

HARMEET K. DHILLON
Assistant Attorney General
JESUS A. OSETE
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
JEFFREY MORRISON (MO No. 44401)
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
JOHN P. MERTENS (CA No. 252762)
Acting Chief, Educational Opportunities Section
BRIAN REPPER (VA No. 90254)
Deputy Chief, Educational Opportunities Section
JAMES A. BRESLO (CA No. 162808)
Senior Trial Attorney, Educational Opportunities Section
Civil Rights Division

U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530
Telephone: (202) 598-9726
Email: john.mertens@usdoj.gov

TODD BLANCHE
Acting Attorney General
BILAL A. ESSAYLI
First Assistant United States Attorney
JULIE A. HAMILL (CA No. 272742)
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 7516
Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone: (213) 894-2464
E-Mail: julie.hamill@usdoj.gov

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF-INTERVENOR
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

DO NO HARM, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
and
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Intervenor,
v.

Case No. 2:25-cv-04131-JWH-JDE

**UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA'S FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT IN
INTERVENTION FOR
DECLARATORY AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND
RESCISSION**

1
2 REGENTS OF THE
3 UNIVERSITY OF
4 CALIFORNIA

Defendants.

Honorable John W. Holcomb
United States District Judge

5
6 **INTRODUCTION**

7 The United States brings this action to stop the David Geffen School of
8 Medicine at UCLA (“DGSOM”), part of the University of California at Los Angeles
9 (“UCLA”) and itself a part of the University of California system operated by the
10 Regents of the University of California (the “Regents”), from engaging in race-based
11 admissions in violation of the Equal Protection Clause, Title VI of the Civil Rights
12 Act of 1964 (“Title VI”), contracts between UCLA and the United States, and the
13 standards recently articulated by the United States Supreme Court in *Students for*
14 *Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard Coll.*, 600 U.S. 181, 143
15 S. Ct. 2141, 216 L. Ed. 2d 857 (2023). After a long history of moving incrementally
16 away from racial preferences in education, this Nation and its Supreme Court cast
17 off this vestige of our troubled history surrounding race and set out to mandate
18 colorblind admissions in all public (and publicly funded) universities.

19 Nevertheless, DGSOM’s Associate Dean for Admissions, Jennifer Lucero,
20 boldly states on her official profile that “she takes a special interest in diversity issues
21 in medicine.” There is but one legal avenue for a public or publicly funded medical
22 school to pursue diversity in medicine: admit the most qualified candidates
23 regardless of race and expect that those most qualified candidates will come from
24 every race, because they do.

25 Racial preferences cause three disastrous outcomes. First, if DGSOM and
26 other medical schools lower their academic standards to obtain the “right” racial
27 mix, the result is less well academically qualified doctors practicing medicine.
28 Second, by lowering academic standards for certain applicants, patients will question

1 whether their Underrepresented Minority (“URM,” meaning Black, Hispanic,
2 Pacific Islander, or Native American) doctor is really qualified to practice medicine
3 and can give them the same quality care as a White or Asian doctor who did not
4 receive preferential admission to medical school. This shadow follows URM doctors
5 throughout their careers, whether or not that doctor needed a preference to be
6 admitted to medical school. Third, it undermines and delays delivery upon the
7 promise enshrined in the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution
8 that each state government and its constituent parts, including the Regents, will treat
9 its citizens equally without regard to their race. (The Regents also made a contractual
10 promise not to discriminate based on race each time it accepted federal taxpayer
11 funds.)

12 “The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating
13 on the basis of race.” *Parents Involved in Cmty. Sch. v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 551
14 U.S. 701, 748, 127 S. Ct. 2738, 2768, 168 L. Ed. 2d 508 (2007). The United States
15 intervenes, because ending racial discrimination in our university systems is of
16 general public importance.

17 PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

18 1. This action challenges the constitutionality of a policy and practice of
19 DGSOM to consider race in medical school admissions.

20 2. This action was filed by plaintiffs Do No Harm, Students for Fair
21 Admissions, and Kelly Mahoney.

22 3. The plaintiffs title their first count of their Complaint, “Violation of the
23 Fourteenth Amendment,” and expressly assert as the basis for the count that “The
24 Fourteenth Amendment provides, among other things, that no person shall be denied
25 ‘the equal protection of the laws.’ U.S. Const. amend XIV, § 1.” Plaintiffs’ Second
26 Amended Complaint, ¶ 132.

27 4. Count 1 of the plaintiffs’ Complaint asserts that plaintiffs are denied equal
28 protection based on race, because the Regents take race into account to racially

1 balance their medical school classes via racially unequal admissions at DGSOM. *See*
2 Plaintiffs' Second Amended Complaint, ¶¶ 129-52. This Action was brought to seek
3 relief from the denial of equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth
4 Amendment to the Constitution and Title VI on account of race. The Attorney
5 General of the United States has certified that this case is of general public
6 importance, and intervenes under 42 U.S.C. § 2000h-2 to seek declaratory relief that
7 DGSOM has been and continues to consider race in admissions in violation of the
8 Equal Protection rights of Plaintiffs and others who apply to DGSOM, and to
9 permanently enjoin the violation.

10 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11 5. The claims asserted herein arise under the Fourteenth Amendment to the
12 United States Constitution, and Title VI (42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*).

13 6. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and
14 1343(a)(3) and (4). Declaratory relief is authorized by 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-02.

15 7. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (2)
16 because DGSOM is located in this District and a substantial part of the events or
17 omissions giving rise to this claim occurred here.

18 PARTIES

19 8. Plaintiff-Intervenor is the United States of America.

20 9. On information and belief, plaintiff Do No Harm is a nonprofit organization
21 that advocates against radical, divisive, and discriminatory ideologies in medical
22 education, clinical practice, and research.

23 10. On information and belief, plaintiff Students for Fair Admissions is a
24 nonprofit organization that advocates for human rights and civil liberties, including
25 equal protection under the law from racial preferences in school admissions that are
26 unfair, unnecessary, and unconstitutional.

27 11. On information and belief, plaintiff Kelly Mahoney is a qualified college
28 graduate who applied to, and was rejected from, DGSOM.

12. Defendant the Regents of the University of California is a state agency that operates the UC System. Under Article IX, §9 of the California Constitution, the Regents have the “full powers of organization and government” over the UC System, including UCLA and DGSOM. Cal. Const. Art. IX, §9(a). The Regents have stipulated in this case that any injunctive or declaratory relief against the Regents “will apply to and be binding on UCLA and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.” Dkt. 27, ¶ 4. DGSOM is located in this District. On information and belief, the acts complained of by the Regents took place in this District.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

I. DGSOM's Admissions Process

13. DGSOM is highly selective. Each year, it receives between 11,000 and 14,000 applicants yet matriculates roughly 175 medical students.

14. DGSOM asserts it does not have a minimum GPA or MCAT score that applicants must have before they can apply or be admitted; all completed applications are considered, regardless of MCAT or GPA. According to the admissions office, applicants are even “competitive” for DGSOM “as long as” their GPA is “over a 3.0.” *What Is the Holistic Admissions Approach for Medical School* at 0:41-0:46, David Geffen School of Medicine, YouTube (July 20, 2023), youtube.com/watch?v=482vInqbLVk. If an applicant’s grades improved over time, that “upward trend” is also “always looked favorably upon by the [Admissions] Committee.” *What GPA Do You Need to Get into Med School at UCLA? Is There a Cut-off?* at 0:28-0:48, David Geffen School of Medicine, YouTube (July 20, 2023), youtube.com/watch?v=LG-fAR75pJs.

