

Secondary Source #2: Excerpts from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Fifty years ago today, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This comprehensive civil rights legislation grew out of decades of resistance and opposition to the segregation and discrimination that restricted opportunities and access for countless men, women and children in the United States in many different aspects of their lives. The law banned discrimination in public accommodations - including hotels, restaurants and food service, retail establishments, parks and recreational facilities and transportation - and in all programs and activities funded by the federal government. It was, however, Title VII of the legislation that answered the call for equal opportunity in the nation's workplaces. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex and also made it illegal to retaliate against those who sought relief or assisted others in their exercise of rights secured by the law. Title VII created the EEOC, and on July 2, 1965, one year after the law was signed, the agency opened its doors...

Today, the EEOC enforces Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, in addition to other federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of age (40 and older), disability, genetic information or family medical history in the private, public, and federal sectors. We combat discrimination through education and outreach, investigation, mediation, conciliation, litigation, and federal sector hearings, appeals, training and technical assistance.

Together with individuals who stood up against job discrimination, businesses that committed to being "equal opportunity" employers, and their tireless advocates, the EEOC has worked successfully to advance its mission to *stop and remedy unlawful employment discrimination* so that the nation can realize the vision of Title VII and of the EEOC: *justice and equality in the workplace*. Never before has our nation enjoyed greater inclusivity in the workplace and better reflected the diversity of the American people.

Source: U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, <http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/history/cra50th/index.cfm>
