FEED Meeting:
The Federal Government and Inclusive Workplaces
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Featured Panelists

Elyssa Santos-Abrams, Esq.
Attorney Advisor
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Federal Sector Programs
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Elyssa Santos-Abrams has been employed at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) since 2001, following her graduation from the Georgetown University Law Center. Santos-Abrams is currently an attorney advisor for the EEOC Office of Federal Operations’ Outreach, Training, and Engagement Division, where she develops and delivers training on the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) process, laws, and application and provides educational outreach to federal agencies and stakeholders.

Previously, Santos-Abrams served as a senior appellate review attorney in EEOC’s Office of Federal Operations. She drafted administrative decisions in federal sector discrimination complaints, covering the entire spectrum of legal bases of alleged discrimination with particular emphasis on cases involving the Rehabilitation Act and the Equal Pay Act.

Santos-Abrams has provided extensive training and outreach at EEO conferences and to government agencies on topics including EEO case updates, reasonable accommodation and the Rehabilitation Act, and workplace harassment. She is a member of the New York State Bar.
Lisa Mathess is a principal consultant and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) specialist for the Job Accommodation Network (JAN), the leading national source of expert guidance on workplace accommodation and disability employment issues. Mathess is a member of the JAN Leadership team and has served in a consulting role since 2011.

Mathess provides expert-level consultation to assist employers and people with disabilities with understanding their rights and responsibilities under the ADA and in identifying accommodation solutions for people with various medical needs—with an emphasis on ambulatory and mobility needs as she also serves as the motor team lead. As an ADA specialist, Mathess consults with employers, human resources staff, and legal professionals nationally on ADA compliance issues and engaging in the interactive accommodation process. She works with employers to create inclusive policies and procedures to onboard and advance career opportunities for employees with disabilities. Mathess also writes for JAN on ADA and accommodation topics, presents on ADA and accommodation issues at various national conferences, and provides customized training to JAN audiences and advocacy groups.

Mathess earned a Master of Arts degree in communication studies and a Bachelor of Science degree in business from West Virginia University. She continues to further her education and maintain credentials by earning Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for various certifications, such as the Assistive Technology Applications Certificate Program (ATACP), Society for Human Resource Management Certified Professional (SHRM-CP), and the Disability Management Employer Coalition (DMEC) Certified Leave Management Specialist (CLMS).

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