15. There is no list of specific courses that applicants must take before they can apply to or attend DGSOM.

16. DGSOM reviews applications and makes admission decisions through its Admissions Committee, which consists of approximately 25 faculty and staff members. Admissions Committee members can serve up to three five-year terms.

1 About five medical students also sit on the Admissions Committee to provide input
2 on admission decisions. UCLA does not make public who sits on the Admissions
3 Committee.

4 17. The Admissions Committee's application-review process for the
5 traditional M.D. track generally takes place in the following steps: primary
6 application, secondary application, interview, Admissions Committee deliberation,
7 and decision.

8 18. **Primary Application.** Applicants submit a primary application through
9 the American Medical College Application Service ("AMCAS"), which is run by
10 the Association of American Medical Colleges ("AAMC"). DGSOM is a member
11 of AAMC.

12 19. AMCAS sends the applicant's primary application to the applicant's
13 designated medical schools.

14 20. The primary application contains the applicant's biographical information
15 (including race), citizenship status, family income, academic background,
16 undergraduate GPA, MCAT score, internship and volunteer experience, and
17 personal statement.

18 21. DGSOM receives an applicant's primary application through AMCAS
19 and uses the primary application to initially screen applicants. It purportedly
20 removes the checkbox information for race and ethnicity.

21 22. DGSOM requires applicants to take AAMC's PREview Exam, which
22 attempts to measure applicants' professional readiness and situational judgment. The
23 PREview Exam is a multiple-choice test that purports to measure applicants' cultural
24 awareness, cultural humility, empathy and compassion, and interpersonal skills,
25 among others. The PREview Exam was created by diversity-affairs officers from
26 various medical schools, whom AAMC calls its "DEI constituents," to "level the
27 playing field" for applicants deemed historically underrepresented in medicine. It
28 does so by stressing factors other than academics.

1 23. It costs \$100 to take the PREview Exam. The PREview Exam scores
2 initially get reported to UCLA as part of the applicant's primary application.
3 DGSOM again asks about the PREview Exam in the secondary application.

4 24. **Secondary Application.** After primary review, select applicants receive
5 an invitation to submit a UCLA-specific secondary application.

6 25. The secondary application asks the applicant to submit several open-ended
7 responses. For instance, in 2024, DGSOM asked a series of questions, including the
8 following: "Do you identify as being part of a group that has been marginalized
9 (examples include, but are not limited to LGBTQIA, disabilities, federally
10 recognized tribe) in terms of access to education or healthcare? If you answered
11 "Yes" ..., describe how this inequity has impacted you or your community and how
12 educational disparity, health disparity and/or marginalization has impacted you and
13 your community." On its face and by design, this question asks Black applicants to
14 reveal their race so that DGSOM can know and consider it.

15 26. After the secondary review, select students get an opportunity to interview
16 with faculty members. The interviews are conducted either in person or remotely by
17 video.

18 27. After the interviews, the Admissions Committee deliberates on the
19 applications together.

20 28. After the Admissions Committee deliberates, it ranks the applicants and
21 makes final admission decisions on who to admit.

22 29. At each step of the process, *i.e.*, primary review, secondary review,
23 interview, and Admissions Committee deliberation, the Admissions Committee
24 purports to review each application holistically. Harvard, UNC, and virtually all
25 other elite universities that openly considered race in admissions before *SFFA v.*
26 *Harvard* likewise used holistic admissions. *Cf.* 600 U.S. at 257 (Thomas, J.,
27 concurring) ("Harvard's 'holistic' admissions policy began in the 1920s when it was
28 developed to exclude Jews."). Notwithstanding *SFFA v. Harvard*, AAMC has

1 encouraged medical schools like DGSOM to continue using holistic review to “boost
2 racial diversity.”

3 **II. DGSOM Uses Race as a Factor in Admissions**

4 30. In defiance of state and federal law, DGSOM uses race as a factor in
5 admissions.

6 31. Both the UC System and DGSOM have publicly expressed their intent to
7 racially balance the class. DGSOM’s Associate Dean for Admissions, Lucero, both
8 publicly and privately said she uses race as a factor in making admission decisions.
9 And whistleblowers confirm that the Admissions Committee, either led or
10 intimidated by Lucero, use all available methods to glean an applicant’s race, openly
11 discuss applicants’ race, and use race to hold students to different standards.

12 32. In the *SFFA* case, the UC System submitted an amicus brief stating that it
13 “implemented numerous and wide-ranging race-neutral measures designed to
14 increase ... racial diversity.” The UC System also said that, although “Proposition
15 209 barred consideration of race in admissions decisions at public universities in
16 California,” its competitor universities outside of California “must retain the ability
17 to engage in the ... consideration of race.” Had the Supreme Court adopted that
18 position, it would have made it harder for the UC System to attract minority students.
19 As Chancellor Gene Block (“Block”) once put it, “the most serious competition for
20 UCLA” in trying to enroll Black students is “highly ranked private colleges and
21 universities” openly using race in admissions. The UC System’s position at the
22 Supreme Court thus makes no sense unless its schools were still using race, and it
23 hoped that the Supreme Court would say the practice was lawful under federal law.

24 33. Similarly, in 2024, the UC System said that “system- and campus-level
25 strategies and innovations are being piloted or have been implemented” to “achieve
26 representational diversity in its student body.”

27 34. The UC System further adopted the “UC 2030 Capacity Plan,” with the
28 goal of having its student bodies “better reflec[t] California’s racial/ethnic ...

1 diversity.” The UC System President wanted “intentional” “growth” in terms of
2 making “graduate students ... better reflect and tap the talent of underrepresented
3 populations who represent the majority of Californians.” To support this goal of
4 “mov[ing] the needle on the diversity of graduate students,” the Regents “requested
5 graduate professional programs” to “present race/ethnicity data on students and
6 faculty, along with diversity plans within the program.”

7 35. The UC System meticulously measures its racial outcomes in a variety of
8 ways, including by closely tracking the racial demographics of its students. “The
9 whole goal of public universities,” according to then-chancellor Block, is to
10 “represent the demographics of the community that we serve.”

11 36. UCLA commissioned a report by Robert Mare to study its admissions
12 process for undergraduates—which, like DGSOM, uses “holistic” review. Even the
13 Mare report found that, over a two-year span, the admission of nearly one-third of
14 all admitted Black students could not be explained on grounds other than race. In
15 response to this shocking finding, then-Chancellor Block did not order an
16 investigation or any changes to decrease the use of race in admissions. UCLA instead
17 endorsed Mare’s study as proof that its holistic admissions were working as
18 intended. Throughout his tenure, Block refused to investigate or make any changes
19 in response to evidence that UCLA was using race in admissions, including credible
20 evidence about DGSOM.

