



## **Dechert LLP**

Locations: Pennsylvania (HQ)

Industries: Legal



## **DESCRIPTION:**

Dechert is High Risk. The company yields to political activism in shaping corporate governance, potentially alienating consumers, dividing employees, and harming shareholders. The company implements race and identity-based policies that replace merit, excellence, and integrity with preferential treatment and outcomes. Dechert embraces corporate initiatives that redirect its central focus from business goals to partisan policies and divisive issues. This approach fails to safeguard free exercise, free speech, and free enterprise.

## **Corporate Weaponization**

Has canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors due to their political views or religious beliefs OR Medium Risk corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries.

Dechert received a score of 100 on the 2023 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. The company recruit's employees based on sexual identity issues. The company discriminates against vendors that do not promote divisive sex and gender policies, indicating it prioritizes sexual issues over merit (1)(2). However, the company has not publicly canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors based on political views or religious beliefs.

Charitable giving (including employee matching programs) policies or practices discriminate

High Risk against charitable organizations based on views or religious beliefs.

Dechert's HRC CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies ( $\underline{1}$ )( $\underline{2}$ ). Dechert does not publish charitable giving guidelines ( $\underline{3}$ ).

Employment policies fail to protect against viewpoint or other discrimination and/or are ideological in nature.

High Risk

Dechert's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company forces employees to attend multiple, controversial trainings on gender identity, sexual orientation, transgender issues, and divisive racial ideology. The company provides gender transition guidelines for its employees and a specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (1)(2). Dechert is Mansfield Certified, indicating its support of DEI in its recruitment, hiring, promotions, and leadership composition (3)(4). Dechert is a member of The Diversity and Flexibility Alliance, indicating its support of DEI in its recruitment, retention, promotions, and leadership composition (5)(6). The company does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (7).



## **Corporate Governance and Public Policy**

Uses corporate reputation to support causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of High Risk expression.

Dechert's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company agrees to allow a controversial stakeholder group focused on sexual identity issues to dictate marketing or advertising strategy (1)(2). By doing so, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Dechert opposed the Florida Parental Rights in Education Act, which would prohibit teaching gender identity and sexual orientation to kids in K-3rd grade (3). The company "led the charge" on the legal front of the left-wing "voting rights" legislation (4)(5). Dechert partnered with the Center for Reproductive Rights in a court case and challenged state-level pro-life legislation alongside various Planned Parenthood chapters (6). The company opposed various state and local legislation intended to protect parental rights, girls' sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces (7)(8). Dechert opposed legislation in lowa intended to protect parental rights, girls' sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces (9). The company was part of the Freedom for All Americans coalition, which advocated for federal legislation that would overrule state laws designed to protect girls' sports and similar laws (10).

Uses corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom High Risk of expression.

Dechert's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company covers transgender related costs for its employees and their children, including paid short-term leave, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, chest surgeries, genital surgeries, medical visits and lab monitoring, travel and lodging. Additionally, the company has pledged philanthropic support of at least one organization or event that promotes sex and gender ideology (1)(2). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. The firm is a member of the MCCA, indicating its focus on recruiting, retaining, and promoting employees based on race (3)(4).

Uses corporate political actions and/or financial contributions for ideological, non-business High Risk purposes.

Dechert's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company publicly advocated for controversial sex and gender ideology through local, state or federal legislation or initiatives (1)(2). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Dechert is a partner of the Center for Reproductive Rights, building case law, advocating before policy makers, and engaging in litigation to challenge bans and restrictions on access to abortion (3). Dechert is a part of the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance, committed to work on initiatives that fight "systemic racism" (4)(5). The company has done pro bono work for the ACLU (6)(7). Dechert does not operate a PAC or report on its lobbying at this time (8)(9)(10).

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