

**Speaker Bios**

**Sexual Orientation and Transgender Issues in the Workplace with EEOC Commissioner Chai Feldblum**

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

**Chai Feldblum**

**Chai Feldblum** began her service as Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in April 2010. She was confirmed by the Senate for a second term, which will end on July 1, 2018.

During Commissioner Feldbum's service on the Commission, she has focused on all the employment civil rights issues within the jurisdiction of the EEOC. She has focused in particular on the employment of people with disabilities, pregnancy accommodation, sexual orientation and transgender discrimination, harassment prevention, the structure and process of the federal sector complaint system and strategic planning for the Commission.

Prior to her appointment to the EEOC, Commissioner Feldblum was a Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center.  She founded the Law Center's Federal Legislation and Administrative Clinic, which represented a range of organizational clients focused on social justice.  She also founded Workplace Flexibility 2010, a policy enterprise focused on finding common ground between employers and employees on workplace flexibility issues.

Commissioner Feldblum played a leading role in helping to draft and negotiate the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. She has also worked to advance lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights and was one of the drafters of the original Employment Nondiscrimination Act.

Commissioner Feldblum is the first openly lesbian Commissioner of the EEOC and is the fourth person with a disability to serve on the Commission.

Commissioner Feldblum clerked for Judge Frank Coffin of the First Circuit Court of Appeals and for Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun after receiving her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She received her B.A. degree from Barnard College.

**Dylan Pollack**

**Dylan S. Pollack** is Director & Counsel at Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, based in New York. He is responsible for providing Employment Law advice and counsel to hundreds of managers in the United States, Canada and around the globe concerning all aspects of the employee-employer relationship including hiring, separation, compensation, family and medical leave, disability accommodation, wage and hour, worker misclassification, reductions-in-force, social media and electronic communications, performance management, discipline, workplace policies, internal investigations and whistleblowing. Mr. Pollack has represented Credit Suisse in dozens of mediations, arbitrations and court proceedings and is also a subject matter expert in the field of Employment Law training, having conducted hundreds of dignity-at-work and EEO training sessions for thousands of Credit Suisse employees worldwide.

Mr. Pollack joined Credit Suisse in 2010. Prior to joining Credit Suisse, Mr. Pollack practiced Labor & Employment law with Proskauer Rose LLP, where he represented employers in numerous union and non-union industries including financial services, professional sports, publishing, television and transportation.

Mr. Pollack received his law degree from the Fordham University School of Law, where he was a member of the Fordham Law Review. He earned his Bachelor of Science from Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

**Martin L. Schmelkin**

**Marty Schmelkin,** Partner at Jones Day, served as an in-house employment counsel for 15 years at a leading global financial institution, providing him with a practical and business-oriented perspective that he brings to the practice. Marty represents employers in all aspects of employment law, advising on litigation strategy, leading workplace training programs, coordinating the implementation of policies and programs across multiple global jurisdictions, and counseling on recruitment, hiring, compensation, promotions, as well as disciplinary and termination activity. Marty understands the legal and business challenges facing employers and has a particular in-depth experience with financial services firms, including investment banks, hedge funds, private equity firms, and asset managers. He counsels financial services firms on employment related FINRA arbitrations and regulatory filings.

Marty has worked extensively in the area of corporate diversity and regularly advises employers on their implementation of US and global diversity policies and programs. Marty also has broad experience with the obligations of federal contractors including the preparation of affirmative action plans and responses to OFCCP and related regulatory audits.

Prior to joining Jones Day, Marty worked for 15 years in the legal department of Goldman Sachs, where he was a managing director and associate general counsel in the employment law group. While there he spent time in the firm's Hong Kong office covering employment law matters throughout Asia and also had responsibility for employment law in non-U.S. offices in the Americas. Marty is a member of the board of the Cornell University School of Industrial & Labor Relations (ILR) Alumni Association.

**Micah Wissinger**

**Micah Wissinger** is a Partner at Levy Ratner. As counsel to the Fast Food Workers Committee in New York City, Micah Wissinger is one of the architects of landmark litigation before the National Labor Relations Board involving McDonald’s Corporation.  The breadth and scope of the case are unprecedented resulting in an

ongoing hearing before an Administrative Judge to determine whether McDonald’s is liable for its franchisees’ workplace violations, include retaliation for attempts to unionize.  Micah is the primary attorney representing the union at the hearing.

Behind the case, says Micah, is the story of a big corporation “doing incredibly well when folks don’t have enough money to meet their basic needs.”  When McDonald’s workers would meet Micah at the NLRB to give affidavits in support of their charges, he would discover they didn’t have subway fare to get home or that they had worked straight through the previous night without anything to eat.

Micah’s passion for justice was ignited when he was introduced to labor law as a Northeastern University law student.  “It just clicked,” he says. “I thought: The labor movement is the best of what I believe in and a proven way to lift people out of poverty.”  During law school, Micah completed internships with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Communications Workers of America and Levy Ratner. After graduation, he served as a law fellow with SEIU. Subsequently, Micah became an Assistant General Counsel at SEIU, where he coordinated corporate responsibility and hospital organizing campaigns nationwide for nearly five years.

Micah Wissinger joined Levy Ratner in 2007. With extensive experience in union recognition matters and negotiating organizing agreements with national employers, he works in all aspects of the firm’s labor practice.  He represents unions and individual employees in arbitration, litigation and in proceedings before the NLRB, EEOC and other administrative agencies and has negotiated collective bargaining agreements covering thousands of workers. Micah is often consulted by union clients for his expertise in organizing strategy and to review publications and press pieces. He has litigated and settled wage and hour disputes, represented individuals in employment discrimination matters and routinely provides counsel to transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. He was named to the NY Super Lawyers Rising Star list for 2014, 2015 and 2016.