to search when investigating a candidate
- The return on investment of online screening
- The current "case history" that might motivate a social media search risk
- New tools and methods for analyzing information found

15

What's in your "backpack"

- It's what we "bring"
- It's who I am
- It's my "stuff"









Generational Groups

Traditionalists (prior 1945)

Baby Boomers (1946-1963)

Generation X (1964-1980)

Generation Y (1981-2000)

17

Workplace Dynamics ?

- Define these terms
 - Team player
 - Effective communication
 - Appropriate
 - Casual
 - Person with a disability



There are about 540,000 words in the English language...









21

More than 3,000 new books are published every day





Is Social Media A Fad?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFZ0z5Fm-Ng&feature=autofb

23

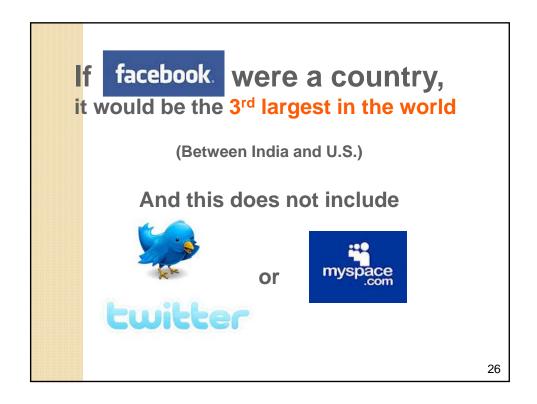
The Digital Age

Welcome to the Virtual World of:

- "Friends": Facebook & Instagam
 - Mostly social, but growing business network
- "Connections": LinkedIn
 - "Facebook in a suit"
- "Followers":Twitter
 - Instant messaging on steroids







Why employers Google

To ensure the best fit between the applicant and the organization

To find candidates with characteristics that will maximize work productivity and minimize costs and liability



27

Internet Never Forgets...

- Stacy Snyder
 - Ist Amendment does not cover photos
- Internet records everything and forgets nothing
- Every online photo, Facebook status update, Twitter post and blog entry by and about us can be stored forever

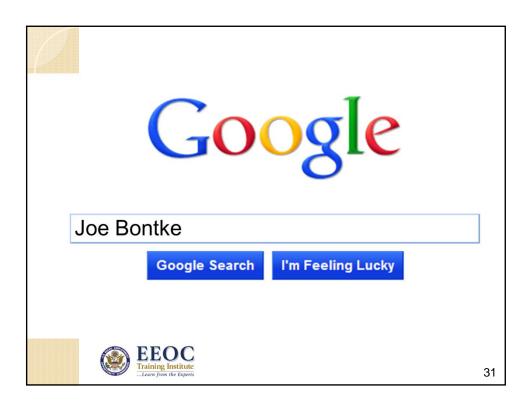


Drunk'in Pirate



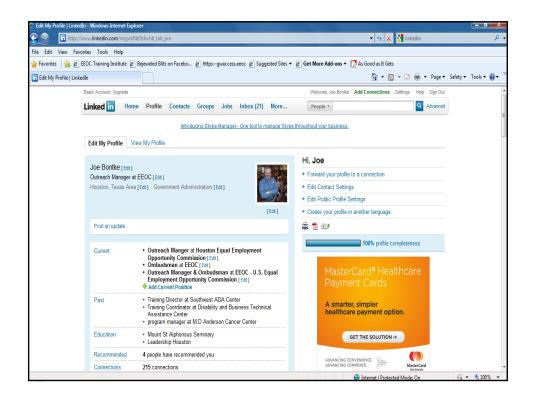
Obligations of Employers

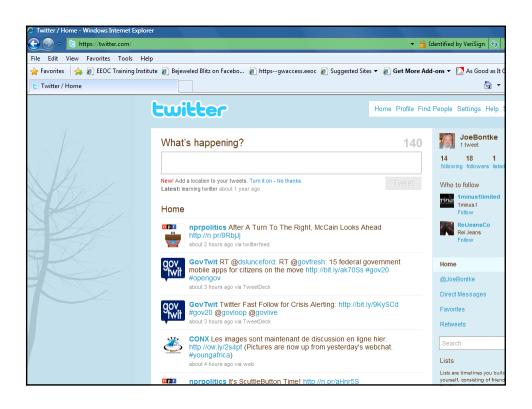
- Make the <u>workplace free of unlawful</u> discrimination, harassment and retaliation
- Promptly and confidentially <u>investigate</u> complaints of discrimination, harassment and retaliation
- Where discrimination, harassment and retaliation may have occurred, <u>take prompt and appropriate remedial action</u> (i.e., discipline commensurate with the offense)













