

# Webinar Housekeeping

- Questions can be entered via the Q&A widget open on the left-hand side of your screen. We will address questions at the end of the program, time permitting.
- The recorded version of this presentation will be available on Foley.com in the next few days and you can get a copy of the slides in the Resource List widget on the right-hand side of your screen.



**BREAKOUT SESSION** 

The Rapidly-Changing Landscape of the Board's Role in Overseeing Corporate Compliance

#### **PRESENTERS**



#### **Beth Boland**

Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP bboland@foley.com 617.226.3179



## Rohan Virginkar

Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP rvirginkar@foley.com 202.295.4058



#### **Mary Huser**

Vice President,
Deputy General Counsel,
Risk and Regulatory
Airbnb

Thanks to Olivia Singelmann, Senior Counsel, Litigation, Foley & Lardner LLP for her assistance with this presentation.

# Flash Poll #1

- On a scale of 1-5 (1 not confident, 5 very confident), how confident are you in the strength of your enterprise risk assessment?
- On a scale of 1-5 (1 not confident, 5 very confident), how confident are you about your organization's internal compliance program?



# DOJ Guidance on Corporate Compliance Programs

# **Compliance Overview**

The Compliance Mission: Try to prevent bribery and corruption; but if detected, company must respond appropriately

#### **PREVENT**

Commitment, Oversight & Resources



- Risk Assessments
- Policies & Procedures
- Contractual Provisions
- Training & Communications

#### DETECT

Periodic Testing & Review



- Monitoring & Continuous Improvement
- Ethics Hotline
- Third-Party Due Diligence

#### **RESPOND**



- Internal Investigations
- Incentives & Discipline
- Remediation





- DOJ/SEC's Resource Guide to the U.S. FCPA (July 2020, Second Edition)
  - Identifies the Hallmarks of Effective Compliance Programs

# Ten Hallmarks of an Effective Compliance Program

- 1. Commitment from Senior Management
- 2. Code of Conduct, Compliance Policies, & Procedures
- 3. Oversight, Autonomy, & Resources
- Risk Assessment
- 5. Training & Continuing Advice
- 6. Incentives & Disciplinary Measures
- 7. Third Party Due Diligence and Payments
- 8. Confidential Reporting & Internal Investigation
- 9. On-going Improvement: Periodic Testing & Review
- 10. M&A Due Diligence & Integration





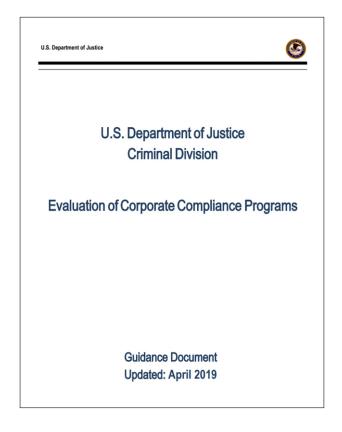
#### DOJ's Evaluation of Corporate Compliance Programs (February 2017)

- Originally published by DOJ's Fraud Section on its website
  - Intended to help inform prosecutorial decisions related to: (i) form of resolution or prosecution; (ii) monetary penalty, if any; and (iii) compliance obligations in corporate resolution (e.g., monitorship, reporting obligations)
- 119 separate questions, organized by the hallmarks, that address a wide range of specific, practical aspects of a company's compliance program
  - The document provides "[s]ome important topics and sample questions that the Fraud Section has frequently found relevant in evaluating a corporate compliance program"





- DOJ's Evaluation of Corporate Compliance Programs (Revised April 2019)
  - Substantive and thoughtful revision that structures prior and additional hallmarkrelated questions/guidance around three "fundamental questions:"
    - 1. "Is the corporation's compliance program well designed?"
    - 2. "Is the program being applied earnestly and in good faith?"
    - 3. "Does the corporation's compliance program work in practice?"