21 37. When he was chancellor, Block oversaw UCLA’s efforts to achieve
22 “diversity” in admissions, including by “adopt[ing] admissions policies that are
23 designed to draw together a student body that looks like” the country. He often touted
24 each year that the incoming class was “the most diverse” in UCLA’s “103-history.”
25 Yet Block elsewhere maintained that “it is nearly impossible to achieve true diversity
26 on our campuses without taking some account of race or ethnicity in admissions.”

27 38. Block created the new position of “vice chancellor for equity, diversity,
28 and inclusion”—as well as new “diversity officers” who reported to the vice

1 chancellor—with the specific mandate to “strengthen campus diversity and equity.”

2 39. In 2020, DGSOM adopted the “Anti-Racism Roadmap” with the purpose
3 of creating a “path toward racial justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.”

4 40. Under the roadmap, DGSOM instituted sweeping policies concerning race
5 in its operations:

6 a. DGSOM re-defined “merit” to include “diversity and inclusion
7 initiatives.”

8 b. DGSOM committed itself to increasing BIPOC employees and
9 chairs among its faculty and created a special pathway for BIPOC
10 postdoctoral trainees, fellows, and residents to become faculty.

11 c. DGSOM committed itself to creating special opportunities for
12 BIPOC researchers to present seminars, present research, and otherwise
13 participate in research opportunities, including by providing “minority
14 supplements” to NIH grants.

15 d. DGSOM vowed that the medical-student body “should reflect
16 the population of State of California” and adopted a strategic plan to
17 “increase the number of URiM students.” The term “URiM” stands for
18 underrepresented in medicine. Its proponents consider all Blacks to be
19 underrepresented and all Whites and Asians to be overrepresented.

20 e. DGSOM vowed collaboration among the Admissions
21 Committee, the Admissions Policy Oversight Committee, and the Faculty
22 Executive Committee to “review and improve diversity to reflect the
23 population of the State of California.”

24 f. DGSOM sought the participation of “diverse” medical students
25 and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office in the admissions process
26 to further its racial goals.

27 g. DGSOM also explained how it would monitor the racial numbers
28 in the admissions process. It explained that it would engage in “strategic

1 planning to improve diversity for all UCLA Health professional students
2 using data-driven, evidence-based approaches.” In addition, it would
3 “collect and publicly report data on diversity in all school programs.”

4 41. DGSOM’s Anti-Racism Roadmap has separately been incorporated into
5 the school’s diversity statements, which the Admissions Committee applies in
6 reviewing each application.

7 42. In 2020, DGSOM named Lucero its Associate Dean for Admissions.
8 Lucero is also the Vice Chair of DEI efforts at UCLA Health, the hospital system
9 affiliated with DGSOM.

10 43. Lucero is an outspoken advocate for using race as a factor in admissions
11 and hiring in medical school and healthcare. Lucero has stated her view that every
12 part of society—including academic medicine—is structurally racist. Lucero has
13 stated her view that racism affects admission decisions and impedes DEI efforts.
14 Lucero has also stated her view that comments like “We want diversity, but we also
15 want qualified people” are biased and racist.

16 44. Lucero has stated in articles and public interviews that it’s important to
17 racially diversify medical-school admissions, residencies, and leadership positions
18 in medicine. As Associate Dean for Admissions, Lucero has significant influence
19 over the appointment of Admissions Committee members. Lucero has remade the
20 Admissions Committee to be, what she calls, a “brave space” that both looks racially
21 diverse and is where the Admissions Committee members feel free to further DEI
22 efforts.

23 45. Consistent with Lucero’s beliefs, DGSOM’s current “Guiding Principles
24 for Student Representation” state that the chair of the Admissions Committee will
25 ensure that medical students who identify as BIPOC are placed on the Admissions
26 Committee to provide their input on admissions.

27 46. Given the UC System’s and DGSOM’s explicit desire to racially balance
28 the student body, and with Lucero at the helm, the Admissions Committee makes

1 admission decisions by using race as a factor.

2 47. Lucero and her handpicked Admissions Committee take advantage of
3 UCLA's holistic-review procedure to uncover and then use applicants' race.

4 48. Lucero and the Admissions Committee routinely admit Black applicants
5 with GPA and MCAT scores significantly below the scores necessary for Whites
6 and Asians to be seriously considered for admission.

7 49. Lucero and the Admissions Committee explicitly discuss and use
8 applicants' race. On one occasion when the Admissions Committee was deliberating
9 on a Black applicant with a significantly below-average GPA and MCAT score,
10 Lucero stated: "Did you not know African American women are dying at a higher
11 rate than everyone else?" "We need people like this in the medical school."

12 50. Admissions Committee members report that the bar for underrepresented
13 minorities is "as low as you could possibly imagine" and that the Admissions
14 Committee "completely disregards grades and achievements" for those applicants.

15 51. Lucero regularly bullies and berates members of the Admissions
16 Committee who voice concerns about admitting below-average Black applicants by
17 labeling them as "privileged" and implying that they are racist.

18 52. Lucero and the Admissions Committee regularly glean the applicants' race
19 through direct and indirect means. The secondary application even asks questions
20 designed to uncover applicants' race. The interviews further enable the Admissions
21 Committee to know applicants' race and ethnicity.

22 53. Statistical evidence confirms that Lucero and the Admissions Committee
23 have been, and are, using race.

24 54. According to data reviewed by the United States, DGSOM's class
25 incoming in 2021 has median MCAT scores of 509 for both Black and Hispanic,
26 516 for Asian, and 513 for White matriculants. These correspond to percentile
27 rankings of 77, 93, and 87, respectively.

28 55. According to data reviewed by the United States, DGSOM's class

1 incoming in 2022 has median MCAT scores of 508 for Black, 507 for Hispanic, and
2 514 for both Asian and White matriculants. These correspond to percentile rankings
3 of 72, 69, and 88, respectively.

4 56. According to data reviewed by the United States, DGSOM's class
5 incoming in 2023 has median MCAT scores of 507 for both Black and Hispanic, and
6 514 for both Asian and White matriculants. These correspond to percentile rankings
7 of 68 and 88, respectively.

8 57. According to data reviewed by the United States, DGSOM's class
9 incoming in 2024 has median MCAT scores of 508 for Black, 506 for Hispanic, 515
10 for Asian, and 513 for White matriculants. These correspond to percentile rankings
11 of 75, 66, 90, and 86, respectively.

12 58. Lucero's and the Admissions Committee's illegal use of race in
13 admissions was known, and caused grave concern, among DGSOM's faculty
14 members.

15 59. After receiving multiple complaints for years, UCLA's internal
16 Discrimination Prevention Office, charged with ensuring compliance with Title VI
17 and other laws, sought to investigate Lucero and DGSOM's admissions practices.

18 60. Four members of the Admissions Committee initially agreed to participate
19 in that investigation. But the Admissions Committee had required its members to
20 sign a nondisclosure agreement barring any discussion of the Admissions
21 Committee's deliberations. When these four members wrote to DGSOM's
22 administration seeking written assurance that they would not be retaliated against
23 for cooperating with the internal probe, the administration refused to give them that
24 assurance. DGSOM's administration thus effectively shut down UCLA's internal
25 probe.

