



**Employee Relations** 

**Supervision September 2019** 



## **Employee Relations**



Better to Know Us and Not Need Us
Than to Need Us and Not Know Us

## Today's Agenda

- Purpose and Role
- Associations and Unions
- Protected Union Activities
- Relationships with Unions
- Employment Laws
- Discrimination
- Retaliation



# Purpose

Protect the Employment Rights for Employees, Supervisors, Managers, Associations and Unions, and Sheriff.

Resolve Disputes with Associations and Unions over Working Conditions.

# Who was your Best Coach and Why?



**Employee Relations Starts** with a Good Supervisor

#### **Good Talent Management**

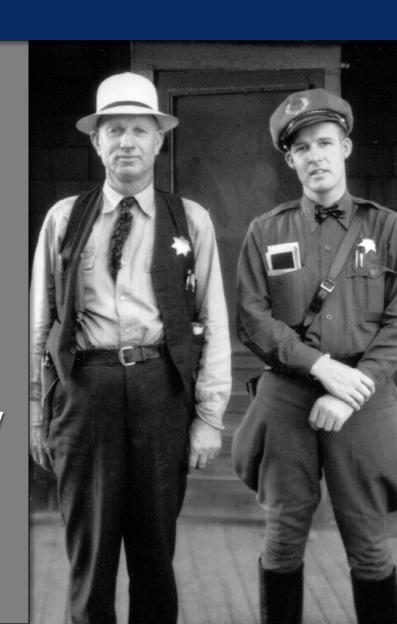
Communicate **Know your Staff** How will Staff React **Forecast Outcomes Build Healthy Teams** Prevent IA's



"Every day is a Training Day. Every Event is a Training Event."

#### Transitioning from a Peer to Supervisor

- Separate Personal Relationships From Professional
- Let Staff Know You Take Your Responsibilities
- Seriously
- Treat All Employees Equally
- Ask For Help 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Manager
- Be Honest



# Role

Negotiate Labor Contracts (MOAs)

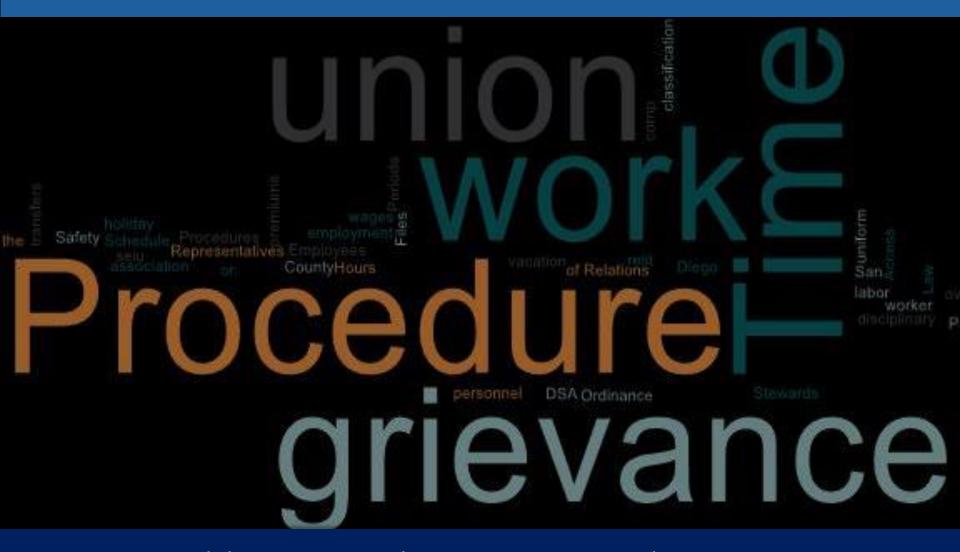
Monitor Compliance with Labor Contracts

Advise Sheriff's Management on

HR Issues.

Manage Grievance, Appeals, and other Hearings

## When you feel like this ....



Call Employee Relations

What Happens When I Call.... Employee Relations?

