

Joseph Wheeler

Joseph Wheeler is an attorney in the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Mr. Wheeler provides legal and policy guidance on Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in federally funded educational programs. In recent years, Mr. Wheeler's work has focused on schools' Title IX obligation to address sexual violence against students, Title IX requirements for single-sex education, and the Title IX rights of LGBT students.

Prior to joining the Education Department, Mr. Wheeler worked in private practice representing school districts and colleges in New York and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Armenia. Mr. Wheeler received his J.D. at Cornell Law School and his B.A. in International Studies at American University. He is a member of the bar in New York and the District of Columbia

Melissa Brand – Will be staying for lunch

Melissa Brand began working with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 2007 after she was hired through the Commission's Honor Attorney Program. Melissa currently works in the Agency's Office of Federal Operations in Washington, DC, as an Appellate Review Attorney. In this position, Melissa has written over 1000 decisions on behalf of the Commission for appeals from federal employees' claims of employment

discrimination under Title VII, the Rehabilitation Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Equal Pay Act, and GINA. Melissa frequently provides trainings and presentations to federal Agencies on anti-discrimination laws. Melissa has also worked as an EEOC Administrative Judge in the Agency's Washington Field Office, where she presided over hearings and adjudicated complaints of discrimination at the hearing stage from employees of the federal government.

Melissa is a currently a member of an OFO workgroup that is tasked with analyzing issues affecting LGBT federal employees in the workplace and identifying recommendations on how to overcome those issues. Melissa has worked on similar workgroups and co-authored published reports for African Americans and Women in the federal workplace.

Christopher Seely

Chris Seely became the Branch Chief of Regulatory, Legislative, and Policy Development, in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs in December 2014. In this position, he works on implementing and developing regulations, policies, and guidance both for Federal contractors and for OFCCP staff. Most recently, he has worked on guidance implementing the new protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity and the final rule that prohibits pay secrecy policies. Prior to becoming the policy branch chief, Mr. Seely worked as an equal employment opportunity specialist in OFCCP's Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta.

Lori Kisch

Lori Kisch is Special Litigation Counsel in the Employment Litigation Section (ELS) of the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice. As Special Litigation Counsel, Ms. Kisch represents the United States in Title VII litigation against state and local governments. Her work includes seeking relief in Title VII cases on behalf of LGBT individuals, which recently included the filing of Statements of Interest in *Jamal v. Saks & Co.*, 14-cv-2782 (S.D. Tex) and *Burnett v. City of Philadelphia-Free Library, et al.*, No. 09-cv-4348 (E. D. Pa).