26 **III. DGSOM's Racial Discrimination Has Harmed and Continues to**
27 **Harm Americans**

28 61. Americans suffer a "form of injury under the Equal Protection Clause [by]

1 being forced to compete in a race-based system that may prejudice the[m].” *Parents*
2 *Involved in Cmty. Sch. v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 551 U.S. 701, 719 (2007) (citation
3 omitted).

4 62. The United States has an interest in ensuring that its civil rights laws are
5 followed.

6 63. UCLA is the recipient of many grants from the federal government. UCLA
7 reports it received federal grants in the amount of \$584 million in 2025 alone.

8 64. An example of one such grant is \$1,500,000 from the Department of
9 Justice (“DOJ”) for a “Youth Justice Navigator Initiative,” a project to build a “free,
10 interactive, opensource mobile app and website that will serve as a companion to
11 youth and families navigating the juvenile legal system.”

12 65. This grant creates a legally binding contract between UCLA and the DOJ.
13 As a condition of its receipt of federal financial assistance, UCLA signed contractual
14 assurances that all its programs and activities would be conducted in compliance
15 with all requirements of Title VI and its implementing regulations. *See* 28 C.F.R. §
16 42.105.

17 66. The DOJ grant provides, “Several civil rights laws, including Title VI of the
18 Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, require
19 recipients of federal financial assistance (recipients) to give assurances that they will
20 comply with those laws. Taken together, these and other civil rights laws prohibit
21 recipients from discriminating in the provision of services and employment because of
22 race, color, national origin, religion, disability, and sex or from discriminating in the
23 provision of services on the basis of age.”

24 67. The DOJ grant further provides, “Should you accept the award and then fail to
25 comply with an award requirement, DOJ will pursue appropriate remedies for non-
26 compliance, which may include termination of the award and/or a requirement to repay
27 award funds.”
28

1 68. UCLA had at least four active DOJ grants from June 2023 to present, each of
2 which includes the above-cited language concerning compliance with civil rights laws,
3 including:

4 a. Award ID 15PNIJ-24-GG-01575-RESS “Graduate Research
5 Fellowship” (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025) \$47,052

6 b. Award ID 2019-R2-CX-0014 “Research and Evaluation on Gangs
7 and Gang Violence” (01/01/2020 to 12/31/2023) \$550,610

8 c. Award ID 15PJDP-24-GK-01652-MUMU “Youth Justice
9 Navigator Initiative” (10/01/2024 to 09/30/2027) \$1,500,000

10 d. Award ID 15JOVW-24-GG-01523-MUMU Research and
11 Evaluation Initiative 11/01/2024 to 10/31/2026 \$492,200

12 69. On May 9, 2025, the United States opened a Title VI compliance review
13 of DGSOM. As part of that review the United States requested applicant level
14 admissions data and admissions related documents and correspondence. DGSOM
15 provided over 1,400 pages of information.

16 70. Upon a thorough review of such information, as well as conducting an
17 investigation, the United States issued a Findings Letter on May 6, 2026, in which it
18 concluded that DGSOM “discriminated on the basis of race for the incoming classes
19 of 2023 through 2025, in violation of Title VI.” See Exhibit A attached hereto.

20 71. The DOJ Findings Letter offered to negotiate with DGSOM in good faith to
21 bring DGSOM into voluntary compliance with Title VI. Those negotiations did not
22 result in voluntary compliance.

23 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

24 **Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment**

25 72. The United States repeats and realleges the preceding allegations.

26 73. The Fourteenth Amendment provides, among other things, that no person
27 shall be denied “the equal protection of the laws.” U.S. Const. amend. XIV, §1.
28

1 74. The “central mandate” of equal protection is “racial neutrality” by the
2 government. *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 904 (1995). And the “‘core purpose’
3 of the Equal Protection Clause” is to “‘d[o] away with all governmentally imposed
4 discrimination based on race.’” *SFFA v. Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 206 (emphasis added).
5 “[W]henever the government treats any person unequally because of his or her race,
6 that person has suffered an injury that falls squarely within the language and spirit
7 of the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection.” *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v.*
8 *Pena*, 515 U.S. 200, 229-30 (2000).

9 75. The Regents, through DGSOM, intentionally engage in a system of racial
10 balancing that provides racial preferences in admissions, and thereby treats
11 applicants differently based on their race, all in violation of the equal protection
12 rights of applicants. DGSOM uses a “holistic” application review method to disguise
13 this systemic racism.

14 76. DGSOM’s systemically racist approach to admissions is not justified by
15 any legitimate governmental purpose, nor is it narrowly tailored to meet any purpose,
16 and is illegal under the Fourteenth Amendment as interpreted by the US Supreme
17 Court.

18 77. Before and certainly after *SFFA v. Harvard*, the Regents knew for certain
19 that DGSOM should not consider race in admissions. Yet it perpetuated the practice
20 anyway behind closed doors, while falsely denying it in its statements to the public
21 and even to the Supreme Court. When whistleblowers, investigators, and others tried
22 to reveal this discrimination, the Regents acted to conceal it by shutting down
23 internal investigations and baselessly denying public-records requests. Lucero (on
24 behalf of the Regents) in particular used intimidation and shaming tactics to pressure
25 the Admissions Committee to unlawfully consider race in their decisions, including
26 forcing them to sit through a two-hour lecture by her sister.

27 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

28 **Violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**

1 78. The United States repeats and realleges the preceding allegations.

2 79. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides, “No person in the United
3 States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from
4 participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under
5 any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” 42 U.S.C. §2000d.

6 80. The Regents are covered by Title VI. Title VI defines “program or
7 activity” to mean “all of the operations of” a “university” or “public system of higher
8 education . . . any part of which is extended Federal financial assistance.” 42 U.S.C.
9 §2000d-4a(2)(A).

10 81. The UC System and UCLA receive federal funds in the form of federal
11 student aid and research grants, including from the United States Department of
12 Justice.

13 82. Under 42 U.S.C. §2000d-7(a)(1), a state is “not ... immune ... from suit
14 in Federal court for a violation of ... title VI.”

15 83. The United States has the authority to conduct compliance reviews and
16 investigations. 28 C.F.R. §42.107. If it concludes that illegal discrimination is
17 occurring, and the entity fails to correct it, then the United States may suspend or
18 terminate funding, or “use any other means authorized by law, to induce compliance
19” 28 C.F.R. §42.108.

20 84. The United States has found, after an investigation, that DGSOM has been
21 discriminating based upon race in admissions. It brings this action to induce
22 compliance with Title VI.

23 85. DGSOM has caused and will continue to cause applicants to be “excluded
24 from participation in,” “denied the benefits of,” and “subjected to discrimination
25 under” its admissions policies and practices “on the ground of race, color, or national
26 origin.” 42 U.S.C. §2000d.

27 86. Title VI has “independent force” and makes it “*always* unlawful to
28 discriminate among persons even in part because of race.” *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 308-

09 (Gorsuch, J., concurring).

87. At a minimum, because DGSOM violates the Fourteenth Amendment, it also violates Title VI. *Gratz v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 244, 276 (“We have explained that discrimination that violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment committed by an institution that accepts federal funds also constitutes a violation of Title VI.”)

