

# Foundations of Title IX 2024 Regulations

Presented by: Sarah E. Fama and Monica Batanero

Lozano Smith Webinar August 15, 2024



# Sarah E. Fama

Walnut Creek Office sfama@lozanosmith.com 925.953.1620



#### Overview

Sarah E. Fama is Senior Counsel in Lozano Smith's Walnut Creek office. She represents public agencies through various aspects of employment and general liability issues.

#### Experience

Ms. Fama represents public employers at California Superior Court, California Labor Commission, California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, California Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, Department of Fair Employment and Housing, and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She regularly defends employers against claims of harassment, discrimination, wrongful termination, and wage and hour violations. Clients seek her out to provide guidance, education and training to employers regarding employment law compliance, in areas of harassment, discrimination, accommodation, and wage and hour compliance.

She is routinely involved in investigations, either by guiding employers through the investigation process or by acting as an investigator herself. She also advises employers and provides training on various topics including investigations, Title IX, sexual harassment, Uniform Complaint Procedure, retaliation, discrimination and other complaints that may arise in an education setting.

#### Education

Ms. Fama received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, where she was named to the Dean's Honor List. Her J.D. concentration was focused on International Legal Studies. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Alberta.



Labor & Employment Litigation Title IX Investigations Education

J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

B.A., University of Alberta

California



# Monica D. Batanero

Senior Counsel

Los Angeles Offices mbatanero@lozanosmith.com 213.929.1066



California

Admissions

#### Overview

Monica D. Batanero is Senior Counsel in Lozano Smith's Los Angeles office. Ms. Batanero advises educational institutions on student, special education and personnel issues.

#### Experience

Ms. Batanero provides legal counsel to community college districts and K-12 school districts on day-to-day issues involving Title IX compliance, sexual harassment, discrimination/harassment, Section 504, IDEA, governance, Public Records Act, and student discipline. She regularly conducts workplace and school investigations involving alleged misconduct in violation of board policy and/or law, including Title IX, sexual harassment, professional standards, and code of student conduct.

Ms. Batanero has represented school districts in all phases of special education matters, including Individualized Education Plan meetings, resolution meetings, mediations, and due process hearings conducted by the Office of Administrative Hearings.

She also frequently develops and provides trainings to clients on Title IX, Section 504, IDEA, workplace and school investigations, sexual harassment prevention, student discipline, and first amendment issues.

#### Education

Ms. Batanero earned her Juris Doctor from the University of San Francisco, School of Law. She earned both an M.S. and B.S. in Gerontology from the University of Southern California.



Student Special Education Labor and Employment Investigations

Title IX Governance

J.D., University of San Francisco, School of Law Education

M.S., University of Southern California

B.S., University of Southern California



#### WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Lozano Smith is a full-service education and public agency law firm serving hundreds of California's K-12 and community college districts, and numerous cities, counties, and special districts. Established in 1988, the firm prides itself on fostering longstanding relationships with our clients, while advising and counseling on complex and ever-changing laws. Ultimately, this allows clients to stay focused on what matters most – the success of their district, students and communities they serve. Lozano Smith has offices in eight California locations: Sacramento, Walnut Creek, Fresno, Monterey, Bakersfield, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

#### **AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

- Administrative Hearings
- Charter School
- Community College
- Facilities & Business
- Governance
- Investigations
- Labor & Employment
- Litigation
- Municipal
- Public Finance
- Public Safety
- Special Education
- Student
- Technology & Innovation
- Title IX

**COST CONTROL** is important for public agencies and an area we have mastered. We recognize and understand your financial restraints and work tirelessly to provide the best legal representation with those limitations in mind. One of the best ways we keep legal costs to a minimum is through strategic, preventive legal services. These include Client News Briefs to keep you updated on changing laws affecting education. In addition, we offer extensive workshops and legal seminars providing the tools needed to minimize liability, reducing the need for legal assistance down the road.

**CLIENT SERVICE** is our top priority and we take it very seriously. With premier service as the benchmark, we have established protocols and specific standards of practice. Client calls are systematically returned within 24 hours and often sooner when required.

**DIVERSITY IS KEY** and we consciously practice it in all that we do. It is one of our core beliefs that there is a measurable level of strength and sensitivity fostered by bringing together individuals from a wide variety of different backgrounds, cultures and life experiences. Both the firm and the clients benefit from this practice, with a higher level of creative thinking, deeper understanding of issues, more compassion, and the powerful solutions that emerge as a result.



# Foundations of Title IX 2024 Regulations

Presented by: Sarah E. Fama and Monica Batanero

August 15, 2024 Lozano Smith Webinar

1

## Presenter

## Sarah E. Fama

Sarah E. Fama is Senior Counsel in Lozano Smith's Walnut Creek office. She represents public agencies through various aspects of employment and general liability issues. Ms. Fama represents public employers at California Superior Court, California Labor Commission, California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, California Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, Department of Fair Employment and Housing, and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She regularly defends employers against claims of harassment, discrimination, wrongful termination, and wage and hour violations.



CONNECT sfama@lozanosmith.com 925.953.1620

## Presenter

## Monica D. Batanero

Monica D. Batanero is Senior Counsel in Lozano Smith's Los Angeles office. Ms. Batanero represents California public school districts, county offices of education, and community college districts in all aspects of education law. She is cochair of the firm's Title IX Practice Area and specializes in Title IX compliance, as well as conducting complex investigations into claims of sexual misconduct and harassment (including Title IX), discrimination, bullying, retaliation, and other issues that may arise in an educational setting. Ms. Batanero also specializes in student discipline and special education.



