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Religious Diversity Leadership Summit

Tanenbaum's *2019 Religious Diversity Leadership Summit* held at
Bloomberg LP on June 19th

New York, NY, June 20, 2019: Tanenbaum | Center for Interreligious Understanding held their Fourth Annual Religious Diversity Leadership Summit at Bloomberg LP. This full-day event took place in New York City and forged new ground exploring *what's next and innovative* when addressing religious diversity, equity and inclusion. Tanenbaum Deputy CEO, Mark Fowler opened the day by asking participants, "What would a shift in perspective around religion look like in your company?"

This year's Religious Diversity Leadership Summit was the sold out for the second year in a row, with attendance over capacity and a waitlist in hand. Tanenbaum's summit boasts 160 attendees from 40 companies, and 13 speakers plus moderators, representing industries from tech, finance and entertainment to government and nonprofits.

Speakers and moderators represented a number of multi-national companies and thought leader organizations such as; Marc Masri, DTCC; Tonya Cornelius, The Walt Disney Company; Ted Childs, Principal of Ted Childs LLC; Michael Lipka and Neha Sahgal, PEW Research; Janessa Cox, AB; Robin Fretwell Wilson, University of Illinois College of Law; Jenny Pizer, Lambda Legal; Dan Eckstein, Accenture; Farah Siddiqui, Salesforce; and Kashif Saroya, Target. Hosted by Bloomberg LP, the Summit was sponsored by Bloomberg LP, DTCC, and the Walt Disney Company.

Speakers shared personal and professional stories which highlighted pragmatic approaches to handling religious diversity in the workplace, showing attendees that this topic is both about professional policies and people.

Practical approaches were presented alongside presenter's stories, which provided a level of transparency that many attendees were grateful to experience. Ted Childs, keynote speaker and Principal of Ted Childs LLC, eloquently spoke of the importance of *normalizing the conversation* around in religious diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Panelists and moderators in ensuing panels continued to raise the importance of being proactive when it comes to facilitating an inclusive workplace environment, while also reinforcing the need to evolve with the country's everchanging socio-political climate. This was addressed by panelists during the LGBTQ panel when discussing Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRAs) and how companies around the country are responding to initiatives that can challenge the company's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

The overarching message of the day, as one attendee so powerfully articulated was, "Let's focus on what unifies us, not what divides us."

Tanenbaum is a secular, non-sectarian nonprofit that systematically dismantles religious violence and hatred through Peacemakers in armed conflicts and by tackling religious bullying of students, harassment in workplaces and disparate health treatment for people based on their beliefs. More information about Tanenbaum's offerings can be found here: <https://tanenbaum.org/>

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