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Breach of Contract

88. The United States repeats and realleges the preceding allegations.

89. At all times alleged in this Complaint, UCLA has received grants of federal funds, including from the DOJ. These grants are legally binding contracts that require DGSOM to comply with Title VI throughout the duration of the grants.

90. DGSOM has materially breached the terms of the grants by failing to comply with Title VI.

91. The United States has fulfilled all obligations owing to date under the grants, or in the alternative, fulfilled all obligations owing until the date of DGSOM’s breach of the grants.

92. Compliance with Title VI is a material term of the grants.

93. DGSOM’s failure to comply with Title VI is grounds for the United States to rescind grant payments made during the period of noncompliance.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

94. The United States asks this Court to enter judgment in their favor and against Defendant and to provide the following relief:

A. A declaratory judgment that DGSOM’s admissions policies, practices, and decisions violate the Constitution by discriminating against applicants on the grounds of race.

B. A permanent injunction prohibiting DGSOM from in any way considering applicants’ race, or considering any other factor for the purpose

1 of, in full or in part, discriminating based on race, when making admission
2 decisions.

3 C. The appointment of a monitor to oversee all decisions relating to
4 admissions at DGSOM to ensure compliance with federal law.

5 D. Rescind all previous grants and/or payments made to UCLA by the DOJ
6 from June 29, 2023 (the date of the Supreme Court *SFFA* ruling) to the present
7 and return of all such monies received by UCLA to the United States.

8 E. Terminate any existing DOJ grant agreements.

9 F. A damages award to the United States and injured applicants.

10 G. Any other legal or equitable relief the Court deems just and proper.

11 DATED: July 6, 2026.

Respectfully submitted:

13 HARMEET K. DHILLON
14 Assistant Attorney General
15 JESUS A. OSETE
16 Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney
17 General
18 JEFFREY MORRISON
19 Deputy Assistant Attorney General

20 /s/ John P. Mertens
21 JOHN P. MERTENS
22 Acting Chief, Educational Opportunities
23 Section
24 BRIAN REPPER
25 Deputy Chief, Educational Opportunities
26 Section
27 Civil Rights Division
28 JAMES BRESLO
Senior Trial Attorney, Educational
Opportunities Section
Civil Rights Division

1 TODD BLANCHE
2 Acting Attorney General
3 BILAL A. ESSAYLI
4 First Assistant United States Attorney

5 /s/ Julie A. Hamill
6 JULIE A. HAMILL
7 Assistant United States Attorney
8 United States Attorney's Office

9 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF-
10 INTERVENOR
11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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EXHIBIT A



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 6, 2026

VIA E-mail to: debo.adegbile@wilmerhale.com

Debo P. Adegbile
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
7 World Trade Center
250 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: United States' May 9, 2025 Title VI Inquiry Findings

Dear Mr. Adegbile:

We write to notify you of the findings of the U.S. Department of Justice (the Department) after its compliance review to determine whether the admissions practices of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) are in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq. ("Title VI"),¹ as interpreted by the Supreme Court's decision in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard College*, 600 U.S. 181 (2023) ("*Harvard*"). Based on our review, we have found that DGSOM has violated this standard by discriminating on the basis of race in the incoming classes of 2023, 2024, and 2025. Based on its review of DGSOM's documents and data, **the Department finds that DGSOM continues to intentionally discriminate against applicants based on their race after the Supreme Court's decision in *Harvard*** by granting and denying admission on the basis of race.

Procedural Background

The Department enforces federal civil rights laws that protect students from discrimination, including Title VI, which prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from discrimination based on race and ethnicity.

Title VI authorizes the Department to conduct periodic compliance reviews and investigations of the practices and policies of the recipients of federal funding. 28 C.F.R. § 42.107. Should the Department find that a recipient fails to comply with Title VI, it is authorized to pursue legal action to secure compliance. *See* 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.105 & 108.

¹ This investigation is separate and distinct from the Department's investigations related to allegations of discrimination against Jewish and Israeli students and allegations of employment discrimination.

The Department currently provides direct federal financial assistance to UCLA.² Enforcement under Title VI requires funding agencies to advise recipients of their failure to comply, and to determine that compliance cannot be obtained by voluntary means before initiating judicial proceedings to compel compliance. 42 U.S.C. § 2000d-1. If the Department determines that the noncompliance with Title VI cannot be corrected by voluntary means, the Department may seek to compel compliance through enforcement. *See* 28 C.F.R. § 42.108.

The Department's May 9th notice of investigation letter included a request for information. On September 16, 2025, the Department sent a Supplemental Request for Information. DGSOM responded to these requests with documents. The Department has carefully reviewed the documents DGSOM produced and collected other information in its investigation of DGSOM, which forms the basis of the Department's findings.

Intent to Discriminate

DGSOM's internal policies, publicly distributed literature, and email correspondence of its leadership, consistently and emphatically **demonstrate DGSOM's intent to use race in admissions decisions despite the *Harvard* ruling.**

In one example, Alisa Lopez (DGSOM's Executive Director of Admissions) sent a document prepared by the American Association of Medical College (AAMC) to Jennifer Lucero (Associate Dean of Admissions). Lopez stated that the document "may be helpful for the Admissions Committee members as a resource" and suggested distributing it to them.³ This document outlines workarounds to achieve medical school "diversity goals," despite the prohibition on race preferences articulated in *Harvard*. Such workarounds include racial proxies and emphasizing "holistic review practices" as bases for admitting students.⁴ Discrimination on the basis of racial proxies is offensive to our nation's Constitution and laws, just as direct racial discrimination is.⁵ "[W]hat cannot be done directly cannot be done indirectly. The Constitution deals with substance, not shadows, and the prohibition against racial discrimination is levelled at the thing, not the name."⁶ The document also promotes a theory that increasing "diversity" of the healthcare workforce will improve healthcare outcomes for Black and Hispanic patients, with the implication that denying Black and Hispanic students admission to medical school now will injure and kill Black and Hispanic patients in the future.⁷

The Executive Director of Admissions' promotion of this document demonstrates DGSOM's intent to racially discriminate under the guise of saving lives and conceal her true motive to treat certain applicants unfavorably based on their race. Her plan to distribute this document to admissions staff shows that these attitudes were systemically ingrained in DGSOM's admissions department and put into practice at every level.

² Grant Nos. 15PJDP-24-GK-01652-MUMU and 15JOVW-24-GG-01523-MUMU, totaling \$1,992,200.

³ September 1, 2023 email from Alisa Lopez; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00001265

⁴ "Frequently Asked Questions: What Does the Harvard and UNC Decision Mean for Medical Education?" dated August 24, 2023; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00001271

⁵ *See Rice v. Cayetano*, 528 U.S. 495, 514–15 (2000).

⁶ *Students for Fair Admissions*, 600 U.S. at 230–31.

