



Words May Inspire but Only Action Creates Change: Where Are We Today?

Description:

Almost one year ago corporate America joined activists and concerned citizens in condemning the deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and countless other Black Americans. Numerous corporate statements of support were shared in support of the Black Lives Matter movement acknowledging centuries of oppression and that more must be done to eradicate the existing systems that perpetuate inequities.

Many viewed the broad corporate statements of support with skepticism and noted that charitable giving and statements alone will not effectuate real change. Others noted the disconnect between what businesses were saying and actually doing. Why is this moment different than countless others? Is this a moment or movement? These are just a few questions that were raised as pledges of support and change proliferated across our country. Confronted with this stark reality of systemic racism in our society and the public's skepticism; corporate leaders, advocates, and lawyers united to demand meaningful change; calling for an end to systemic racism, encouraging personal and institutional reflection to further anti-racism and sharing action plans with measurable goals and accountability.

This panel will discuss where are we now one year later and what has been the impact on the legal profession. Leaders will share their personal and organizational commitments to change, transparency and accountability, and the action plans they are implementing to build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace.

Reference Materials:

- [Will the Law Firm Diversity Push Falter as Protests Fade?](#)
- [Corporate America: Speaking Up On Systemic Racism Is Only The First Step. Now Let's Act.](#)
- [The 10 Commitments Companies Must Make to Advance Racial Justice](#)
- [U.S. Businesses Must Take Meaningful Action Against Racism](#)
- [Here's What Companies Are Promising to Do to Fight Racism](#)
- [Black Lives Matter: Corporate America Has Pledged \\$1.678 Billion So Far](#)
- [Urged to back up pledges for racial justice, 34 major firms commit to disclose government workforce data](#)
- [What an Anti-Racist Business Strategy Looks Like](#)
- [A Step In The Right Direction: CEOs Pledge To Train And Hire One Million Black Workers In The Next 10 Years](#)
- [CEOs of Big Companies Pledge \\$100 Million for Initiative to Hire 1 Million Black Workers](#)
- [Getting Serious About Diversity: Enough Already with the Business Case](#)
- [MCCA Inclusion Index Survey Report: Leading During Crisis](#)
- [Your Black colleagues want you to do more when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Here's how to turn intent into action.](#)
- [GM CEO Mary Barra names 'inclusion' team in bid to act on social equality commitment](#)
- [Merck and GM Join Group Pledging 1 Million Black Hires in a Decade](#)
- [Responding to the OFCCP on our June diversity commitments](#)
- [Microsoft's Law Firm Diversity Program 2020 awards and the next evolution of the program](#)