# Among the questions and topic areas identified in the 2017 DOJ Guidance

- Senior and Middle Management
  - Conduct at the Top
  - Shared Commitment
  - Oversight
- Compliance Autonomy and Resources
  - Compliance Role & Stature
  - Empowerment
  - Funding and Resources
- Policies and Procedures
  - Design and Accessibility
  - Operational Integration

- Risk Assessment
  - Risk Management Process
  - Information Gathering and Analysis
  - Training and Communications
    - Risk-based training
    - Effectiveness
    - Communications about Misconduct
- Confidential Reporting and Investigations
  - Effectiveness
  - Scope of Investigations
  - Response to Investigations

- Incentives and Disciplinary Measures
  - Accountability
  - Consistent Application
- Continuous Improvement and Periodic Testing
- Third Party Management
  - Risk-based and Integrated Processes
  - Relationship Management
  - Actions and Consequences
- M&A
  - Due Diligence
  - Integration
  - Implementation



#### DOJ's Evaluation of Corporate Compliance Programs (Revised June 2020)

- Updates made "based on [DOJ's] own experience and important feedback from the business and compliance communities"
  - June 2020 Update retains existing structure around the three fundamental questions
- Evolution of several compliance themes
  - Consideration of individual company's circumstances, risks, and business realities
  - Emphasis on data to test programs and track effectiveness
  - Focus on evolution of compliance programs
  - More critical analysis of alleged complications due to foreign laws

#### U.S. Department of Justice Criminal Division

#### **Evaluation of Corporate Compliance Program**

(Updated June 2020)

#### Introduction

The "Principles of Federal Prosecution of Business Organizations" in the Justice Manual describe specific factors that prosecutors should consider in conducting an investigation of a corporation, determining whether to bring charges, and negotiating plea or other agreements. JM 9-28,300. These factors include "the adequacy and effectiveness of the corporation's compliance program at the time of the offense, as well as at the time of a charging decision" and the corporation's remedial efforts "to implement an adequate and effective corporate compliance program or to improve an existing one." JM 9-28.300 (citing JM 9-28.800 and JM 9-28.1000). Additionally, the United States Sentencing Guidelines advise that consideration be given to whether the corporation had in place at the time of the misconduct an effective compliance program for purposes of calculating the appropriate organizational criminal fine. See U.S.S.G. §§ 8B2.1, 8C2.5(f), and 8C2.8(11). Moreover, the memorandum entitled "Selection of Monitors in Criminal Division Matters" issued by Assistant Attorney General Brian Benczkowski (hereafter, the "Benczkowski Memo") instructs prosecutors to consider, at the time of the resolution, "whether the corporation has made significant investments in, and improvements to, its corporate compliance program and internal controls systems" and "whether remedial improvements to the compliance program and internal controls have been tested to demonstrate that they would prevent or detect similar misconduct in the future" to determine

This document is meant to assist prosecutors in making informed decisions as to whether, and to what extent, the corporation's compliance program was effective at the time of the offense, and is effective at the time of a charging decision or resolution, for purposes of determining the appropriate (1) form of any resolution or prosecution; (2) monetary penalty, if any; and (3) compliance obligations contained in any corporate criminal resolution (e.g., monitorship or reporting obligations).

Because a corporate compliance program must be evaluated in the specific context of a criminal investigation, the Criminal Division does not use any rigid formula to assess the effectiveness of corporate compliance programs. We recognize that each company's risk profile and solutions to reduce its risks warrant particularized evaluation. Accordingly, we make a reasonable, individualized determination in each case that considers various factors including, but not limited to, the company's size, industry, geographic footprint, regulatory landscape, and other factors, both internal and external to the company's operations, that might impact its compliance program. There are, however, common questions that we may ask in the course of making an individualized determination. As the Justice Manual notes, there are three "fundamental questions" a prosecutor should ask:

1



# Flash Poll #2

- Of the following metrics, which are the most important for measuring improvement toward your internal compliance goals? <u>Please select up to 3</u>:
  - "Tone at the Top" by leadership
  - Compliance trainings and completion rates
  - Audits/risk assessments/monitoring practices in place
  - Compliance policy updates/revisions
  - Leadership team's response to complaints and investigations
  - Employee surveys
  - Other (please specify)