⁷ "Frequently Asked Questions: What Does the Harvard and UNC Decision Mean for Medical Education?" dated August 24, 2023; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00001274

DGSOM requires applicants to take the AAMC's PREview Exam, a multiple-choice test. The PREview Exam was created by diversity-affairs officers from various medical schools, to "level the playing field" for applicants deemed historically underrepresented in medicine. It does so by stressing subjective factors other than academics. The PREview Exam scores initially get reported to DGSOM as part of the applicant's primary application. DGSOM again asks about the PREview Exam in the secondary application. The secondary application asks the applicant to submit several open-ended responses. For instance, in 2024 and 2025, DGSOM asked a series of questions, including asking whether applicants identify as being part of a marginalized group, with a follow up question about the impact.^{8,9} **By design, this question asks Black and Hispanic applicants to reveal their race so that DGSOM can know and consider it.**

In *Harvard*, the UC System submitted an amicus brief stating that it "implemented numerous and wide-ranging race-neutral measures designed to increase ... racial diversity." In a memo entitled "Guiding Principles for Student Representation," DGSOM states that the Chairs of the Admissions Committee "will review all submitted recommendations to ensure representation from those who identify as BIPOC..." for selection of students for participation in the Admissions Committee. This statement did not change for the 2022 to 2024 enrollment cycles.¹⁰ DGSOM appears to have changed this document in May 2025 for the 2025 enrollment cycle to remove this language.¹¹

The updated 2025 admissions guidance presentation has several slides with only graphics that discuss issues such as "implicit bias" and promoting diversity. This suggests that admissions personnel are given verbal instructions during this presentation encouraging the use of race/ethnicity in admissions, and such instructions are not put in writing.¹² The 2025 admissions prep materials, which continue to refer to "race" in its holistic metrics model,¹³ state that *Harvard* endorses holistic review, and includes unconscious bias training.¹⁴

DGSOM uses AAMC's holistic metrics model, as shown on the wheel graphic available at <https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/5781/download>. This graphic was featured in DGSOM's 2025 admissions guidance document. It shows a myriad of factors that appear unrelated to medicine to explain what a holistic admission process considers, including "citizenship," "distance travelled," "relationship status," "cultural events," and "sexual orientation." In addition to these attributes, the wheel explicitly includes "race" and "national origin", both of which are prohibited by Title VI. Blown-up excerpts of these portions of the wheel are shown on the following page. DGSOM has taken the view that by performing a holistic evaluation of applicants

⁸ "DGSOM Traditional MD Secondary Mock-up" 2025 Cycle; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000995

⁹ "DGSOM Admissions Committee KICKOFF" dated September 18, 2024; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000342, *et seq.*

¹⁰ "Admissions Committee Guiding Principles for Student Representation," 22-23, 23-24, 24-25, and 25-26 admissions cycles; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000141 to 00000144

¹¹ "Admissions Committee Guiding Principles for Student Representation," updated 25-26 admissions cycle; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000145

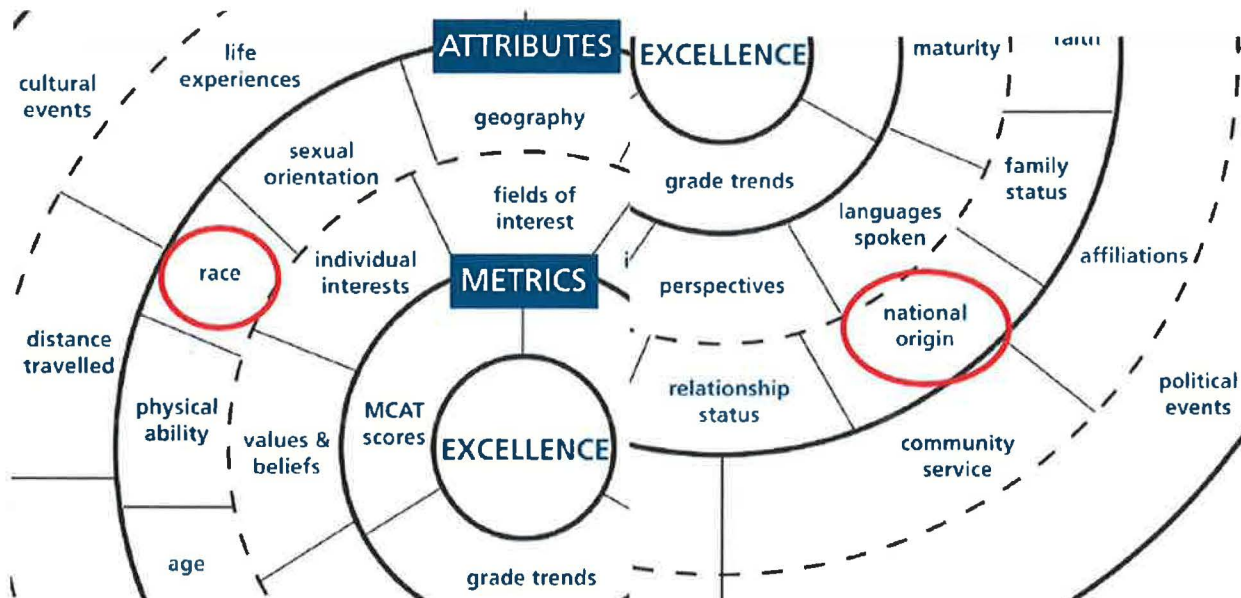
¹² "DGSOM Admissions Committee KICKOFF" dated September 18, 2024; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000323 to 00000327

¹³ "DGSOM Admissions Committee KICKOFF" dated September 18, 2024; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000316

¹⁴ "DGSOM Admissions Committee KICKOFF" dated September 18, 2024; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000320, DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000324

(i.e., considering the factors on the wheel), it has achieved more racial diversity in its admitted students.¹⁵

DGSOM has maintained that it takes a “holistic” approach to admissions, and that objective metrics like MCAT scores and GPAs are only part of what it considers in evaluating applicants. DGSOM justifies this approach by emphasizing that it takes more than academic excellence to make a great physician. This does not explain the major disparities it has produced in objective academic metrics between racial groups.



The expected result of a reduced emphasis on these academic metrics (without illegal racial preferences) would be a reduction in MCAT/GPA scores for all racial groups by roughly equal amounts. Absent a stereotyped view of racial differences, one would expect that each racial group would excel roughly equally in the non-academic application metrics in the holistic evaluation model. This greater emphasis on non-academic metrics would result in lower academic metrics across the board, as students that excel in areas other than MCAT/GPA are accepted in similar proportions from all racial groups.

DGSOM’s holistic approach instead results in significantly lower median MCAT/GPA scores for Black and Hispanic students compared with other groups. This result relies on a stereotyped assumption that Black and Hispanic students disproportionately excel in these non-academic metrics. In fact, DGSOM’s admissions department promotes such stereotypes, and has promulgated literature stating that more Black and Hispanic doctors are needed to alleviate health disparities between Black and Hispanic patients and the population as a whole. In *Harvard*, the Supreme Court repeatedly warned that racial considerations in admissions “may not operate as a stereotype.”¹⁶

DGSOM uses its holistic-review procedure to uncover and then use applicants’ race through direct and indirect means. The secondary application asks questions designed to uncover

¹⁵ “DGSOM Admissions Committee KICKOFF” dated September 18, 2024; DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000316

¹⁶ *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 218.

applicants' race. The interviews further enable the committee to know applicants' race and ethnicity. Race preferences elevate Black and Hispanic applicants in the admissions process. Admission to Geffen is a highly selective, zero-sum process. Any benefit given to "some applicants but not to others necessarily advantages the former group at the expense of the latter." *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 219. Lucero in particular used intimidation and shaming tactics to pressure the admissions committee to unlawfully consider race in their decisions—including forcing them to sit through a two-hour lecture by her sister, Stephanie Lucero.