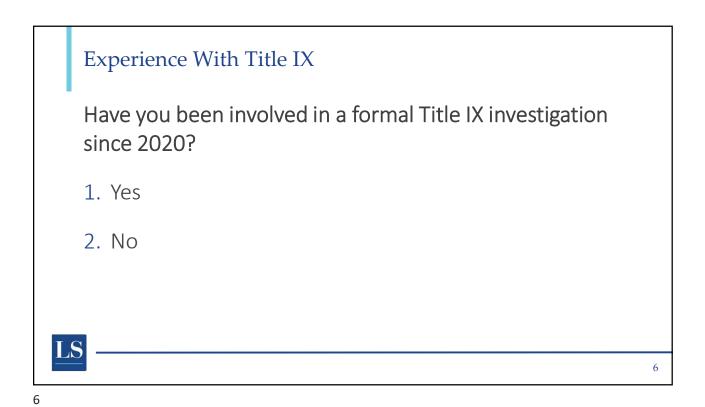


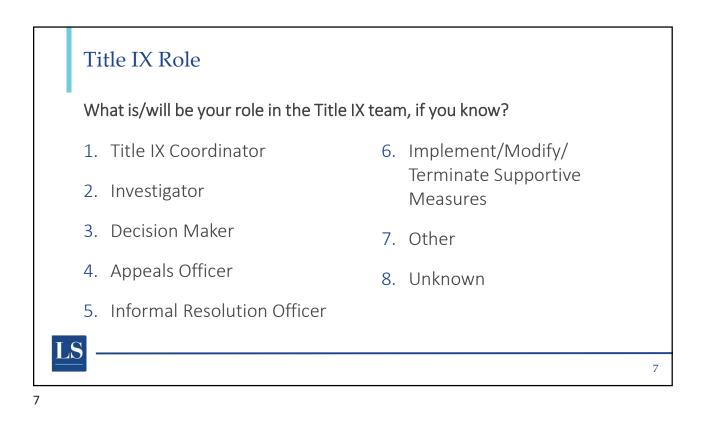
## CONNECT

mbatanero@lozanosmith.com 213.929.1066

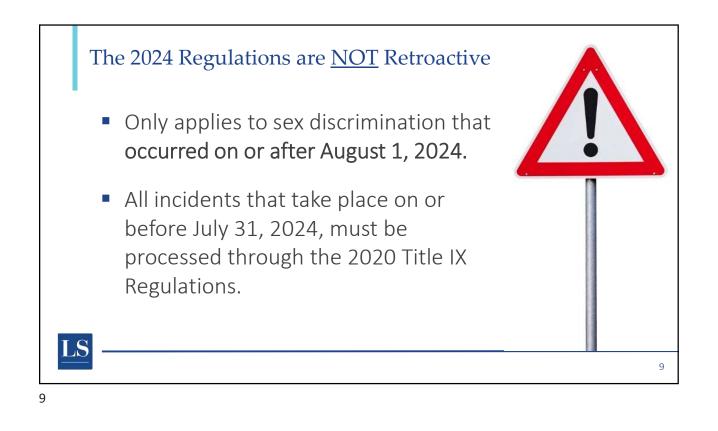


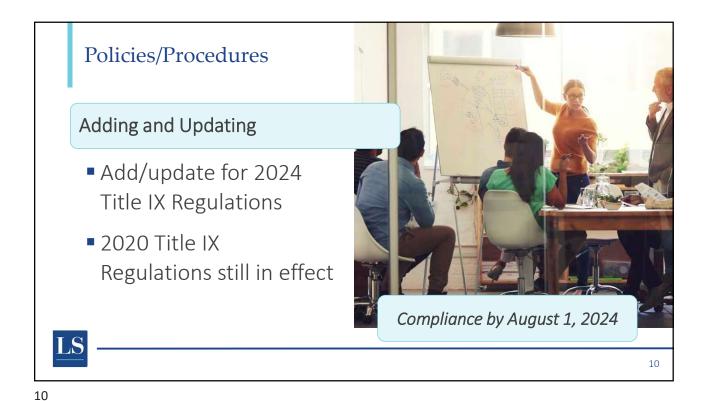


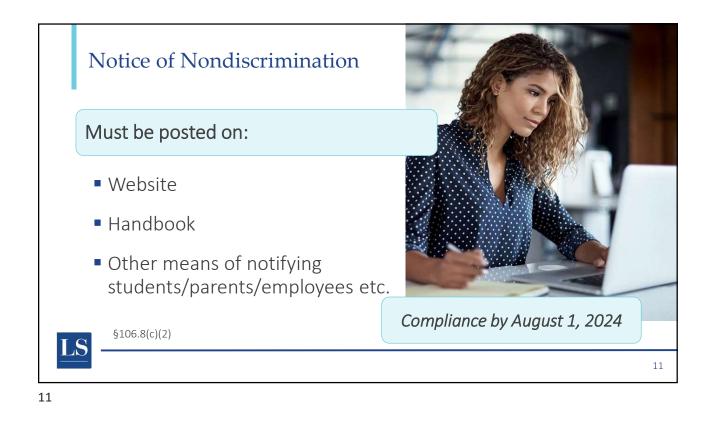




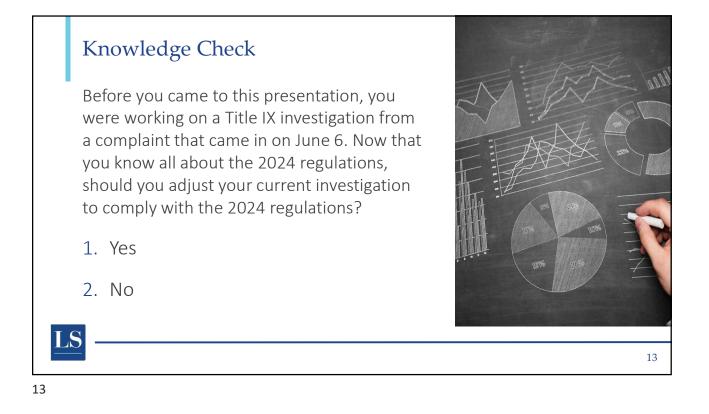






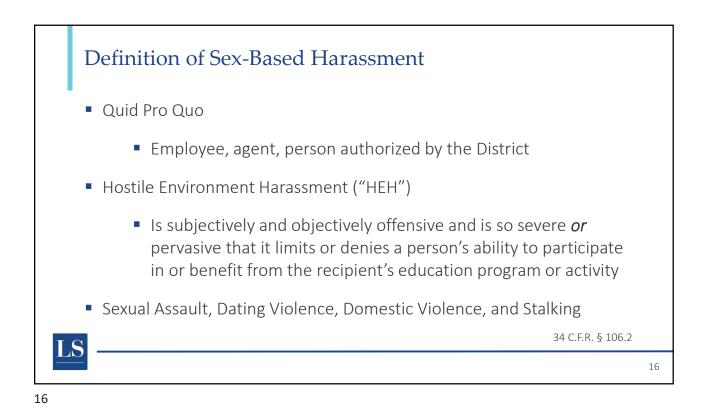


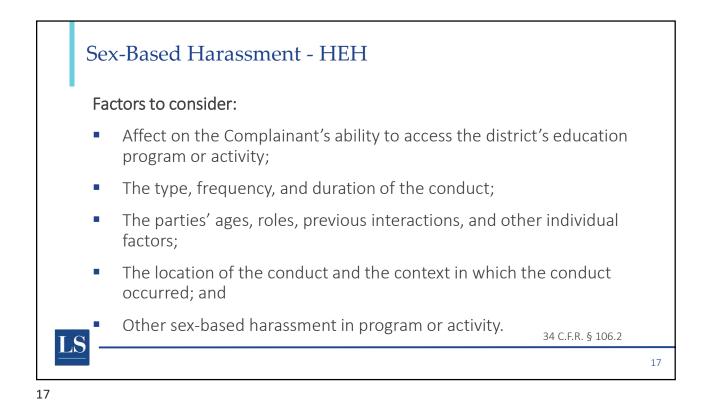


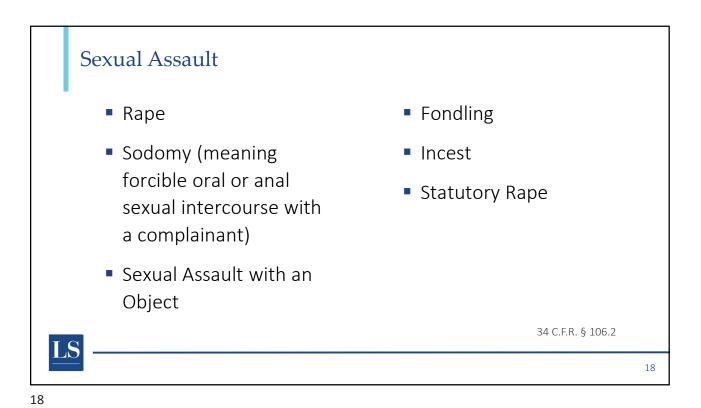


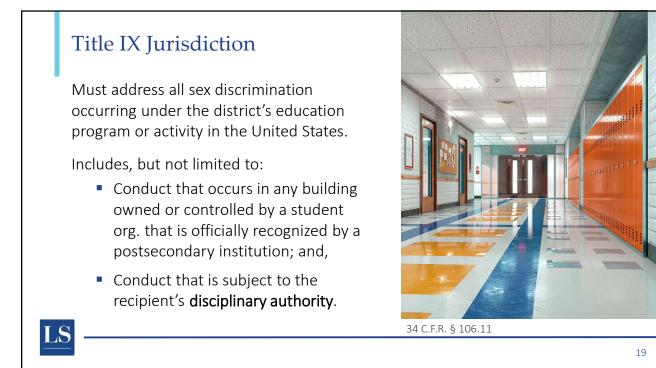


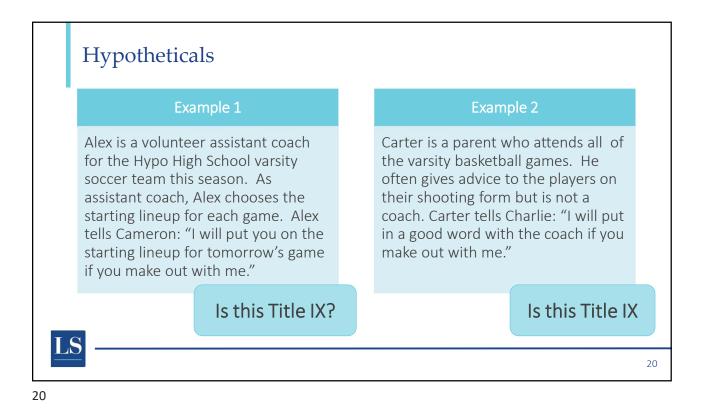












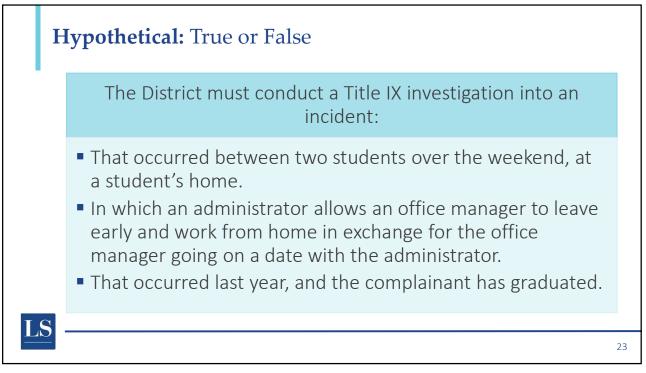
## Hypothetical

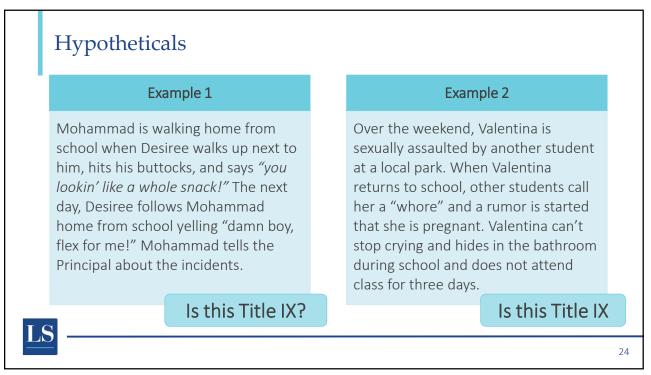
You are the Title IX coordinator at a small K-8 district. Paige, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student, comes to your office and informs you that one of her classmates, Asher, has been making "gross" comments to girls for a couple of weeks. She shows you Asher's Instagram, which is mostly pictures of guns, scantily clad women, and misogynistic language. Paige says she and her friends are very uncomfortable around Asher, and do not want to be near him.

Is this Title IX?

Do you investigate?

itle IX Jurisdiction vs. Impact	
Location and Effect	Is it Title IX?
Off campus conduct <b>with no impact on campus</b> and the District has no jurisdiction in policy	No Title IX Jurisdiction
Off campus conduct <b>with impact that is not a Title IX violation</b> (i.e., complainant is upset by seeing respondent)	<b>No</b> Title IX Jurisdiction, but District must remedy/provide supportive measures
Off campus conduct <b>with impact that is within Title IX</b> (i.e., hostile environment harassment from rumors, bullying, retaliation, etc.)	<b>Yes</b> , Title IX jurisdiction over HEH
Off campus conduct when District <b>has jurisdiction over off campus</b> conduct in policy	Yes, Title IX jurisdiction







- Recipients can impose sex-based distinctions or separation in their educational programs if they do not impose more than a *de minimis harm*.
- More than de minimis harm is any harm that is genuine and objectively non-trivial, from a reasonable person's perspective.
- Prohibiting a student from participating in an education program or activity consistent with their gender identity violates this standard and is thus prohibited.