Twitter

- 200 million users
- Library of Congress did you know
 - will be acquiring and permanently storing the entire archive of public twitter posts since 2006





7

IMPORTANCE OF POLICIES

- "Twoosh" is a word invented to describe Twitter messages that contain exactly 140 characters.
- Our Twitter policy: (in 140 characters)
 Be professional, kind, discreet, authentic. Represent us well. Remember that you can't control it once you hit "update."



HR Statistics

- 75% of U.S. recruiters are required by their companies to do online research of candidates
- 70% of U.S. recruiters report they have rejected candidates because of information found online

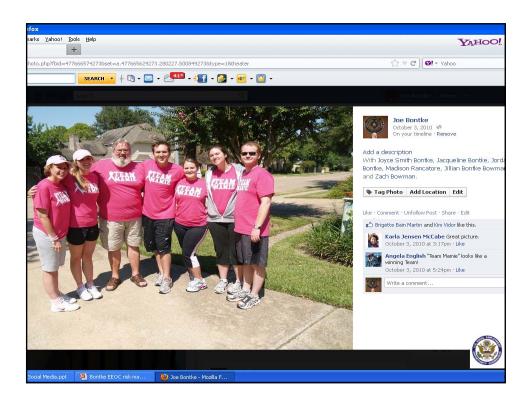


39

PROBLEM ISSUE

Employer will potentially have access to information such as involvement in a stakeholder group, people with disability organization, sexual preference, cultural and religious identification.





4th Amendment

Fourth Amendment

(unreasonable searches and seizures)

- Common Law
- Electronic Communications Act of 1986
- Federal Stored Communications Act





43

To Like or Not Like...

- Does clicking the "Like" button on Facebook constitute "concerted activity"?
 - Hispanics United of Buffalo Inc. Decision
- Is a Facebook "Like" constitutionally protected?
 - Bland v. Roberts



EVOLUTION: O'Connor v. Ortega

- U.S. Supreme Court first recognized Fourth Amendment privacy protection in pre-Internet 1987.
- Employee's privacy expectations could be shaped and restricted by the employer's policies and practices.
- HELD: employee had a legitimate expectation of privacy in his desk and file cabinets.



45

CITY OF ONTARIO V. QUON (2010)



• <u>ISSUE</u>: Whether a public employee (a police officer and a SWAT team member) stated a claim for violation of Fourth Amendment rights where the public employer (a police department), reviewed texts sent and received by Quon on his department issued pager.



Takeaway

Every employer, whether public or private, must have clearly drafted policies giving employees notice that they have no expectation of privacy in company electronic equipment, whether this be in emails, phone log details or text messages.



47

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PRIVACY ACT OF 1986

- Primary federal law addressing privacy concerns is the ECPA.
- Exceptions interpreted to mean that if employer maintains its own email system and assumes "provider status," employer is allowed to retrieve all stored email messages.
- Two types of communications:
 - (I) Messages in transit (happens in seconds limited opportunity for interception)
 - (2) Stored messages (most typical work scenario)



Passwords to Avoid

- SplashData's list of the 25 most common passwords found on the Internet.
- Here are the top worst passwords to use:
- 123456
- Password
- 12345678
- Qwerty
- Abc I 23
- iloveyou (#9), trustno I (#24), monkey (#17).

49

Federal Stored Communications Act

"Wiretapping Act"

Criminal Offense to Intentionally:

- (I) Access, without authorization, a facility through which an electronic communication service is provided; or
- (2) Exceed an authorization to access that facility.



TAKEAWAY

Do not gain access to employee's website by either receiving private information through another "friend," or by going through a person on the employee's "friends" list.



51

ISSUES ARISING FROM MONITORING EMPLOYEES (applicants next?)