# **June 2020 DOJ Compliance Updates**

#### Greater consideration of individual company's circumstances and business realities

- Edits recognize that certain topics and questions may not be relevant, while other topics/questions may be more salient, based on the particular facts of a case; prosecutors expressly instructed to consider the unique circumstances of each company
  - Example: Rather than assume a company will complete ABC due diligence pre-acquisition, 2020 Update recognizes that is not often the business reality; additional questions regarding pre- and post-acquisition integration

#### Emphasis on data to test programs and to track effectiveness

- Continued focus on use of data to develop compliance programs; expectation that companies will collect operational data and monitor employee access to policies to improve compliance program
- Additional questions related to (i) compliance department's and control
  personnel's access to relevant data for monitoring and testing internal controls
  and transactions, and (ii) plans to address any limitations such ability to obtain
  or access data



# June 2020 Update – Specific Topics

#### Risk assessments – increased focus on unique risks

- In addition to traditional risks (e.g., geographic, regulatory landscape), risk
  assessments should identify both external and internal company-specific risks based
  on go-to-market strategies, operational history, prior concerns, and issues faced by
  industry competitors
- Policies should be updated periodically to address emerging industry- and companyspecific risks; explanations for why changes were made should be documented

#### Accessibility of policies

- Additional questions on employees' ability to easily access policies
  - Are policies published in a "searchable format for easy reference;" able to be located using internal website search terms?
  - Does the company "track access to various policies and procedures to understand what policies are attracting more attention from relevant employees"?



# June 2020 Update – Specific Topics

#### Targeted and interactive training

- Trainings should be "tailored to the audience's size, sophistication, or subject matter expertise"
  - DOJ recommends companies offer "more targeted training sessions" designed "to enable employees to timely identify and raise issues to appropriate compliance, internal audit, or other risk management functions"
  - Online trainings, in particular, should be targeted and interactive (e.g., test employees' understanding of material, ability to ask questions during training or afterwards)

#### Increased emphasis on reporting channels/hotlines

- Companies must show that reporting channels are effective
  - Testing of reporting channels (e.g., sample tracking of cases from start to finish)
  - Testing of employees' ability to locate information about reporting channels
  - Evidence of consistent and frequent communication about reporting channels



# June 2020 Update - Specific Topics

#### Third-party due diligence; continuous monitoring

 Single, but telling question: "Does the company engage in risk management of third parties throughout the lifespan of the relationship, or primarily during the onboarding process?"

#### Mergers & Acquisitions

- June 2020 Update adds question on "timely and orderly integration" of acquired entities
  - Prior version focused on pre-merger activities, as opposed to post-merger integration



# June 2020 DOJ Compliance Updates (cont'd)

#### Focus on evolution of compliance programs

- Additional consideration given to company's efforts to improve its compliance program over time
  - Compliance programs now evaluated "both at the time of the offense and at the time of the charging decision and resolution"
  - Questions related to how company has revised its program based on risk assessments, audits, internal allegations of misconduct, external factors, and/or industry-related concerns; focus on the "why" behind changes

#### More critical analysis of alleged complications due to foreign laws

- Footnote to 2020 Update instructs prosecutors to question basis for alleged impediments to data transfer and/or inability to fully incorporate compliance procedures or processes due to foreign laws
  - If particular compliance structures or decisions are guided by foreign laws, company should address how it maintains the integrity and effectiveness of its compliance program while still abiding by foreign laws



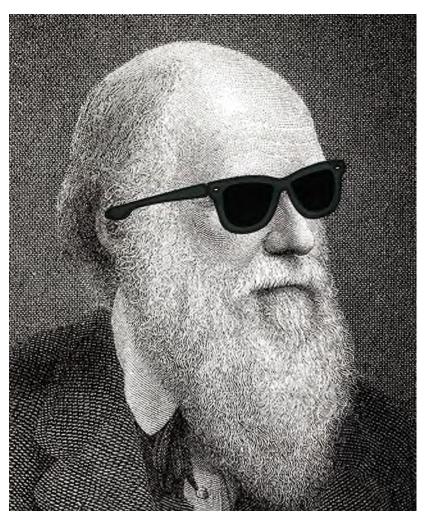
Judicial
Developments
in Board
Oversight
Duties

