



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

REGION IX
CALIFORNIA

50 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
MAIL BOX 1200, ROOM 1545
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

July 20, 2023

Professor (Em.) Mark Perry
University of Michigan
Senior Fellow *Do No Harm*

By email only

Re: University of Southern California
OCR Case No. 09-22-2474

Dear Professor Perry:

On December 29, 2022, the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), notified you that OCR was opening your complaint against the University of Southern California (University) for investigation. OCR opened the following issue for investigation: Whether the University discriminates on the basis of race, by operating the Keck School of Medicine Diversity Visiting Clerkship Award (Award) which excludes medical students on the basis of race who do not identify as black/African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

For the reasons explained below, OCR is dismissing your complaint.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department, the University is subject to Title VI.

When this complaint was opened for investigation, the University listed the Award on webpages located on the University's School of Medicine website. At that time, the webpages stated that the Award is open to medical students traditionally underrepresented in medicine, including black/African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students, in their fourth year in good standing. Since then, the University has revised the language on the webpages to indicate that the Award is targeted at medical students from diverse backgrounds, including students who are underrepresented in

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

medicine, but is not restricted by race or ethnicity. The webpages also state that the program is open to all fourth year medical students who are in good standing, applying for residency in Emergency Medicine, and meet all of the requirements for rotation applicants. Pursuant to OCR's *Case Processing Manual* (CPM) Section 110(d), OCR will dismiss an allegation when it obtains credible information indicating that the allegation has been resolved, and there is no systemic allegation.¹ In this case, the information currently on the University's website does not indicate that the Award is limited to students of any particular race or ethnicity and specifies that the program is open to all fourth year medical students who meet the eligibility requirements. Therefore, the allegation has been resolved and OCR is dismissing your complaint.

This concludes OCR's consideration of your complaint.

This letter sets forth OCR's determination in an individual OCR case. This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public.


Please be advised that the University must not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against any individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding under a law enforced by OCR. If this happens, the individual may file a separate retaliation complaint with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, OCR will seek to protect, to the extent provided by the law, personally identifiable information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy if released.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Sewali Patel, Civil Rights Attorney, at

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Anamaria Loya
Chief Attorney

¹ *Case Processing Manual* (Jul. 18, 2022), <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.pdf>.