# **Definitions To Know**

## 2024 Title IX Definitions

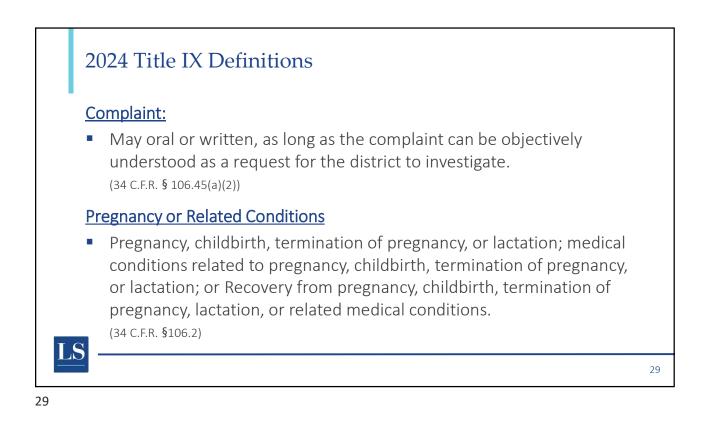
## Complainant:

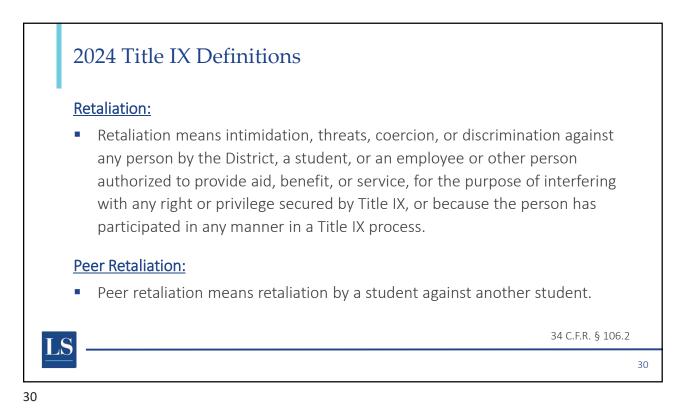
 Includes person(s) other than student(s)/employee(s) who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX *at a time when that individual was participating or attempting to participate* in the district's education program or activity.

## **Respondent**

• A person who is alleged to have violated the recipient's prohibition on sex discrimination.

34 C.F.R. § 106.2





# Responding to Complaints Initial Evaluations

## Responding to Sex Discrimination

- The District must respond promptly and effectively and must prevent the recurrence of any sex discrimination and remedy its effects.
- All non-confidential employees must notify the Title IX Coordinator of conduct that could reasonably be considered sex discrimination.
- Title IX reporting is separate from mandated reporting requirements.



# Responding to Sex Discrimination (K-12)

All non-confidential employees <u>must</u> notify the Title IX Coordinator of conduct that could reasonably be considered sex discrimination.

Supervisors must report up to the Title IX Coordinator.



54 C.I.I.C. 3 100.44 (C)

Disclosure From	Notify TI XC	Provide TI XC's Contact Info
<ul><li>Student</li><li>Employee</li></ul>	No	Yes
<ul><li>Student</li><li>Employee</li></ul>	Yes	Yes
<ul><li>Student</li><li>Employee</li></ul>	Yes	Yes
<ul> <li>Student</li> </ul>	Yes/Or	Yes/Or
	<ul> <li>Student</li> <li>Employee</li> <li>Student</li> <li>Employee</li> <li>Student</li> <li>Employee</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Student</li> <li>Employee</li> <li>Student</li> <li>Employee</li> <li>Student</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Student</li> <li>Yes</li> </ul>

34

# **Confidential Employees**



An employee whose communications are privileged or confidential under Federal or State law or an employee that has been designated as a confidential employee for the purpose of providing services to persons related to sex discrimination.

Must specify who they are in District policies.

