

# DEFENSIVE DRAFTING of HANDBOOKS



**CONNIE CORNELL**  
1607 West Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701  
[ccornell@cornellsmith.com](mailto:ccornell@cornellsmith.com)  
(512) 328-1540



## EEO Policy

- Address Disability Accommodation Requests
- Address Religious Accommodation Requests
- Address Reporting of Discrimination Concerns (Not just harassment concerns)



# Harassment Policy

- Sex, Race, Religion .....(Gender Stereotyping; Sexual Orientation; Transgender Status)
- Employees / Customers / Vendors
- Report discrimination / harassment to (HR & Top Management)

# Harassment Policy

- Don't encourage confronting the harasser!!!
- Confronting harassers is not a report!
- Don't assume others know it is unwelcomed (Don't rely on a witness to report for you)

# Harassment Policy

- **Investigate / Take appropriate action.**

“The Company may decide in some circumstances that in order to maintain the integrity of its investigation and our role in it in confidence.”

- **No retaliation for complainant or witness**

- **Retaliation – report same way.**

# Dating & Workplace Romance

- Management prohibited from dating staff
- No favoritism
- No PDA
- Rules to break up (24/7 rules on harassment)

Also available as part of the eCourse

[2020 Essential Employment Law eConference](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  
2020 Essential Employment Law: A Practical Course in the Basics session  
"Handbooks / Employment Policies"