PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Communities of Color and the Criminal Justice System *

May 8, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Congress Hall
200 Congress Place
Cape May, NJ 08204

*This program is part of the County Prosecutors' Association of New Jersey (CPANJ) Spring Overnight Meeting.

Program Summary

This program will provide attendees with an understanding of the over-representation of communities of color in the criminal justice system, the fragile relationship between communities of color and the criminal justice system, and the prosecutor's role in both the problem and reform efforts. The presenter will discuss the history of over representation of communities of color in the criminal justice system and process. He will examine how the tumultuous relationship between the police and communities of color contributes to the problem, and how the criminal justice system has come to represent fear and racism to some communities of color instead of public safety and service. The program will focus on various dimensions of racism, discrimination, and prejudice, including an analysis of racial inequality and its origins, conditions under which inequality occurs and persists, and how the criminal justice system historically helped maintain inequality, division, and exclusion of communities of color. The presenter will also discuss how prosecutors play a role in the over representation of minorities in the criminal justice system and the vital contribution they can make to reform efforts. Public safety efforts should begin with a real context and understanding of the people, issues, and concerns that are unique to communities of color and specifically to African Americans. By seeking to understand those to whom they provide public services and public safety, prosecutors can foster partnerships between criminal justice professionals and communities of color to identify and solve ongoing problems. When prosecutors become more culturally informed and develop a better understanding of the deep-rooted problems caused by years of inequality and maltreatment of marginalized communities, they can work with those communities to reimagine what public safety can and should look like in the 21st century and beyond.

Eligibility

Attendance at this program is limited to County Prosecutors, Division of Criminal Justice Assistant Attorneys General and Department of Law and Public Safety executive staff invited to attend. Registrants will receive the course materials on the day of the program.

Faculty

Dr. Theodore Darden is a Professor of Criminal and Justice Studies at College of DuPage, where he was the department's chair from 2009 to 2012. Before his career in academia, Dr. Darden served in law enforcement, where he obtained the rank of patrol sergeant. Dr. Darden was a member of the Board of Directors for the Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute in St. Paul, Minnesota. He also worked in the Law Enforcement Training and Standards Bureau of the Wisconsin Attorney General's Office. Dr. Darden holds an Associate's Degree in Police Science from Blackhawk Technical College, a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from Upper Iowa University, a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, a Master's Degree in Higher Education from Kaplan University (Purdue University Global), and a Ph.D. in Leadership with an emphasis in Criminal Justice from The University of the Cumberlands. Dr. Darden has also earned more than two dozen professional certifications in homeland security and other law enforcement subjects. He has made presentations to more than 100 groups worldwide and worked with criminal justice experts and communities across the globe.

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 2.0 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 2.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism in the Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias category.