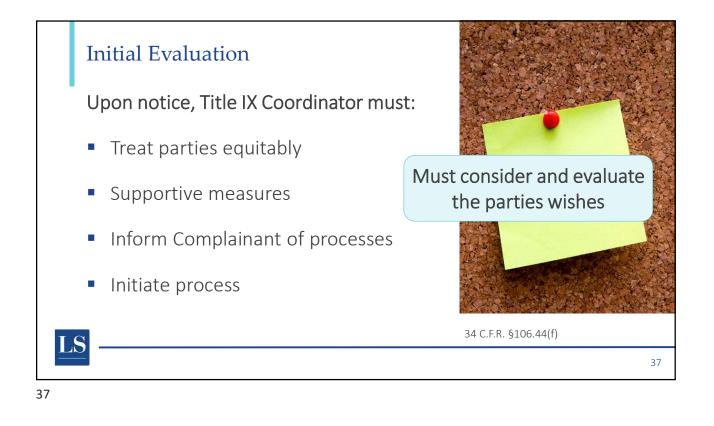
34 C.F.R. § 106.2

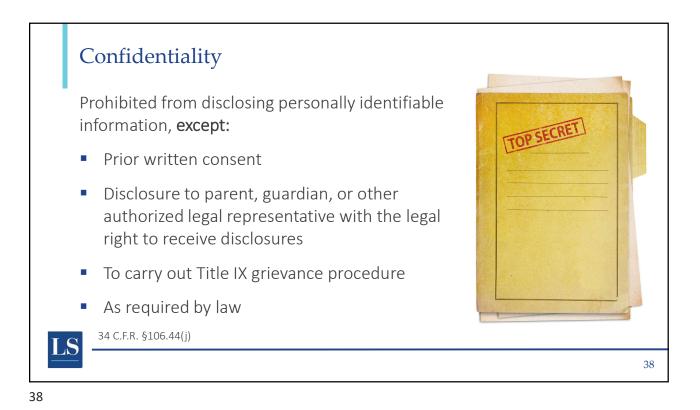
35

## Hypothetical

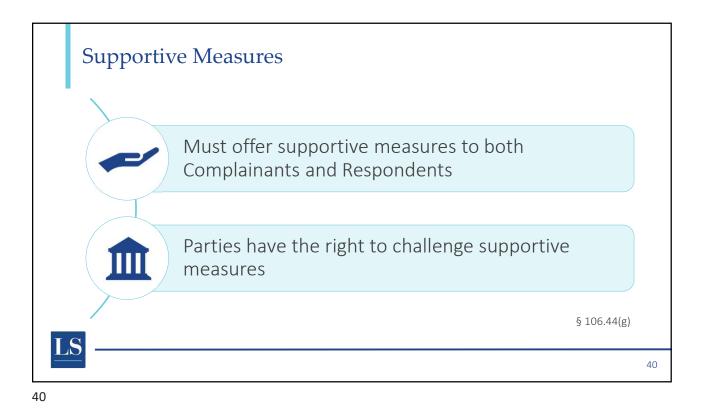
Jesus is a principal at Hypo High School and hears from a teacher, Mr. Snowden, that Raven was raped by Lincoln in the locker room. Jesus knows both of these students personally and believes that it is in the best interest of the students for Jesus to handle this internally.

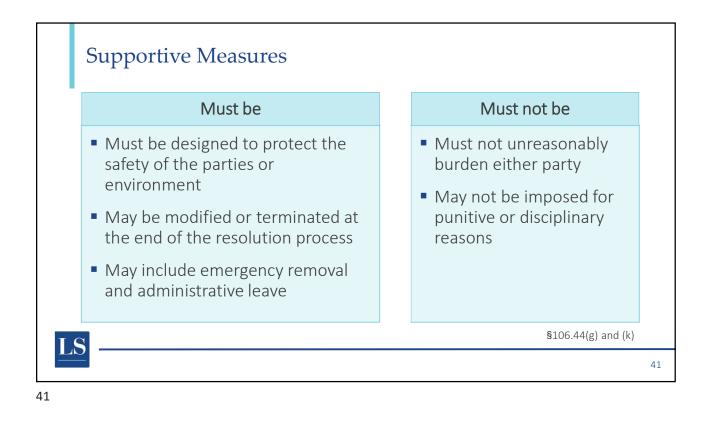
If Jesus is able to handle the investigation, does Jesus need to notify the Title IX Coordinator?





# Responding to Complaints Supportive Measures





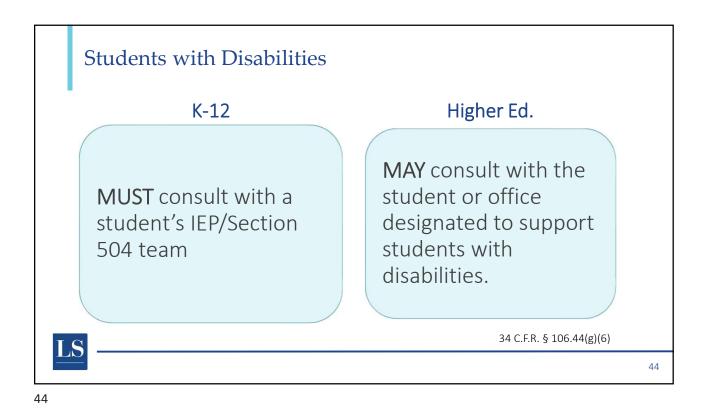
	e Measures	
Examples:	Counseling	
	Change Of Class Or Work Schedules	
	Modified Lunch Schedules	Emergency Removal & Administrative Leave
	No-Contact Orders	Auministrative Leave
	Campus Escort Services	
	Change In Work Locations	
	Increased Security/Monitoring	
	Extensions Of Deadlines Or Other Course	-Related Adjustments
	Independent Study (Must Be Nonpunitive	e/Nondisciplinary)

## Hypothetical

A Principal from one of your middle schools calls you after school and tells you that an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, June, came to her and told her that a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student, Cheyenne, has been making her feel uncomfortable at school. June told her that Cheyenne has been staring at her in the locker room, and that one of her friends overheard Cheyenne call her "sexy" when she was changing in the locker room. The Principal is unsure what to do and is looking to you for assistance.







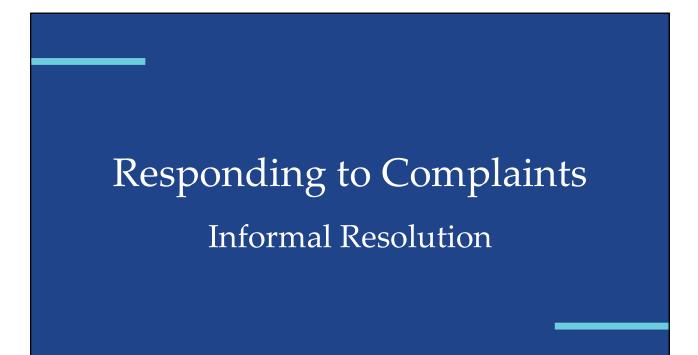
# Hypothetical

Isaiah, a junior, comes to you and says that he saw Dallas, a sophomore, forcibly kiss Destiny, a sophomore, several times yesterday out by the bleachers. Today, Isaiah saw Dallas following Destiny to class. Isaiah is worried about Destiny and asks for your assistance. You know that Dallas is on a Section 504 plan and Destiny is on an IEP.

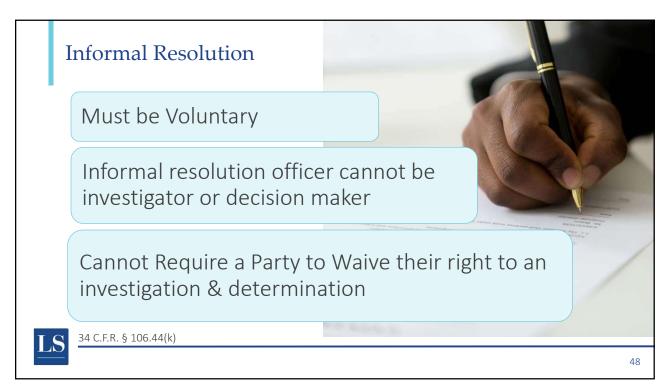
Do you need to consult with Dallas' Section 504 team?

Do you need to consult with Destiny's IEP team?