Positive Treatment of Monitoring

Smyth v. Pillsbury (E.D. Pa. 1996):

Upheld firing of employee who transmitted inappropriate emails; Held: Company's interest in preventing inappropriate and unprofessional comments or even illegal activity over email outweighs employee's privacy interests.

53





The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) guarantees the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively with their employers, and to engage in other protected concerted activity or to refrain from engaging in any of the above activity. Employees covered by the NLRA* are protected from certain types of employer and union misconduct. This Notice gives you general information about your rights, and about the obligations of employers and unions under the NLRA. Contact the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the Federal agency that investigates and resolves complaints under the NLRA, using the contact information supplied below, if you have any questions about specific rights that may apply in your particular workplace.

Under the NLRA, you have the right to:

- cheer the NLRA, you have the right to:
 corganize a union to negotiate with your employer concerning your wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment.
 Form, join or assist a union.
 Bargain collectively through representatives of employees' own choosing for a contract with your employer setting your wage benefits, hours, and other working conditions.
 Discuss your wages and benefits and other terms and conditions of employment or union organizing with your co-workers or a union.
 Take action with one or more co-workers to improve your working conditions by, among other means, raising work-related complaints directly with your employer or with a government agency, and seeking help from a union.
 Strike and picket, depending on the purpose or means of the strike or the picketing.
 Choose not to do any of these activities, including joining or remaining a member of a union.

Under the NLRA, it is illegal for your employer to: Under the NLRA, it is illegal for a union or for the

Prohibit you from talking about or soliciting for a union during non-work time, such as before or after work or during break times; or from distributing union literature during non-work time, in non-work areas, such as parking lots or break rooms.

union that represents you in bargaining with your employer to:

NLRB VIEW

Monitoring employee's social networking activity has the potential of creating a chilling effect on the employees' communications regarding the terms and conditions of their employment, in violation of the NLRA at 29 U.S.C. §157.



55

KNAUZ BMW (May 24, 2011)

- NLRB alleges unlawful termination of an employee for posting photos and comments on Facebook that were critical of dealership
- Unhappy with quality of food and beverages at a BMW promotion event
- Again non-union: "concerted activity" because it involved a discussion among employees about the terms and conditions of their employment

Best Practice Advise: Create Written Acceptable Use Policies ("AUP")

By creating and consistently applying policies informing employees that their use of corporate networks, including email access, can be monitored, the employee has waived his/her right to privacy in communications made on the company's network.



57

Basic Contents

- Urge employee to take work-related complaints to HR before blogging or posting about them
- Clarify that discipline will be imposed, up to and including termination, if an employee misuses social networking sites relating to employment or other employees in the context of employment
- Establish a reporting procedure for suspected violations and also reiterate that company's anti-discrimination policies also apply to electronic communications
- Remind employees that computer and email systems are not private and that company may monitor computer, email and/or text messaging usage

Basic Contents

- Require employees to sign a written acknowledgment form affirming that they have read, understand and will abide by the company's acceptable use policy
- Prohibit unauthorized transmission of corporate trade secrets and other confidential information
- Define discipline to be imposed for transmitting or receiving communications containing pornographic, derogatory, defamatory, sexual, racist or harassing statements
- Define whether email is automatically deleted after a specific time period

59

Basic Contents

- Define whether online shopping, surfing, gambling or stock trading is allowed
- Describe when and how the Internet may be used during the workday and/or after work hours on company equipment
- Define penalties for violating the AUP
- Enforce this policy consistently and indiscriminately

Permanency of Information

Viktor Mayer-Schönberger

- A society in which everything is recorded will forever tether us to all actions, making it impossible, in practice, to escape them.
- Without some form of forgetting, forgiving becomes a difficult undertaking

No second chances

 Worst thing you have done is the first thing people will know about you

61

Ways to Protect Your Image

Be careful.

 Do not post anything on any site that you would not want a potential employer to see.

Be discreet.

 Set your profile to private and block inappropriate comments that others may make on your profile.

Be prepared.

 Regularly check your profile for inappropriate content. Make sure you have an answer ready to explain or counter any "digital dirt" employers may see.