Statistical Evidence of Intentional Discrimination

DGSOM has produced aggregated admissions data showing disparities in MCAT scores and GPAs between different racial groups of admitted students. For example, DGSOM provided a chart showing the Median GPA and MCAT scores broken down by racial category for its 2023 incoming class, as summarized in the following chart. MCAT scores are shown as the test score, followed by the percentile rank in parentheses among all test-takers that year:¹⁷

Race	Median GPA	Median MCAT	
		Score	Percentile ¹⁸
Black	3.63	507	68
Asian	3.81	514	88
Hispanic	3.55	507	68
White	3.75	514	88
Two or More Races	3.78	513	86
Declined to Respond	3.79	519	96

The Median MCAT scores in this chart show significant differences across racial lines. The lowest group median scores (Black and Hispanic) are at the 68th percentile of test takers, while those who declined to respond were at the 96th percentile. This is 28 percentile points (about 1 standard deviation) of difference between these two groups.¹⁹ The GPAs also show a large disparity, with the lowest group median GPA (Hispanic) being 0.26 grade points lower than the highest group median GPA (Asian).

DGSOM also provided a chart showing the Median GPA and MCAT scores broken down by racial category for its 2024 incoming class, as summarized in the following chart:²⁰

Race	Median GPA	Median MCAT	
		Score	Percentile ²¹
Black	3.72	508	72
Asian	3.84	515	90
Hispanic	3.56	506	66

¹⁷ Aggregated AAMC Data for DGSOM Applicants (2021-2024 Admissions Cycles); DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000745

¹⁸ <https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/13381/download>

¹⁹ <https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/13381/download>

²⁰ Aggregated AAMC Data for DGSOM Applicants (2021-2024 Admissions Cycles); DGSOMAD-DOJ-00000746

²¹ <https://www.aamc.org/media/75901/download?attachment>

White	3.83	513	86
Two or More Races	3.68	513	86
Declined to Respond	3.9	516	92

As with the incoming class of 2023, the Median MCAT scores for the incoming class of 2024 exhibit significant differences across racial lines. The lowest group median score (Hispanic) is 26 percentile points below the highest group median score (Decline to Respond). This is about 1 standard deviation of difference between these two groups.²² The GPAs show an even larger disparity than 2023, with the lowest group median GPA (Hispanic) being 0.34 grade points lower than the highest group median GPA (Decline to Respond).

Data provided to the Department for the incoming class of 2025 reveals disparities between the academic qualifications of admitted students in different racial groups continue to the present time. These **median** scores in several cases contrast with DGSOM's announcement in just 2019 that it was using 512 (85) as an MCAT **cutoff score** for admission.²³

Findings

The Department finds that after *Harvard*, **DGSOM discriminated against other applicants to benefit preferred race classes of Black and Hispanic**. This discrimination is apparent from the documents expressing an intent to discriminate, plus the significant disparity in objective academic metrics between Black and Hispanic applicants compared with applicants from other racial categories. DGSOM's internal documents, including policies, training materials, and communications confirm the Department's findings that DGSOM intended to discriminate against all racial groups except Black and Hispanic applicants, to accept more Black and Hispanic applicants. Specifically, a roughly 1 standard deviation separation in median MCAT scores between racial groups, and over 0.25 median GPA separation between racial groups. As a result of these practices, highly qualified White, Asian, and other students were denied admission on the basis of their race.

For these reasons, the Department concludes that DGSOM discriminated on the basis of race for the incoming classes of 2023 through 2025, in violation of Title VI as interpreted by *Harvard*. Based on its review of DGSOM's documents and data, the Department believes that this discrimination is ongoing.

²² <https://www.aamc.org/media/75901/download?attachment>

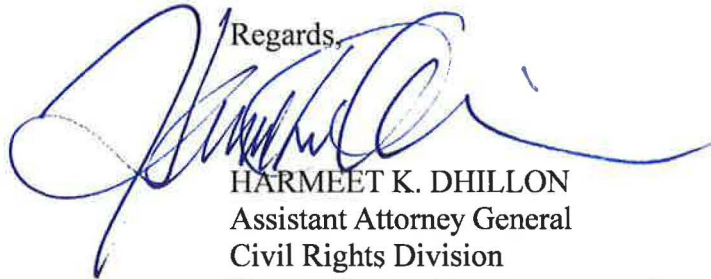
²³ <https://web.archive.org/web/20260503190922/https://dailybruin.com/2019/01/17/david-geffen-school-of-medicine-raises-admission-standards-incites-controversy>.

Resolution

Having determined that DGSOM deliberately discriminated on the basis of race in its decisions to admit and deny applicants, the Department seeks to enter into a voluntary resolution agreement with the University to ensure that admissions practices are brought into legal compliance. The Department is providing this notice to allow that process to continue, subject to potential limitation as set forth in the Order issued in *American Association of University Professors, et al. v. Donald J. Trump, et al.*, (25-cv-07864, N.D. Cal. 2025).

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Brian L. Repper at brian.repper@usdoj.gov or (771) 202-1494.

Thank you in advance for your attention and cooperation.

Regards,

HARMEET K. DHILLON
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

HARMEET K. DHILLON
Assistant Attorney General
JESUS A. OSETE
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
JEFFREY MORRISON (MO No. 44401)
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
JOHN P. MERTENS (CA No. 252762)
Acting Chief, Educational Opportunities Section
Email: john.mertens@usdoj.gov
BRIAN REPPER (VA No. 90254)
Deputy Chief, Educational Opportunities Section
JAMES A. BRESLO (CA No. 162808)
Senior Trial Attorney, Educational Opportunities Section
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530
Telephone: (202) 598-9726

TODD BLANCHE
Acting Attorney General
BILAL A. ESSAYLI
First Assistant United States Attorney
JULIE A. HAMILL (CA No. 272742)
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 7516
Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone: (213) 894-2464
E-Mail: julie.hamill@usdoj.gov

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF-INTERVENOR
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

DO NO HARM, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
and
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Intervenor,
v.

