

PUBLIC HEARING ON ALGORITHMS & BIAS



FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. PST

The California Fair Employment and Housing Council invites the public to a free virtual civil rights hearing on the use of algorithms in employment, housing, lending, and healthcare. Algorithms increasingly make decisions that significantly impact people's lives. Among other usages, algorithms are used to screen applicants for jobs or apartments, evaluate work performance and promotions, approve/disapprove someone for a loan or establish loan terms, and inform healthcare delivery. Depending on the algorithm and the data used, these technologies risk perpetuating discrimination and inequality on the basis of race, disability, and many other protected characteristics in ways that are difficult to detect.

At this hearing, leading experts and practitioners will discuss these topics and strategies for reducing the risk of bias. The hearing will also focus on laws and regulations that could be enacted or amended to reduce bias by algorithmic decision-making. Members of the public will have the opportunity to make comments.

The Council is part of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), the state agency that enforces California's civil rights laws. DFEH's mission is to protect the people of California from discrimination in employment, housing, businesses of every kind, and state-funded programs and activities, as well as hate violence and human trafficking. The Council has statutory authority to pass regulations, hold hearings, and issue reports to advance civil rights in California. For more information about DFEH, please visit: www.dfeh.ca.gov.

TO JOIN

To join by video: us02web.zoom.us/j/89674248200

To join by phone: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 896 7424 8200

Session 1: Employment

10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Break

11:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Session 2: Housing, Lending, Healthcare

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

FEATURED EXPERTS:

- Aaron Rieke, Upturn
- Eric Dunn, National Housing Law Project
- Lydia X.Z. Brown, The Center for Democracy and Technology
- Maeve Elise Brown, Housing and Economic Rights Advocates
- Pauline Kim, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law
- Robert Bartlett, UC Berkeley
- Ziad Obermeyer, UC Berkeley

Public comment provided orally during the hearing will be limited to 2 minutes each. Written public comment may be emailed to: fehcouncil@dfeh.ca.gov.

Requests for accommodations may be made via fehcouncil@dfeh.ca.gov, 844-541-2877, or 711.

*This activity is approved for 1.5 hours of MCLE for Elimination of Bias