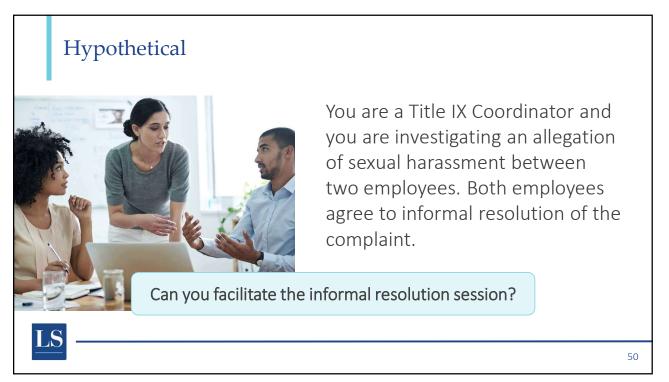
## Informal Resolution



## Must provide notice to both parties including:

- Allegations,
- Requirements of informal resolution process,
- Right to withdraw and initiate investigation,
- Resolution would preclude an investigation,
- Potential terms of resolution,
- What information the District will maintain and how the District could disclose such information

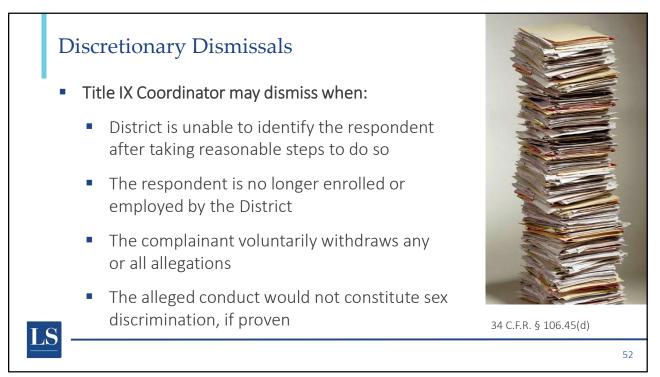


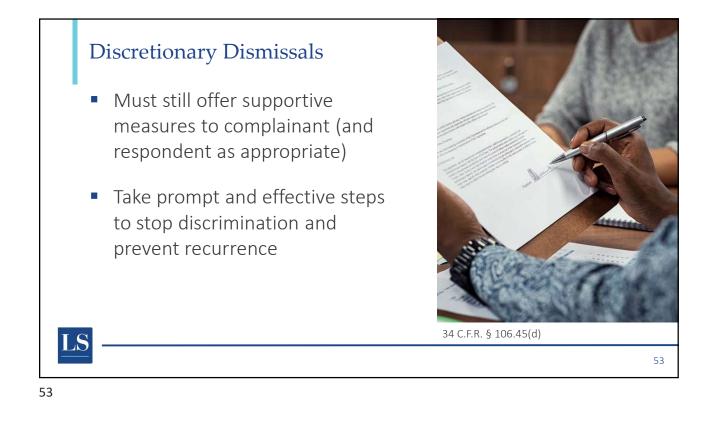


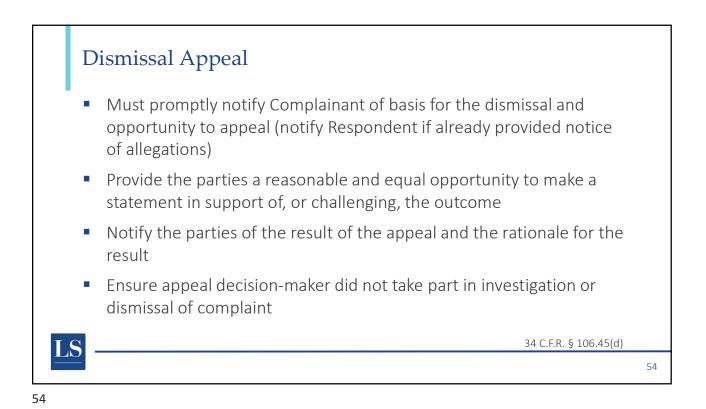
# Hypothetical

Jordan, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader, comes to you and says that Noah, an 11<sup>th</sup> grader, has been sexually harassing them for months in person and via text message. This has occurred both on campus during class and off campus after school. Jordan cannot deal with it anymore and wants it to stop. However, Jordan does not want this to be a big deal and just wants to do informal resolution quickly and get it over with.

Can you offer an informal resolution session?

