



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Race Equity and the Role of the DAG Understanding Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Issues to More Effectively Represent DCF Clients - Part 1

**September 8, 2023
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

This three-part program will examine the relationship between race, privilege, policy and justice and provide DCF deputies with a deeper understanding of racial issues and how they pervade both society and individual thinking. The program will allow DCF deputies to continue difficult and challenging conversations on the issue of race, particularly in the context of the work handled by the DCF Practice Group. Each part of this program will give participants an opportunity discuss one episode of *RACE - The Power of Illusion*, a series that questions the idea of race as biology. The program will allow deputies to examine their beliefs about race, privilege, policy, and justice and apply what they have learned to more effectively represent their clients. In Part 1 of this program, participants will discuss “The Difference Between Us”, which examines how recent scientific discoveries have toppled the concept of biological race and dismantled some of the most basic myths about race, including natural superiority and inferiority.

Eligibility

This program is only open to Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General in the DCF practice group.

Faculty

AAG Erin O’Leary oversees the Division of Law’s DCF Practice Group with AAG Eleanor Armstrong. Prior to her current position, she served as a DCF DAG, arguing multiple appellate matters, including three NJ Supreme Court cases (YN, EDO and State v. Young). Previously, AAG O’Leary served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Children and Families (DCF). In that role, she oversaw the Office of Legal Affairs and Licensing; Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit; Office of Advocacy; and the Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs. Prior to

working at DCF, AAG O’Leary was a Deputy Attorney General initially assigned to represent the Division of Youth and Family Services and later assigned to represent the Department of Health and Senior Services and Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services. She has served as a guest lecturer at many universities and schools, and as an Adjunct Professor at Rutgers Law School. AAG O’Leary holds a BA in Speech Communication from Penn State University and a JD from Rutgers School of Law – Camden.

CLE Credit

NJ CLE Credit: This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 1.2 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 1.2 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism credits in the Diversity, Inclusion, and Elimination of Bias category.

Registration

Those who are eligible to apply should use the Zoom Webinar registration link in the Program Announcement email. Students who are registered will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the program.

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 students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.