

Changing Culture, Supporting Victims
Tackling Rape and Sexual Harassment at
Universities and Colleges

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Tuesday December 5th 2017
10:15am – 4:30pm

Los Angeles

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.



Changing Culture, Supporting Victims

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Overview

Following the sentencing of Brock Turner, a 20-year old Stanford University student for sexual assault in June 2016 to a six-month jail term, which was widely-condemned as too lenient (of which he served three months), rape at universities was brought firmly into the spotlight. The case garnered international attention and ignited a national debate on ways to respond to rape and sexual harassment on college campuses.

In response, in September 2016, Governor Jerry Brown (D) signed legislation, Assembly Bill 2888, which will result in harsher punishments for some offenders convicted of rape or sexual assault, meaning that offenders will now receive a prison sentence and cannot be given only probation. At the same time, Assembly Bill 701 expanded the state's definition of rape beyond the use or threat of physical force. In addition, in 2015 California was the first state to require colleges and universities to adopt a policy of affirmative consent during campus sexual assault investigations. Since June 2016, it has also been mandatory for high schools to teach students about sexual consent.

These measures are particularly significant given that data from University of California campuses show sexual harassment as a widespread problem across the ten campuses. Records covering a period from January 2013 to April 2016, released following a request from the Bay Area News Group and a number of other news outlets, reveal that UC disciplined over 100 employees. UC San Francisco reported 26 cases, UCLA 25, Berkeley, 19 and Stanford 26 (in 2014), the tenth highest across the nation. Approximately 58 percent of the cases were generated by complaints from staff members, 35 percent were from student complaints, while the rest were unknown or anonymous.

In cases of employee-student harassment, transparency and investigation has proved challenging, especially as students have alleged the existence of a double standard in the treatment of university staff (who were routinely fired or forced to resign) and tenured faculty members (many of whom were allowed to keep their jobs). University of California has responded by implementing new policies, including the use of a campus committee review for those senior leaders found to have engaged in sexual misconduct in order to ensure a fair outcome. In one recent high-profile case at UC Santa Cruz, the university agreed to pay the student concerned \$1.5 million after she alleged her claims were not properly investigated.

This timely symposium provides an invaluable opportunity for universities, community and private colleges, Title IX coordinators, health professionals, security officers and other stakeholders to come together to discuss latest developments, progress, challenges and next steps in tackling rape, sexual assault and harassment at universities and colleges across California.



Sexually assaulting an unconscious or intoxicated victim is a terrible crime and our laws need to reflect that...This bill is about more than sentencing, it's about supporting victims and changing the culture on our college campuses to help prevent future crimes.

- Democratic Assemblyman Bill Dodd, co-author of Assembly Bill 2888, August 2016

Why Attend?

- ✓ Assess the impact of the use of harsher punishments and giving a prison sentence to offenders as a way to tackle and prevent rape and sexual harassment
- ✓ Explore ways to embed a culture shift that promotes safe campuses to prevent sexual harassment and assault
- ✓ Understand the role of education and university policies in increasing awareness and preventing rape and sexual harassment
- ✓ Focus on ways to ensure investigation and adjudication is clear, fair and transparent
- ✓ Consider ways to overcome the barriers to reporting rape and sexual assault to encourage victims to come forward
- ✓ Gain insights into ways to support victims effectively through increased communication and collaboration
- ✓ Identify ways to promote more effective collaboration, resource-sharing and partnership to ensure targeted support and guidance
- ✓ Share best practice and hear from colleagues on the most significant challenges in tackling rape and sexual assault, discuss progress, success and next steps

Who Should Attend?

- Executive Director/Assistant Directors of Title IX
- Title IX Investigators/Trainers/Coordinators
- Sexual Violence Prevention Specialists
- Directors of Training and Compliance
- Directors of Community Safety/Security
- CARE Survivor Advocates
- Deans/Associate Deans of Students
- Directors of Human Resources
- Equality and Diversity Officers
- Health Educators
- Victim Advocates
- Academic Advisors
- University Stakeholders
- Rape and Sexual Assault Support Centres
- Sexual Offence Liaison Officers
- Police Services
- Crime Prevention Officers
- Prosecutors of Sexual Offences
- Legal Professionals
- Outreach and Support Teams
- Academics and Researchers

Accommodation

Details to be available shortly



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Programme

09:30	Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:15	Chair's Welcome and Introduction
10:30	Session One: Developing an Effective Response to Tackling Rape and Sexual Harassment at Universities and Colleges across California <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring ways to embed a culture shift that promotes safe campuses that are free from sexual harassment and assault• Assessing the impact of harsher punishments for offenders in reducing and preventing rape and sexual harassment at universities and colleges across California• Enabling university leaders to respond quickly and appropriately to sexual assault – examining the policy of affirmative consent and the impact of educating students on sexual consent• Tackling the prevalence of drugs and alcohol in sexual assaults – understanding the relationship between substance use and non-consensual sexual activity on university campuses• Ensuring investigation and adjudication is clear, transparent and fair – understanding the role of universities in working with law enforcement and courts
11:15	Morning Refreshments
11:30	Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One
12:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	Session Two: Supporting Victims and Creating a Safe Space through Awareness, Communication and Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overcoming barriers to reporting rape and sexual assaults – creating a safe and supportive space for students and others to come forward• Developing and delivering public awareness campaigns that challenge harmful attitudes and educate on active bystander responses• Promoting a coordinated response – ensuring campus, community and health services share resources and work in partnership to provide targeted support and guidance• Sharing best practice on the importance of providing training for staff and students – assessing the effectiveness of Title IX training and considering what more can be done• Supporting victims effectively – reviewing existing support services across campuses and focusing on minority students and hard to reach groups
14:15	Afternoon Refreshments
14:30	Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two
15:30	Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
15:40	Networking Reception
16:30	Close

** Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice **

Event Details

Date: Tuesday December 5th 2017

Time: 10:15am – 4:30pm

Venue: Los Angeles

Forthcoming Events

Future events to be announced shortly



Tackling Bullying in California Schools: Increasing Awareness, Engagement, Collaboration and Support for Students
Wednesday December 13th 2017

Tackling Overcrowding in California's Prisons: Reducing Costs, Considering Alternatives and Rehabilitating Offenders
Thursday January 18th 2018

Evaluating Priorities for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in California: Promoting Partnership to Improve Services
Tuesday January 23rd 2018

Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

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