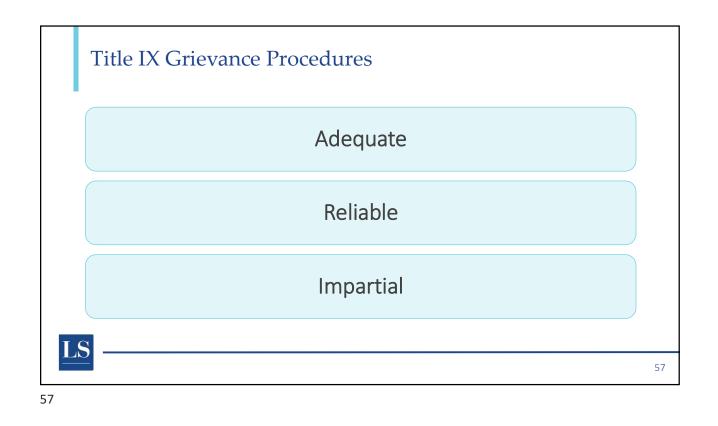


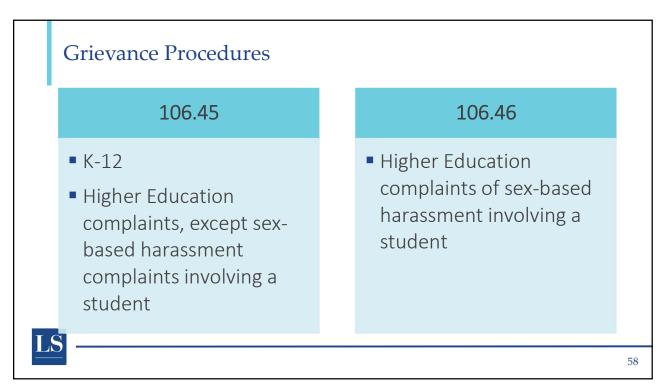


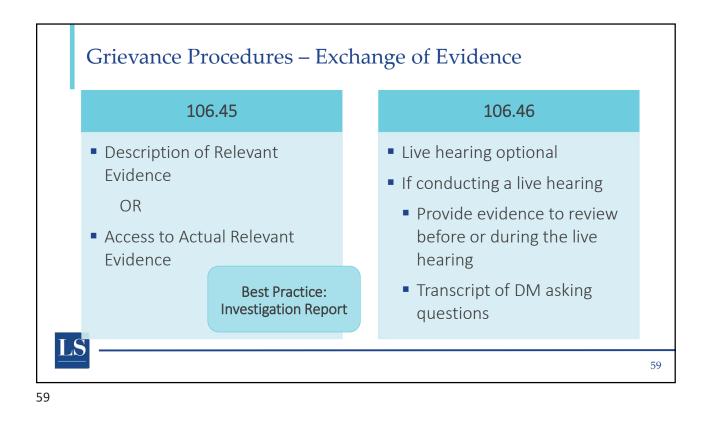


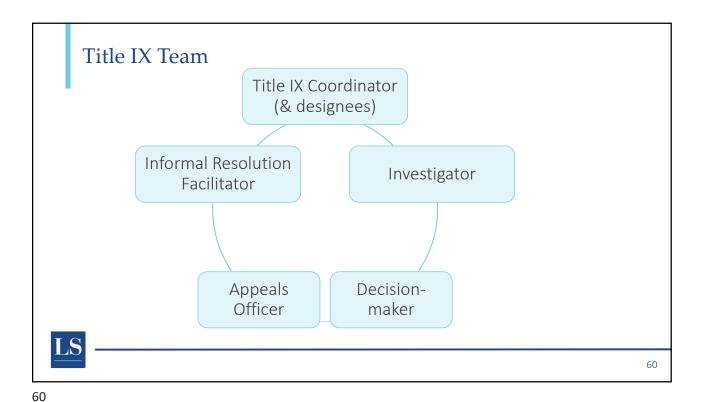
# <text><text><text><text><text>





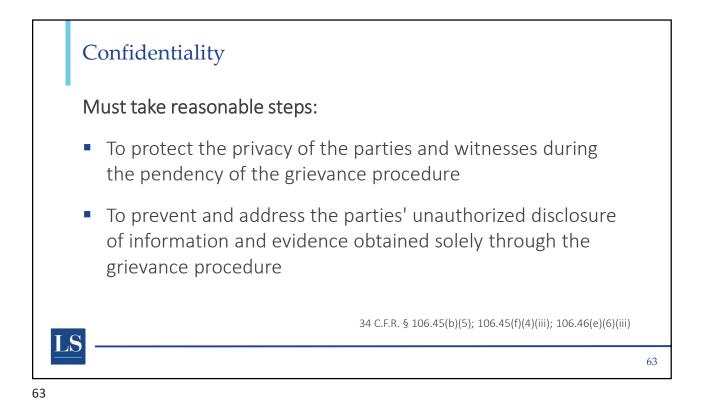




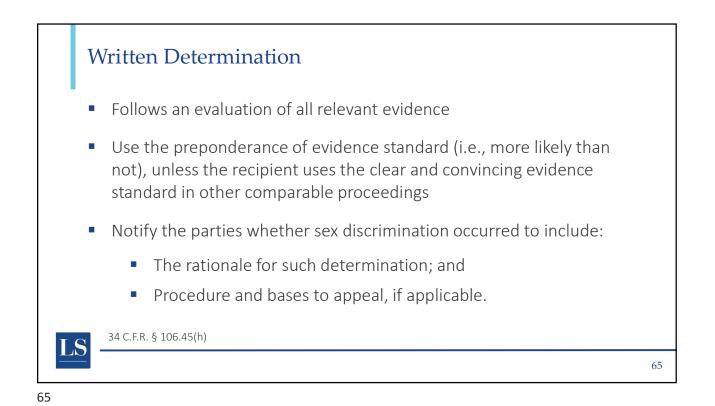


Name of Model	Process	Options
Single Investigator	T IX Coordinator = Investigator = Decision-maker	Can have someone else sign off on decision
Single Investigator +	T IX Coordinator = Investigator $ ightarrow$ Decision-maker	Inv. makes recommended finding
Title IX Coordinator/ Decision-Maker	T IX Coordinator $\rightarrow$ Investigator $\rightarrow$ T IX Coordinator/Decision-maker	Have Inv. make recommended finding
2020 Regs	T IX Coordinator $ ightarrow$ Investigator $ ightarrow$ Decision-maker	Have DM collaborate with Investigator regarding questions DM may have

Hypothetical		
Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
You receive a complaint that an administrator is sexually harassing an employee.	You are a Title IX coordinator at a very small district. The District receives a complaint that a student sexually assaulted another student.	You receive a complaint that a transgender student is being harassed for their gender identity. You are close friends with the parent of the transgender student.
What	investigative model do yo	ou use?

