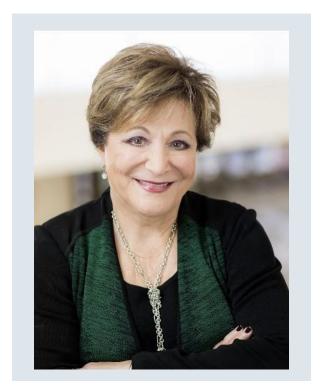


Today's Presenters



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Any advice or opinion provided during this training, either privately or to the entire group, is **never** to be construed as legal advice or an assurance of compliance. Always consult with your legal counsel to ensure you are receiving advice that considers existing case law in your jurisdiction, any applicable state or local laws, and evolving federal guidance.



Agenda

- Introduction
- OCR Trends
- Title VI Shared Ancestry
- Other Title VI issue areas (school mascot, admissions, and hiring)
- Title IX
- Disability
- Questions



Snapshot: OCR Resolutions 2013 - Current

- Title VI 1001
- Title IX 1081
- Disability (504) 5878
- K-12 Overall 5413
- Higher Education 1682



OCR Resolutions Since January 20, 2025

82 cases resolved with an agreement

- **71** resolved through voluntary resolution (Section 302)
- **64** disability resolutions (physical accessibility, FAPE, failure to implement, website accessibility, housing, grievance procedures, service animal, etc.)
- 12 Title IX resolutions (transgender athlete participation, interests and abilities, Title IX training materials, live hearing with cross examination, single-sex scholarship)
- 4 Title VI resolutions (2 racial harassment, 1 different treatment, 1 race admissions)



Significant Trends

- OCR laid off approximately half of its staff and closed 7 of 12 regional offices
 - Backlog of cases(?)
 - OCR offering mediation more often
- Movement toward directed investigations (initiated by OCR without a formal complaint) in some areas
- Increased interest in gender identity, trans issues under Title IX, and national origin/shared ancestry under VI
- Shift in Title IX interpretation (sex, gender identity, and what constitutes discrimination)
- OCR increasingly using threat of withdrawing federal funding or making compliance a condition for maintaining funding



Title VI



Title VI

- Title VI was enacted as part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000d, et seq.
- Title VI's implementing regulations are found at 34 C.F.R. Part 100
- Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, including shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics (e.g., antisemitism and Islamophobia)
- Harassment based on shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics is a type of national origin discrimination



Title VI Shared Ancestry: A Shifting Legal Standard

- Prior to March 22, 2025:
 - Unwelcome conduct that is both subjectively and objectively offensive;
 - So severe or pervasive that it limited the student's ability to access the educational environment;
 - The recipient had actual or constructive notice;
 - The recipient failed to take prompt and effective action to end the harassment, eliminate any hostile environment and its effects, and prevent it from recurring



Title VI Shared Ancestry: A Shifting Legal Standard

- Columbia University (March 22, 2025)
 - Severe or pervasive
 - Actual knowledge
 - Substantial control
 - Deliberately indifferent



Title VI Shared Ancestry: A Shifting Legal Standard

- Deliberate Indifference Continued
 - Harvard University (June 30, 2025)
 - UCLA (July 29, 2025)
 - Brown University (July 30, 2025)
 - George Washington University (August 12, 2025)



Title VI: Other Issues

- School Mascot
 - Massapequa High School (May 30, 2025)
 - Connetquot Central School District (July 8, 2025)
- Admissions
 - Duke University (July 28, 2025)
- Hiring Practices
 - George Mason University (August 22, 2025)



Title IX



Gender Identity Challenges

- California Department of Education/California Interscholastic Federation (June 25, 2025)
- University of Pennsylvania (July 1, 2025)
- Wagner College (August 1, 2025)
- Five Northern VA School Districts (August 19, 2025)
- South Carolina restroom (U.S.S.Ct.)
- Denver OCR found DPS violated Title IX in replacing girls-only multi-stall restroom with a gender-neutral restroom but kept boys-only restroom, and maintained policies supporting trans access to locker rooms and restrooms



Disability



Disability Issues

- A.J.T. v. Osseo Area Schools (June 12, 2025): The Supreme Court ruled that the appropriate standard of proof for relief in disability cases in the education context (under the IDEA, the ADA, and Section 504) is deliberate indifference
- Digital Accessibility is coming fast some schools in 2026 and some in 2027
- K-12 504 plans are coming under scrutiny for failing to meet the FAPE standards
- OCR seeking to update 504 Regulations (unchanged since 1977)





Questions?



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