



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute is pleased to accredit this program from the 75th Anniversary of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights Law Against Discrimination “Stop the Hate” Series

THE FUTURE OF THE LAD AND NEW JERSEY CIVIL RIGHTS

**April 14, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

INTERACTIVE WEBCAST

Program Summary

When the Law Against Discrimination was enacted in April of 1945, New Jersey became the first state with a comprehensive anti-discrimination statute since Reconstruction. Since the inception of the LAD, New Jersey has remained at the forefront of ensuring its citizens’ civil rights by amending the law numerous times to add further protections and keep pace with evolving societal changes. In describing the impact of the LAD, the New Jersey Supreme Court recently said, “[o]ne searches in vain to find another New Jersey enactment having an equivalently powerful statement of purpose.” This program will discuss that history of the LAD and outline the future of how this statute could or should expand going forward to address current civil rights issues in New Jersey.

Eligibility

This program is open to all interested parties.

Faculty

Mary Ciccone, Esq. is the Director of Policy for Disability Rights New Jersey, which provides legal assistance to individuals with disabilities. She has concentrated her practice on special education and discrimination issues under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and the Americans with Disabilities Act, including issues of accessibility and reasonable accommodations. She has also assisted individuals with disabilities in employment, voting, health care and assistive technology. Prior to joining DRNJ, Ms. Ciccone practiced litigation in insurance defense. Ms. Ciccone received a J.D. from Washington and Lee University School of Law, where she served as Lead Articles Editor of the Washington and Lee Law Review, and a B.A. from Southern Methodist University.

Sara Cullinane, Esq. is Director and Co-founder of Make the Road New Jersey (MRNJ) and State Director of its sister c4, Make the Road Action (MRA). MRNJ builds the power of immigrant, working-class & Latinx communities to achieve dignity and respect through community organizing, legal process, policy innovation and transformative education. It also provides legal and support services, adult education and youth development. MRNJ has won landmark pro-immigrant and pro-worker policies including occupational licenses for undocumented immigrants, the first guaranteed severance law in the country and anti-wage theft legislation. Sara was previously a staff attorney and Equal Justice Works fellow at Make the Road New York, where she represented low wage - workers in wage and hour litigation. Before attending law school, she worked as a union organizer and health advocate. Sara has served as adjunct professor at NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, as a commissioner on the New Jersey Census Complete Count Commission and as Co-Chair of Governor-Elect Phil Murphy's Transition Team Law and Justice Committee. She holds a JD from NYU School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern public service scholar and clerked on the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Immigration.

Rosemary DiSavino, Esq. is the Deputy Director of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, which enforces New Jersey's civil rights laws, including the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and the New Jersey Family Leave Act. The mission of DCR is to protect the people of New Jersey from discrimination and bias-based harassment in employment, housing, and public accommodations. Before joining DCR, Ms. DiSavino was a senior trial attorney with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where she litigated a range of cases alleging violations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Ms. DiSavino was in private practice prior to joining government service. Ms. DiSavino graduated from Brooklyn Law School, where she was the recipient of the Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship.

Ryan P. Haygood, Esq. is President and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, where he leads a majority-women of color team of racial justice advocates who seek to build reparative systems that create wealth, justice and power for Black, Latinx and other people of color in New Jersey. Their cutting-edge work is powered by grassroots organizing, research, writing, policy and legislative advocacy and litigation. Ryan is a nationally respected civil rights lawyer and passionate advocate who speaks and writes on issues of race, law, social justice, democracy and power. Ryan received his J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law and B.A. in American History and Political Science cum laude from Colorado College, where he was a Rhodes scholarship nominee and earned academic and athletic all-American and hall of fame honors as a football player.

Jeanne LoCicero, Esq. is the Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey. She supervises the litigation program and related advocacy of the ACLU-NJ's Legal Department and manages its 12 person staff. She served as its Deputy Legal Director prior to becoming legal director and started as a staff attorney. Jeanne has litigated and advocated in a wide range of civil rights and civil liberties cases, with a focus on racial equity, prison conditions, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, and reproductive health. She is a trustee of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey and served on New Jersey's Transgender Equality Task Force. Jeanne started her legal career as a legal fellow at the ACLU of Alabama. She spent three years in private practice before joining the ACLU-NJ. Jeanne graduated with highest honors from Rutgers School of Law – Newark.

Akil Roper, Esq. is Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ). LSNJ seeks to provide full access to essential civil legal aid for economically disadvantaged people who cannot afford a lawyer on their own. He was previously a litigation attorney at Riker, Danzig, Scherer Hyland & Perretti LLP and a managing editor for Thomson Financial. Mr. Roper holds a B.S. in Communications from Cornell University and a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law.

CLE Credit

NJ CLE Credit: This program had been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 1.8 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 0:0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

Registration

Interested parties should register directly with the NJ Division on Civil Rights through this link:

https://njoag-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_W_stzVJ6Sc28Z0zeqeAVkg

Students must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to attendees who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.

Contact Information

Registration or Zoom issues: webinar@njoag.gov

Program questions: CommunityRelations@njcivilrights.gov