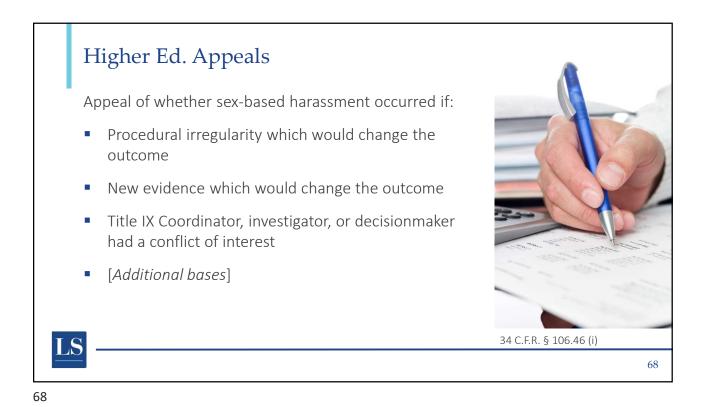






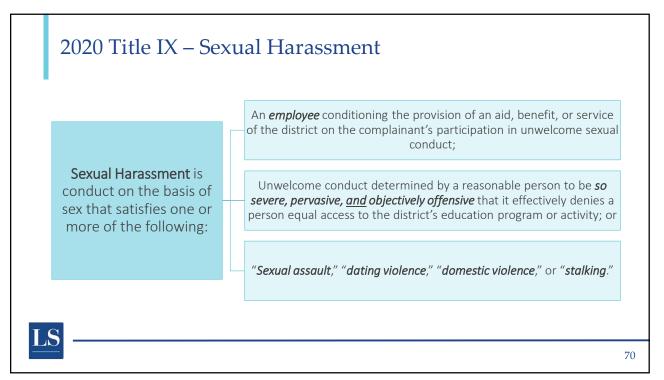


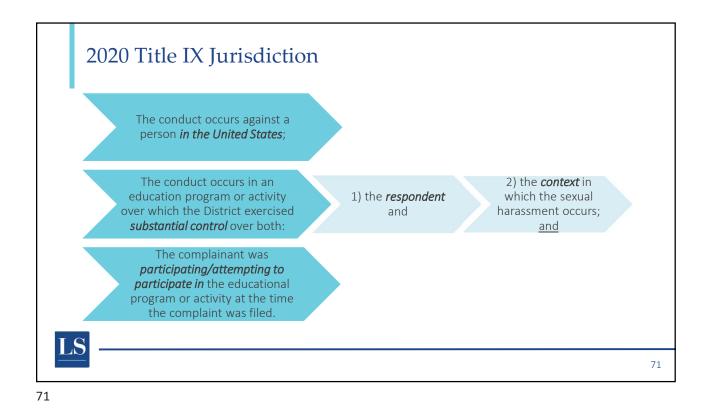




## *Reminder* 2020 Regs Still Apply

69

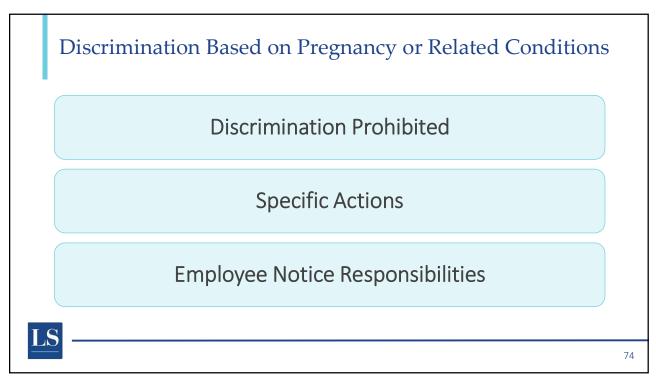






# Pregnancy and Parenting

73



75

76

## Pregnancy and Related Conditions – Students



### Pregnancy and Related Conditions – Students



- Voluntary access to a separate and comparable portion of the education program or activity
- Voluntary leaves of absence
- Lactation space
- Comparable treatment
- Certification to participate

LS

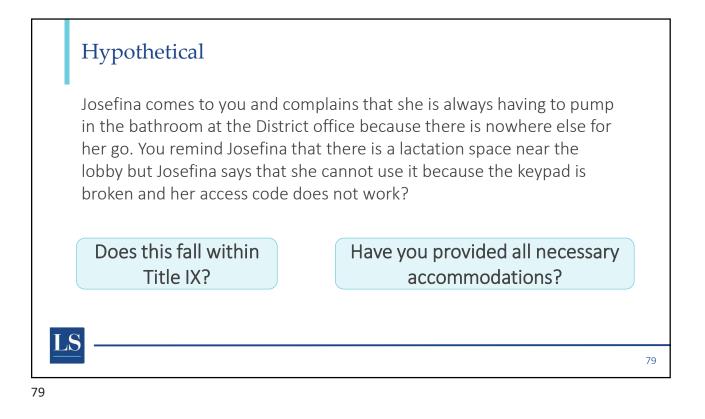
## Hypothetical

Fatima, a senior at Hypo High School, is 7 months pregnant and attending all of her classes each day. In order to best accommodate her needs, you provided Fatima with the accommodation that she can use the restroom whenever needed, as much as needed. Ms. Chen, Fatima's science teacher, thinks that Fatima is using the restroom too much and declines to allow her to use the restroom during her class.

Does this fall within Title IX? Have you provided all necessary accommodations?

77







## **Transform Your Training With LSI**

Designed to meet the growing list of mandatory employee trainings, Illuminate simplifies the process with on-demand access to essential legal curriculum and compliance reporting.

#### **Featured Courses:**

- Title IX All-Employee Training
- Workplace Violence Prevention Program



Illuminate

#### Your go-to source for streamlined employee training programs.



#### illuminate.lozanosmith.com

81



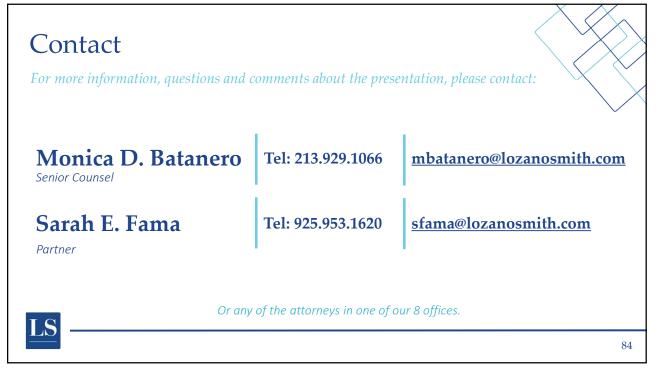
## Thank you from Lozano Smith.

Together with you, we're impacting communities and lives through:

- Professional development
- Volunteer projects
- Sponsorships and award programs
- Scholarships

#### #BlueHatProject #LozanoSmithFoundation





85



#### Copyright © 2024 Lozano Smith

All rights reserved. No portion of this work may be copied, distributed, sold or used for any commercial advantage or private gain, nor any derivative work prepared therefrom, nor shall any sub-license be granted, without the express prior written permission of Lozano Smith through its Managing Partner. The Managing Partner of Lozano Smith thereby grants permission to any client of Lozano Smith to whom Lozano Smith provides a copy to use such copy intact and solely for the internal purposes of such client. By accepting this product, recipient agrees it shall not use the work except consistent with the terms of this limited license.



LS



#### Disclaimer:

These materials and all discussions of these materials are for instructional purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. If you need legal advice, you should contact your local counsel or an attorney at Lozano Smith. If you are interested in having other inservice programs presented, please contact <u>clientservices@lozanosmith.com</u> or call (559) 431-5600.

#### Copyright © 2024 Lozano Smith

All rights reserved. No portion of this work may be copied, distributed, sold or used for any commercial advantage or private gain, nor any derivative work prepared therefrom, nor shall any sublicense be granted, without the express prior written permission of Lozano Smith through its Managing Partner. The Managing Partner of Lozano Smith hereby grants permission to any client of Lozano Smith to whom Lozano Smith provides a copy to use such copy intact and solely for the internal purposes of such client. By accepting this product, recipient agrees it shall not use the work except consistent with the terms of this limited license.