Performance Issues
Grievances

Effect Wages, Hours, Working Conditions

Low Level Discipline

IA Referrals

Discrimination Retaliation



HR Advisors regarding Supervision

#### What's the Difference – ER and IA?

Log Event / Performance Impact **Employee** Doc of Verbal Counseling (DOVC) Relations Order (Courtesy and Sick Leave) Written Reprimand Internal Suspension **Affairs Demotion Termination** 

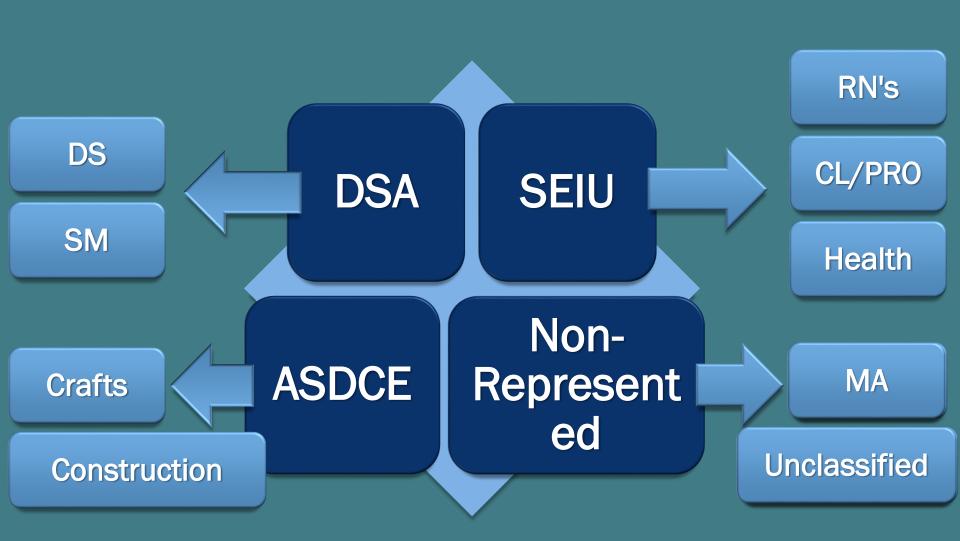
#### Memorandums Of Agreements (MOA)



- Wages
- Hours of Work, Premiums, and Unpaid Leaves
- Meet and Confer or Meet and Discuss
- Personnel Practices

- Unfair Labor Practices
- Allowances for Work-Related Expenditures (Uniforms)
- Grievance Procedure
- No Discrimination

# Multiple Unions & MOA's



#### Protected Union Activities



**Conduct Worksite Visits** 

Release Time to Represent Employees

#### What is the Role of the Union?

Contact Supervisors to Discuss Issues

**EPR Appeals** 

**Grievance Process** 

Discipline – IA Interviews and Attend Skelly Conferences

Attend Labor Management Mtgs.

Negotiations

# Weingarten Rights "I Want my Union Representative"



- Right to a Union Representative if Discipline is possible
- Better to err on the side of Caution.

#### Union Access for Worksite Organizers

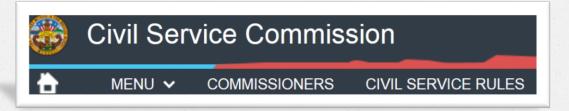
- Representative is on Current List
- Request Prior Approval
  - No Interference with Work Operations
- Can meet with employees on Non-County time
  - **Break and Lunch Periods**

## Contact Employee Relations

California Employment Laws
Discrimination
Retaliation



#### **Employment Discrimination**









#### California's Employment Complexities

**Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act** - Employers cannot use genetic information to make an employment decision.

**Religious Accommodation** - Reasonably to Accommodate Employees' Religious Practices.

Pay Inequity - California Bans on Asking Applicants About Past Salary. Employers Can Not Rely On Old Salary Data To Decide Current Salary.

**Transgender Rights** – Protects against discrimination based on sex stereotypes or gender non-conformity.

**Breastfeeding Breaks** - California Employers Must Provide A Reasonable Amount Of Break Time To Accommodate An Employee's Need To Express Breast Milk For Her Infant Child.

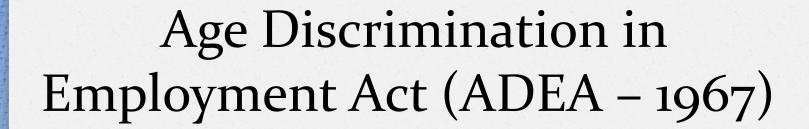
**Ban the Box** – Employers cannot ask any questions on a job application that asks about the applicant's criminal conviction history.



#### Civil Rights Act of 1964 "Title VII"

It is illegal to discriminate based on

Race, Color, Sex, Religion and National Origin.

