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# The Corporate Mockingbird: When Governance, Culture, and Conscience Collide

## SPEAKERS

Tracey E. Diamond | Emily E. Schifter | Richard Gerakitis

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In this episode of *Hiring to Firing*, hosts Tracey Diamond and Emily Schifter visit Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* to unpack what corporate governance means for today's workplace. Joined by Richard Gerakitis, senior advisor at the YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta and former Troutman Pepper partner, they explore how boards, committees, and leadership set the tone through accountability, transparency, and integrity. Using Atticus Finch, Tom Robinson, and Boo Radley as examples, they examine how bias can undermine even the best-designed systems and when "moral discretion" might justify bending the rules to protect the vulnerable. The conversation also touches on emerging issues, such as AI oversight, and the critical role HR plays in culture, compliance, and risk management. Tune in for practical insights on how thoughtful governance can turn ethical challenges into opportunities for trust and long-term stability.

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