



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

REGION VI
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS

Renaissance Tower
1201 Elm Street, Suite 1000
Dallas, TX 75270-2102

July 5, 2023

Ms. Laura Morgan, MSN, RN
Program Manager, Do No Harm

Via E-Mail Only: [REDACTED]

Re: OCR Complaint No. 06-23-2198
The University of Mississippi Medical Center—School of Medicine

Dear Ms. Morgan:

The U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Dallas Office, has opened for investigation the above-referenced complaint filed against the University of Mississippi Medical Center—School of Medicine (UMMC-SOM or the School), which was received by OCR on June 1, 2023. Specifically, you alleged that UMMC-SOM discriminated against individuals on the bases of race and national origin by only offering its Underrepresented in Medicine Student Clerkship and Externship Support (Dr. Godfrey Arnold Scholarship) to persons who identify as Black, Mexican American, Native American (i.e., American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian), and mainland Puerto Rican.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance, UMMC-SOM is subject to Title VI and its implementing regulation. Therefore, OCR has jurisdictional authority to investigate this complaint.

Because OCR has determined that it has jurisdiction and the complaint was filed timely, OCR will open the above allegation for investigation. Please note that opening an investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to the merits of the allegation. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from you, the recipient and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and is dispositive of the allegation, in accordance with the provisions of OCR's *Case Processing Manual* (CPM).¹

OCR has informed UMMC-SOM that it will investigate this allegation and has requested information and documentation from the School. OCR will contact you and the School regarding the next steps in the resolution process for this allegation after it receives its response.

¹ OCR's CPM is available at our website: www.ed.gov/ocr.

Please be advised that a recipient may not harass, coerce, intimidate, or discriminate against an individual because the individual filed a complaint or participated in the complaint resolution process. If this happens, the individual may file a complaint alleging such treatment.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. In the event that OCR receives such a request, we will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information, which, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me, the investigator assigned to this complaint, at [REDACTED]. You may also contact my supervisor, Ms. Lori Bringas, Supervisory Attorney/Team Leader, at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Page Baird
Senior Equal Opportunity Specialist
OCR Dallas Office