Fisher & Phillips LLP

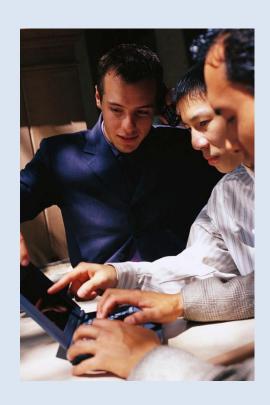
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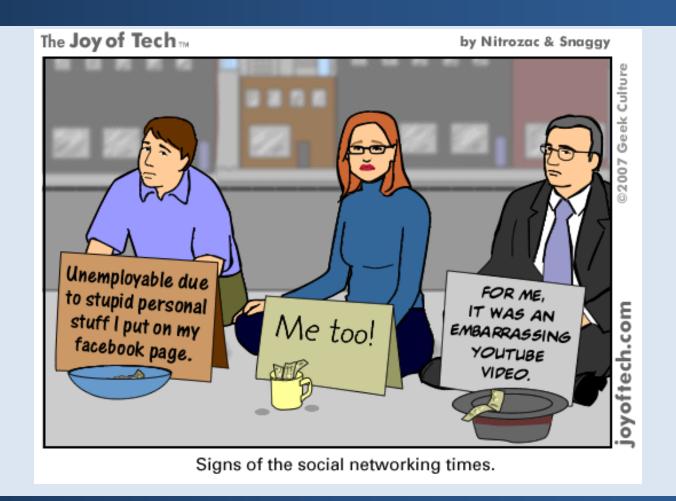
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# Post With Caution: What Prospective Employers Legally Can, and Are, Looking at Online

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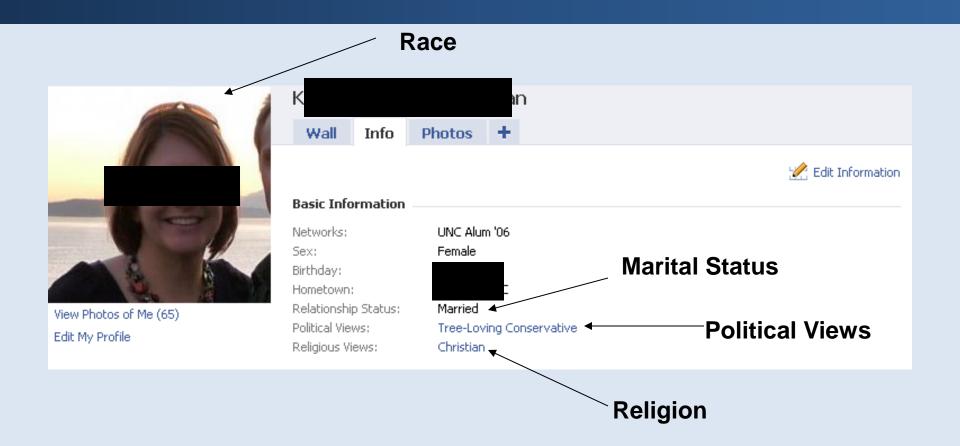
\*Many\* U.S. employers report using social networking sites to dig up information about job candidates





- Some employers now search Google as part of their regular background checks for applicants
- Looking for red flags
  - Attitudes/behaviors that do not mesh well with employer's core values, misbehavior, or pose potential liability for employer





# Assume Everything You Put Online Will Be Seen By Your Prospective Employer

#### Cisco Fatty

How to Lose a New Job with 1 Tweet

Ads by Google

Colgate Job

Cisco System

Cisco News

Cisco Images

#### Ruin a "Fatty Cisco Job" with 1 Tweet

Witness someone ruin a "Fatty Cisco Job" with a single post on Twitter, and become an overnight Internet sensation.

A potential Cisco applicant tweeted this earlier today:

Cisco just offered me a job! Now I have to weigh the utility of a fatty paycheck against the daily commute to San Jose and hating the work.

Tim Levad at Cisco saw the Tweet, and tweeted back:

Who is the hiring manager. I'm sure they would love to know that you will hate the work. We here at Cisco are versed in the web.



Cisco Fatty

http://ciscofatty.com

http://archives.chicagotribun e.com/2009/mar/26/business /chi-thu-digital-life-worksocialmar26

This went viral overnight and is becoming a very hot Trend.

### **Or Your Current Employer**



# Limitations: Stored Communications Act

 Federal statute prohibiting intentional, unauthorized access to private electronic communications such as Facebook or Gmail

 Creates privacy expectation in private electronic communications



#### **Limitations: State Laws**

#### **New State Laws**



### What About Invasion of Privacy?

- Key to tort action is proof of an expectation of privacy
- Issue under state law
- Many courts are reluctant to find an expectation of privacy in information on the internet

