



EEOC

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U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
San Francisco District Office • Seattle Field Office

EEOC Fireside Chat with Vice Chair Jocelyn Samuels + Harassment Investigation and Prevention

May 9, 2023

9:00 am – 12:15 pm PT

AGENDA

Time	Presentation
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8:30 am	Virtual Environment Opens
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9:00 am	Opening Remarks
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Roberta Steele (she, her), Regional Attorney, EEOC San Francisco District Office

9:05 am	EEOC Fireside Chat
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Jocelyn Samuels (she, her), Vice Chair, EEOC

Get the latest EEO updates, including recent significant court rulings, the new civil rights law enforced by EEOC (Pregnant Worker Fairness Act), and the forthcoming Strategic Enforcement Plan in this conversation with Vice Chair Samuels.

10:05 am	Break
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10:10 am	Preventing Harassment and Investigating Complaints
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Christopher Green (he/him), Deputy Director, EEOC San Francisco District Office

Nanisa Pereles (she, her), Program Analyst, EEOC Office of Field Programs

Learn from the experts who train EEOC's own investigators! Build your skills to identify different forms of harassment, conduct effective investigations, and avoid common missteps and hurdles. Our panel also discuss best practices for creating safe and respectful workplace to prevent harassment and discrimination. You can ask questions and engage in a discussion with the experts!

12:10 pm	Closing Remarks
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12:15 pm	Adjourn
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Linda Li (she/her/她) (San Francisco)
(650) 684-0928
linda.li@eeoc.gov

Zachary Florent (he/him/his) (Seattle)
(206) 576-3001
zachary.florent@eeoc.gov



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REGISTRATION FEE: \$175.00 per person

ENROLL HERE: [San Francisco Virtual Workshop](#)

CREDITS:

HRCI – This program has been submitted to the HR Certification Institute for review.

SHRM – submitted for approval

CLE – seeking credits for CA, OR, and WA.

This program has been approved for Federal Counselor or Investigator Refresher credits (3 hours).

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PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHIES



Jocelyn Samuels (she, her), EEOC Vice Chair

Jocelyn Samuels (she, her) was designated by President Biden as Vice Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on January 20, 2021. She joined the EEOC as a Commissioner on October 14, 2020, and on July 14, 2021, was confirmed for a second term ending in 2026.

Immediately prior to joining the Commission, Vice Chair Samuels served as the Executive Director and Roberta A. Conroy Scholar of Law at the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, focusing on legal and social science research on issues related to sexual and gender minorities. From August 2014 through January 2017, she was the Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, where she oversaw civil rights enforcement with respect to hospitals, healthcare providers, insurers, and human services agencies. In that role, she spearheaded development of regulations implementing Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act—the first broad-based federal law to prohibit sex discrimination in healthcare. Among other advances, those groundbreaking regulations protected LGBTQ persons from discrimination based on sex stereotyping and gender identity.

Earlier in the Obama Administration, Vice Chair Samuels served as Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice and held other positions as a political appointee within the DOJ Civil Rights Division. There, she directly supervised litigation combating discrimination in employment and education and oversaw work across a range of civil rights issues, including voting rights, systemic reform of police departments, housing discrimination, prosecution of hate crimes, and protections for individuals with disabilities.

Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Vice Chair Samuels was the Vice President for Education & Employment at the National Women’s Law Center, where she led efforts to promote gender equality. Among other accomplishments there, she spearheaded the campaign that led to enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the first bill signed into law by President Obama. She had previously served as Labor Counsel to Senator Edward M. Kennedy and spent ten years as a senior policy attorney in the Office of Legal Counsel at the EEOC.

Vice Chair Samuels earned her bachelor’s degree magna cum laude with Phi Beta Kappa honors from Middlebury College. She is a graduate of Columbia University Law School where she was a Note Editor for The Columbia Law Review and a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

Vice Chair Samuels has been married for 39 years and has two grown daughters, two dogs, and one granddaughter.

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Christopher Green (he/him), Deputy Director, EEOC San Francisco District

As the Deputy Director of the EEOC's San Francisco District Office, Christopher Green (he/him) helps manage the District's operations, including the enforcement of federal laws prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and retaliation in the workplace. Mr. Green has extensive experience presenting on various EEO topics. He has been an instructor for EEOC's internal investigator training since 2018 and served on the coordination team since 2020. He started as an investigator with the EEOC's Oakland office, and later served as the Director of the San Diego and Albuquerque offices. Prior to the EEOC, he worked for a variety of non-profit organizations involved with youth empowerment and immigrant civic engagement programs. Mr. Green graduated from the University of California - San Diego where he studied U.S.-Mexico border issues.



Nanisa S. Pereles (she, her), Program Analyst, EEOC Office of Field Programs

Prior to serving as a Program Analyst at the EEOC, Ms. Pereles (she, her) worked for the agency as Supervisory Investigator coaching teams of investigators involved in all types of employment discrimination cases. In addition to training and mentoring EEOC Investigators from coast to coast, Ms. Pereles was selected to train both internal and external customers on EEOC's statutes and has been part of national development teams for investigative training and compliance materials. She has led teams of investigators for over a decade with a focus on partnership, empathy, and efficiency. Those efforts led to strong results including millions of dollars in relief for affected parties. She is a graduate of the Partnership for Public Service Leadership Program.

Prior to the EEOC, she was an Immigration Officer and a High School Teacher. Ms. Pereles received a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a Master of Arts in Communications from Oklahoma State University.



Roberta L. Steele (she, her), Regional Attorney, EEOC San Francisco District

Roberta L. Steele (she, her) was appointed Regional Attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) San Francisco District Office effective Nov. 2, 2015. Throughout her legal career, Steele has worked exclusively as a plaintiffs' attorney, with a significant practice in employment discrimination law. For 17 years, Steele worked with a plaintiffs' firm in Oakland, California, focusing on investigating and litigating class and collective actions under federal and state employment discrimination laws, as well as other statutes such as the wage and hour and environmental laws. Just prior to working for the EEOC, Steele was the Program Director at the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) where she was responsible for the coordination of NELA's amicus, judicial nominations and continuing legal education programs, and public policy work.

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