When It Becomes Illegal

- When employers base their hiring decision on an applicant's protective status
- When information discovered leads to employer's knowledge of information that would be illegal to use against an applicant in a hiring decision
 - i.e. discovering an applicant was arrested and using that to disqualify
 - Things you cannot ask in an interview are the same things employer cannot research

63

Questions To Ask When Using Social Media...

- Is it valid?
 - Does the information predict job performance?
 - Is the information job-related?
- Is it legal?
 - No laws have been passed yet
 - Information posted on the internet is considered "public domain"
 - Opens organization up to "perception" of using protected information
- Is it worth it?

Ways to Protect Yourself...

- Add "off-duty conduct" policy
- Check organization's "cyber reputation"
- Check employees' "cyber reputation"
- Advise caution among employees when posting things on the internet
- social networking policies for their employees while at work, while using employer equipment/facilities, or that will reflect directly on the employer.

65

- What is eDiscovery?
 - The legal discovery of electronic documents and data
 - eMail, web pages, word processing files, spreadsheets, meta data, databases, backup tapes, cache memory, hard drives, thumb drives, PDAs, firewall/IDS logs, phone call logs, IM transmissions, etc.
 - → Anything outside of the traditional discovery of writings or business records on paper is "eDiscovery"

An **intrusion detection system** (IDS) is a device (or application) that monitors network and/or system activities for malicious activities or policy violations.

Unique Problems With Social Networking Activities

- Blurring of lines between "work" and "personal"
- No "filter" or "edit"
- Reach a vast audience
- Immediate public viewing
- Quicker and less "formal" = users are less guarded and careless

67

Background Checks

- Two circumstances employers will meet "job relatedness and consistent with business necessity"
 - The employer validates the criminal conduct screen for the position in question
 - The employer considering at least
 - 1) the nature of the crime,
 - 2) the time elapsed, and
 - 3) the nature of the job,



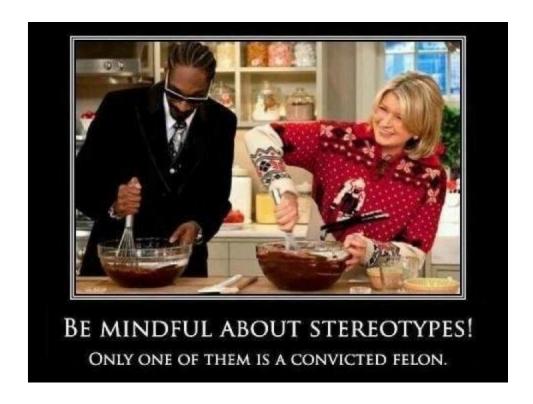
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

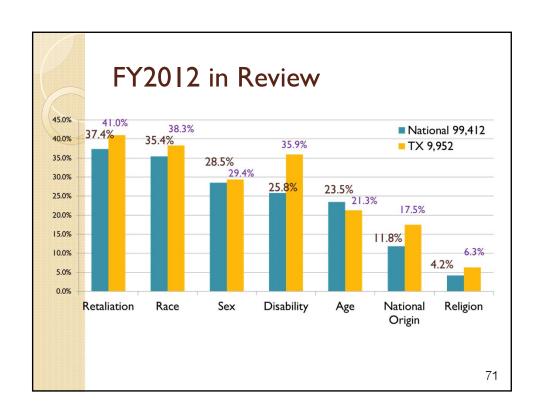
Individualized Assessment

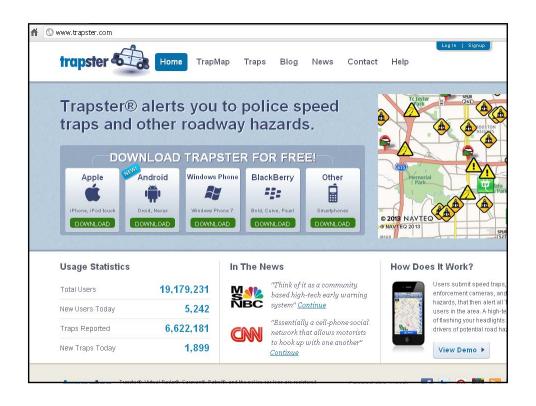
Consider **each** person's record based on the potential risk in the particular position

