

Weighing Life, Liability, & Lawsuits: How Legal Precedent Impacts Proactive Anti-Hazing Strategies

Program Abstract

Greek Letter Organizations, Advisors, Graduate Chapters, and University Administrators must embrace preventive approaches to anti-hazing education & policies for all organizations on their campuses. This interactive session will provide the campus community and your leadership team with legally sound practices that protect students and the university, while engaging in discussions about the value of “tradition.”

Learning Outcomes

Program participants will leave with increased knowledge of the following:

- Evaluating current processes & amend policies for campus wide implementation of anti-hazing education initiatives;
- Recognizing policy loopholes or language that may not adequately meet legal precedent for due diligence; and
- Ability to utilize best practices in managing anti-hazing education for a range of fraternities, sororities, student organizations and athletic programs.

Program Goals

- To provide administrative team with legally sound practices to use as basis for anti-hazing education;
- To empower students with educative options to combat hazing;
- To provide pertinent approaches to managing campus wide hazing policies that are rooted in trends supported by legal decisions rendered across the United States;
- To share trends about behavior that indicates under-the-radar hazing rituals; and
- To identify already existing programs & educative strategies that can be utilized at your institution.

About the Presenter

Jason L. Meriwether is the Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Indiana. As it relates to this program, Jason has presented at numerous national and regional conferences on hazing. As a part of his professional experience, Jason led a campus wide refinement of the framework and oversight for Anti-Hazing Education for Greek Letter Organizations members and advisors. Jason’s strategies led to reduced hazing complaints while at the same time, increasing the number of Greek Letter Organizations over a four year period. As an advocate for GLO community engagement, Jason is a believer in the service that “Greeks” provide to their communities. In his experience, Jason has organized community service initiatives that have provided over 10,000 documented hours of volunteering, service, and mentoring completed by Greek Letter Organizations.

Jason is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and has worked with the three major recognized national bodies of Greek Life, the IFC, NPHC, & Pan-Hel as well as service, honors, independent, and music fraternities & sororities. Jason’s national presentations on legal issues related to hazing have been the subject of cover stories in the Student Affairs Today Newsletter and in College Athletics and the Law, and Jason has conducted national webinars about hazing for www.studentaffairs.com. Jason and a group of research partners will be presenting on the topic, “Hazing on Campus, not just a Greek Problem” at the 2014 national conferences for the American College Personnel Association & the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.