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The Faragher-Ellerth Defense

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• A case about lifeguards behaving poorly

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Ellerth A boorish supervisor and an employee who did not report

Defense can apply even in face of atrocious misbehavior

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First Prong

- Reasonable care to prevent and promptly address • harassment
- Written policies
- Reporting mechanisms
- Prompt follow-throughThorough investigation of harassment • Specific disciplinary actions not required

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Second Prong

- Employee unreasonably failed to take advantage of employer's mechanisms
- Employer educated employee about mechanisms
- Employee had full opportunity
- If employee utilizes mechanisms, probably no defense

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A Defense Against Other **Discrimination Claims**

• Race, religion, sexual orientation (not just sex-based harassment)

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Questions?

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