MITIGATING FACTORS

- Marriage
- Education
- Successful Employment History
- Age at time of release or conviction
- Rehabilitation Efforts







EEOC Strategic Enforcement Plan (SEP) Nationwide Priorities:

I. Eliminating systemic barriers in recruitment and hiring.

- Barriers:
 - exclusionary practices and policies
 - Steering individuals into jobs based on protected category
 - Restrictive application processes
 - Use of screening tools with adverse impact



73

II. Protecting Immigrant, migrant and other vulnerable workers

- Target:
 - Disparate pay
 - Job segregation
 - Harassment
 - Human Trafficking
 - Discriminatory Language Policies



III. Address emerging issues

- Issue I-ADAAA
- · Issue 2- LGBT
 - · Coverage under Title VII provisions
- Issue 3 Pregnancy
 - Women being forced onto unpaid leave after being denied accommodations



75

IV Enforcing Equal Pay Act

The next Equal Pay Day is April 9, 2014.

This date symbolizes how far into 2014 women must work to earn what men earned in 2013.



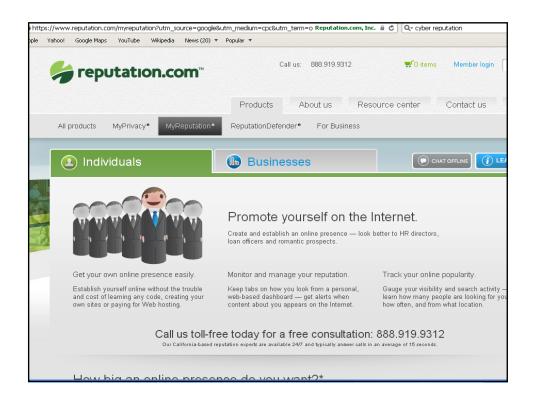
V. Preserving access to the legal system

- · Barriers:
 - Policies and practices intended to discourage or prohibit the exercise of rights under discrimination statutes or impede EEOC Investigation.

VI. Combating harassment

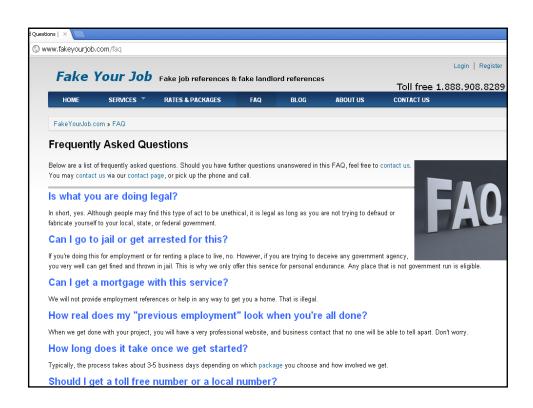
- · Basis for harassment:
 - · Race, Color, Ethnicity, Religion, Sex, Age, Disability
 - *National Education & Targeted Outreach





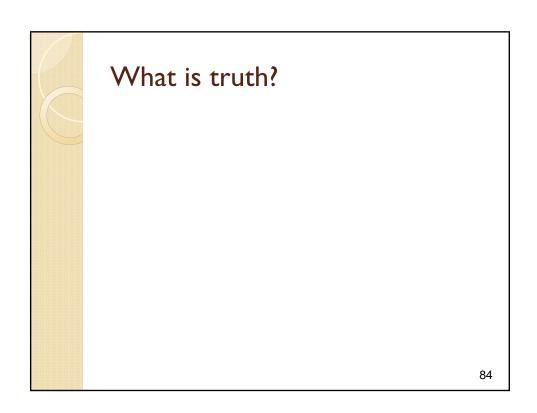












Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of many years of experts.

85

Is your perception Sometimes your truth?

 Sometimes we have to take another look at what we think we know



Any Questions, Comments, Concerns or Complaints

Joe Bontke
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or



EEOC Training Institute
www.eeotraining.eeoc.gov

87



Thank you for participating in today's ADA-Audio Conference Session

The next scheduled session is:

"Electronic Information & Digital Access: Update on Compliance Activities and Enforcement Activities"

May 20, 2014

www.ada-audio.org

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