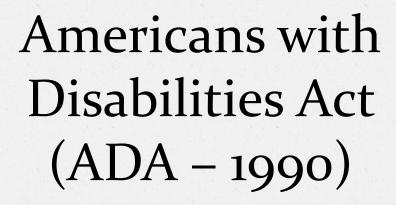




# Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA of 1978)



# Prohibits discrimination on based on **Pregnancy**





Prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including WORK.

Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA 1993)



Provides Employees with Job-Protection and Unpaid Leave for Medical and Family Reasons





Retaliation

#### Introduction

As part of human nature, people want to or actually do lash out (retaliate) against those who accuse them of wrongdoings.

This tendency is particularly perilous for supervisors whose employees have accused them of employment law violations.

# re-tal-i-a-tion rəˌtalē'āSH(ə)n/

noun

noun: retaliation; plural noun: retaliations

The action of harming someone because they have harmed oneself; revenge. "protectionism invites retaliation"

#### Retaliation

It is illegal for an employer to retaliate against any employee who is engaged in protected activity.

You cannot discharge, demote, suspend or discipline in any manner an employee who engages in this protected

activity.



#### **Components of Retaliation**

- Employee engaged in a Protected Activity
- An Adverse Action taken by the employer/manager against the employee.
- Connection existed between the protected activity and the adverse action



#### Reasonable Person Standard

- The situation must be viewed from the perspective of a reasonable, third party
- Would a reasonable person, facing the same situation, find the behavior hostile, offensive, intimidating, or retaliatory



# Federal Employment Laws That Include Protection Against Retaliation

The major employment laws that provide for protection against retaliation are:

- Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA).
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII).
- Equal Pay Act (EPA).
- Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).
- Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

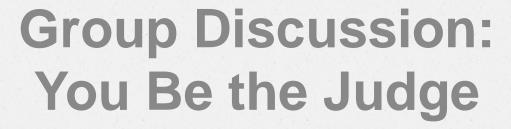




## **Employee Relations**



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- Mary filed an EEO grievance with HR six months ago.
- She has always been hard to supervise. You want someone else to manage her, and you instructed HR to transfer her to another department.
- O HR says the only available position may involve a change in title and pay. Would transferring her be considered discrimination, harassment or retaliation?



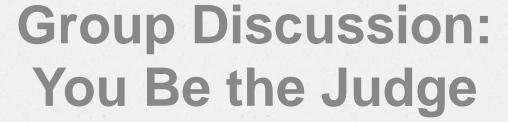


Mary filed an EEO grievance. You instructed HR to transfer her to another department, but it changes her pay.

#### Maybe – Retaliation

- What was the EEO complaint regarding discrimination? It's a protected activity - So was she transferred because she complained?
- What if it was a lower paying job? So she was demoted because she complained protected activity?

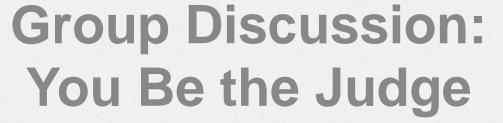






- Bill constantly complains that his back hurts. You are so tired of hearing his complaints that you told him he cannot work until he provides you with proof that he has seen a doctor and the doctor says he is fit to work.
- Furthermore, he must provide you with a copy of the diagnosis and any prescriptions. Although Bill complains a lot, there are no significant attendance or performance issues.
- Are your actions illegal discrimination, harassment or retaliation?







- The Union Representative Requests to conduct a walk-through to hand out union literature to employees at their desks during working hours.
- Management has determined it would be Disruptive to Operations.
- What do you do?



#### **Union Access**

- All SEIU Worksite Organizers get Backgrounded to Access Sheriff Facilities.
- Worksite visits should be scheduled through Employee Relations
- Times and Dates should be Coordinate with our Facilities.
- SEIU or DSA Representatives who are providing representation for grievance, performance evaluations, or Internal Affairs investigations are not required to contact Employee Relations, nor are they required to contact the Facility Commander prior to attending these meetings.



#### The Judge says...

He cannot work until he provides you with proof that he has seen a doctor and the doctor says he is fit to work.

#### What about an Accommodation?

He must provide you with a copy of the diagnosis and any prescriptions.

What about his Privacy?

Failed to Accommodate Disability
Does not need to provide HIPPA Info