# **Shift in DE Board Oversight Duties**

- No more "business-as-usual" approach to Board oversight of compliance programs, even where DOJ not involved
  - Shift of standard from "<u>sustained or systematic failure</u> of the board to exercise oversight" (Caremark (1996)) to proactive requirement that directors "<u>must make a good faith effort to implement an oversight system and then monitor it</u>" (Marchand (DE 2019), Clovis (DE Chancery 2019), Hu (DE Chancery 2020)
- Proactive oversight involves similar criteria as DOJ:
  - Consideration of individual company's circumstances, risks, and business realities
  - Emphasis on data to test programs and track effectiveness
  - Focus on evolution of compliance programs
- Failure to execute can result in:
  - Shareholder derivative suits, for breach of fiduciary duty
  - Shareholder class action suits, for risk disclosure violations in SEC filings



# **Managing & Mitigating Risk**



# "Effectiveness" means constantly evolving

- Tailor your approach to where and how you actually conduct business
- "Risk-based" approaches are always better than "fear-based" approaches
- Monitor periodic changes in U.S. and foreign requirements
  - There is no "one and done" in our constantly changing world

#### "Effectiveness" is not the same as "Perfection"

- Key is whether a company can respond swiftly and effectively
- Focus more on culture, oversight, and systems than on technicalities



# Flash Poll #3

- To what extent is the board involved in defining your organization's risk assessment and monitoring processes?
  - To a large extent
  - To a moderate extent
  - To a small extent
  - Not at all



## Ethical Lapses Are Top Reason for CEO Departures

- CEO departures increased nearly 13% over the prior year.
- Approx. 1,640 CEOs ousted in 2019.
- 2019 PwC Study found 39% of forced CEO exits in 2018 were the result of "ethical lapses rather than financial performance or board struggles."
- First time in the study's history that ethical lapses accounted for more forced CEO departures than financial- or board-related shakeups.

# Ongoing issues – Payoffs for Ousted Execs; and Walkouts

- McDonalds \$40 million payout to ousted CEO; post-ouster more allegations unearthed;
- Google \$90 million to one ousted exec and \$45 million for another ousted exec. Settlement of shareholder lawsuit included a \$310 million commitment to create a diversity, equity and inclusion advisory council comprised of outside experts.
- Boeing \$23 million payout to ousted CEO
- Wayfair employee walkout after DHS contract
- Facebook employee walkout over POTUS posts



# Flash Poll #4

 On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) to what extent do you agree with the following statement: "Our board would act quickly and decisively if our CEO were accused of ethical improprieties."



# What Boards Should be Asking Management About #MeToo / Compliance Issues

- How does the company currently handle sexual/racial harassment claims?
  - When and how is the Board informed about such complaints?
- What is the company's diversity and inclusion training program?
  - Is it a "check-the-box" approach limited to an occasional online module? Or is it an organized, serious, thoughtful approach that permeates throughout the organization?
  - How does one test via objective metrics?



# What Boards Should be Asking Management About #MeToo / Compliance Issues (cont'd)

- Does the Board have access to information about prior complaints and outcomes, especially involving CEO/senior management?
- Is the Board notified immediately if an accusation is made against the CEO or a member of the senior management team?
  - Consider whether to require board approval of any settlements, especially re C-Suite or senior managers



#### Other Practical Considerations

- Review employment contracts with current and future senior management
  - Review "for cause" provisions closely do they include violation of anti-harassment policies? Can "failed" execs exit with a huge payout?
  - Consider whether to include a "morals clause"
  - Consider strengthening claw-back and indemnification provisions
  - Consider inclusion of restrictions on shareholder voting rights
- Review Employment Practices Liability Insurance
- M&A Implications for buyer's due diligence review
  - Add review of harassment complaints against management to DD checklist
- Increased focus on succession planning
  - In case CEO or senior management forced to resign on short notice



# Thank You



**Beth Boland** 

Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP bboland@foley.com 617.226.3179



**Rohan Virginkar** 

Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP rvirginkar@foley.com 202.295.4058



**Mary Huser** 

Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, Risk and Regulatory Airbnb

ATTORNEY ADVERTISEMENT. The contents of this document, current at the date of publication, are for reference purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. Where previous cases are included, prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Images of people may not be Foley personnel. | © 2020 Foley & Lardner LLP

