



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Advancing Racial Justice- From Ferguson to Freedom: How Government Can Close the Racial Equity Gap

**March 5, 2024
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
Advocacy Institute Conference Center
Fourth Floor, West Wing
25 Market Street, Trenton, New Jersey**

Program Summary

Government can play a powerful and multi-faceted role in ensuring racial equity through executive orders, legislation, regulation, and other administrative efforts. As President Biden's Deputy Assistant for Racial Justice & Equity and Deputy Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, Chiraag Bains advised the President on legislation, regulations, executive orders and interagency initiatives focusing on racial justice. Mr. Bains will discuss the development, implementation and impact of the initiatives he led, and make the case for why federal, state and local governments should take steps to close the racial equity gap.

Eligibility

This program is open to all employees in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

Faculty

Chiraag Bains is a non-resident senior fellow with the Brookings Institution. His work focuses on democracy, artificial intelligence, and government programs that advance fairness and opportunity. From 2021 to 2023, Mr. Bains served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Racial Justice & Equity and Deputy Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council. He advised President Biden on legislation, regulations, and interagency initiatives and led policymaking processes at the deputy secretary level. Mr. Bains led implementation of the President's day-one

Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities. That work resulted in 90 agency action plans, an equitable data strategy, and more effective distribution of infrastructure and pandemic relief funds. Mr. Bains drove the policy processes for several of President Biden's priorities: his landmark executive order on police reform and public safety; his pardon of marijuana possession offenses and rescheduling initiative; new investments in community violence intervention; a national strategy to combat bias in home appraisals; a government-wide initiative to increase contracting with small disadvantaged businesses; a suite of actions to protect workers and consumers from algorithmic bias; and the *United We Stand* summit against hate-fueled violence. He also oversaw efforts to expand voter registration opportunities, LGBTQI+ rights, disability rights, and funding for Native communities.

Mr. Bains previously served as Special Assistant to the President for Criminal Justice and Guns Policy. He was co-chair of the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force on Criminal Justice Reform in 2020. He led a team of voting rights lawyers at the nonprofit organization Demos and has been a fellow with Harvard Law School and the Open Society Foundations. From 2010 to 2017, Mr. Bains worked in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. He prosecuted police misconduct and hate crimes as a career attorney and then served as senior counsel to the Assistant Attorney General. Attorney General Eric Holder awarded him the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service for the pattern-or-practice investigation into police misconduct in Ferguson, Missouri. Mr. Bains earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School, an M.Phil. in Criminology from the University of Cambridge, and a B.A. from Yale. He clerked for Judge Karen Nelson Moore on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and Judge Nancy Gertner in the District of Massachusetts.

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 total CLE credit. Of these, 1.2 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism in the Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias category.

PA CLE Credit: 1.0 ethics credits (\$1.50 mandatory registration fee required).

Registration

Those who are interested in attending should fill out the registration form in the blast email sent by LPS. They will receive a registration confirmation when the form is submitted.