Case No. 2:25-cv-04131-JWH-JDE

**PLAINTIFF-INTERVENOR
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA'S NOTICE OF
REVISIONS TO COMPLAINT**

Honorable John W. Holcomb
United States District Judge

1 REGENTS OF THE
2 UNIVERSITY OF
3 CALIFORNIA et al.,
4 *Defendants.*

5 **TO THE COURT AND ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF**
6 **RECORD:**

7 Pursuant to the Court's Order of July 8, 2026 (Dkt. 103), Plaintiff-Intervenor,
8 United States of America, hereby submits this Notice of Revisions containing a redline
9 showing the amendments made to its Complaint, attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

1 Dated: July 13, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

2 TODD BLANCHE

HARMEET K. DHILLON

3 Acting Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General

4 BILAL A. ESSAYLI

JESUS A. OSETE

5 First Assistant United States
Attorney

Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney
General

6 /s/ Julie A. Hamill

JEFFREY MORRISON

7 JULIE A. HAMILL

Deputy Assistant Attorney General

8 Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office

/s/ John P. Mertens

JOHN P. MERTENS

9 Acting Chief, Educational Opportunities
Section

10 BRIAN REPPER

11 Deputy Chief, Educational Opportunities
Section

12 Civil Rights Division

13 JAMES BRESLO

14 Sr. Trial Attorney, Educational
Opportunities Section
15 Civil Rights Division

16 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF-
17 INTERVENOR
18 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
19
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21
22
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25
26
27
28

EXHIBIT 1

HARMEET K. DHILLON
Assistant Attorney General
JESUS A. OSETE
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
JEFFREY MORRISON (MO No. 44401)
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
JOHN P. MERTENS (CA No. 252762)
Acting Chief, Educational Opportunities Section
BRIAN REPPER (VA No. 90254)
~~Acting~~ Deputy Chief, Educational Opportunities Section
JAMES A. BRESLO (CA No. 162808)
Senior Trial Attorney, Educational Opportunities Section
Civil Rights Division

U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530
Telephone: (202) 598-9726
Email: john.mertens@usdoj.gov

TODD BLANCHE
Deputy Acting Attorney General
BILAL A. ESSAYLI
First Assistant United States Attorney
JULIE A. HAMILL (CA No. 272742)
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 7516
Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone: (213) 894-2464
E-Mail: julie.hamill@usdoj.gov

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF-INTERVENOR
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

DO NO HARM, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
and
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Intervenor,
v.

Case No. 2:25-cv-04131-JWH-JDE

**UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA'S FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT IN
INTERVENTION FOR
DECLARATORY AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND
RESCISSION**

~~DAVID GEFLEN SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE AT UCLA, et al.,
REGENTS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA~~
Defendants.

Honorable John W. Holcomb
United States District Judge

INTRODUCTION

The United States brings this action to stop the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA (“~~UCLA MedDGSOM~~”), part of the University of California at Los Angeles (“UCLA”) and itself a part of the ~~State University of California, system operated by the Regents of the University of California (the “Regents”),~~ from engaging in race-based admissions in violation of the Equal Protection Clause, ~~Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VI”), contracts between UCLA and the United States,~~ and the standards recently articulated by the United States Supreme Court in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard Coll.*, 600 U.S. 181, 143 S. Ct. 2141, 216 L. Ed. 2d 857 (2023). After a long history of moving incrementally away from racial preferences in education, this Nation and its Supreme Court cast off this vestige of our troubled history surrounding race and set out to mandate colorblind admissions in all public (and publicly funded) universities.

Nevertheless, ~~UCLA Med’sDGSOM’s~~ Associate Dean for Admissions, Jennifer Lucero, boldly states on her official profile that “she takes a special interest in diversity issues in medicine.” There is but one legal avenue for a public or publicly funded medical school to pursue diversity in medicine: admit the most qualified candidates regardless of race, and expect that those most qualified candidates will come from every race, because they do.

Racial preferences cause three disastrous outcomes. First, if ~~UCLA MedDGSOM~~ and other medical schools lower their academic standards to obtain the “right” racial mix, the result is less well academically qualified doctors practicing

1 medicine. Second, by lowering academic standards for certain applicants, patients
2 will question whether their Underrepresented Minority (“URM,” meaning Black,
3 Hispanic, Pacific Islander, or Native American) doctor is really qualified to practice
4 medicine and can give them the same quality care as a White or Asian doctor who
5 did not receive preferential admission to medical school. This shadow follows URM
6 doctors throughout their careers, whether or not that doctor needed a preference to
7 be admitted to medical school. Third, it undermines and delays delivery upon the
8 promise enshrined in the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution
9 that each state government and its constituent parts, including UCLA Medthe
10 Regents, will treat its citizens equally without regard to their race. (The Regents also
11 made a contractual promise not to discriminate based on race each time it accepted
12 federal taxpayer funds.)

13 “The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating
14 on the basis of race.” *Parents Involved in Cmty. Sch. v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 551
15 U.S. 701, 748, 127 S. Ct. 2738, 2768, 168 L. Ed. 2d 508 (2007). The United States
16 intervenes, because ending racial discrimination in our university systems is of
17 general public importance.

18 PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

19 1. This action challenges the constitutionality of a policy and practice of
20 UCLA MedDGSOM to consider race in medical school admissions.

21 2. This action was filed by plaintiffs Do No Harm, Students for Fair
22 Admissions, and Kelly Mahoney.

23 3. The plaintiffs title their first count of their elaim for reliefComplaint,
24 “Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment,” and expressly assert as the basis for
25 this the count that “The Fourteenth Amendment provides, among other things, that
26 no person shall be denied ‘the equal protection of the laws.’ U.S. Const. amend XIV,
27 § 1.” Plaintiffs’ Second Amended Complaint, ¶ 132.

28 1.—4. Count 1 of the plaintiffs’ elaim for reliefComplaint asserts that

1 plaintiffs are denied equal protection based on race, because ~~Defendants~~the Regents
2 take race into account to racially balance their medical school classes via racially
3 unequal admissions at ~~UCLA-Med~~DGSOM. See Plaintiffs' Second Amended
4 Complaint, ¶~~134~~.

5 ¶¶ ~~129-52~~. This Action was brought to seek relief from the denial of equal
6 protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution ~~and Title~~
7 ~~VI~~ on account of race. The Attorney General of the United States has certified that
8 this case is of general public importance, and intervenes under 42 U.S.C. § 2000h-2
9 to seek declaratory relief that ~~UCLA-Med~~DGSOM has been and continues to
10 consider race in admissions in violation of the Equal Protection rights of Plaintiffs
11 and others who apply to ~~UCLA-Med~~DGSOM, and to permanently enjoin the
12 violation.

13 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

14 ~~6.—~~5. The claims asserted herein arise under the Fourteenth Amendment
15 to the United States Constitution, and ~~Title VI~~ (42 U.S.C. § ~~1983-2000d~~ *et seq.*).

16 ~~7.—~~6. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331
17 and 1343(a)(3) and (4). Declaratory relief is authorized by 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-02.

18 ~~8.—~~7. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (2)
19 because ~~at least some of the Defendants reside in this District,~~ ~~UCLA-Med~~DGSOM
20 is located in this District, and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise
21 to this claim occurred here.

22 PARTIES

23 ~~9.—~~8. Plaintiff-Intervenor is the United States of America.

24 ~~10.—~~9. On information and belief, plaintiff Do No Harm is a nonprofit
25 organization that advocates against radical, divisive, and discriminatory ideologies
26 in medical education, clinical practice, and research.

27 ~~11.—~~10. On information and belief, plaintiff Students for Fair Admissions is
28 a nonprofit organization that advocates for human rights and civil liberties, including

1 equal protection under the law from racial preferences in school admissions that are
2 unfair, unnecessary, and unconstitutional.

3 ~~12.~~—11. On information and belief, plaintiff Kelly Mahoney is a qualified
4 college graduate who applied to, and was rejected from, UCLA MedDGSOM.

5 ~~13.~~—12. Defendant the Regents of the University of California is a state
6 agency that operates the UC System. Under Article IX, §9 of the California
7 Constitution, the Regents have the “full powers of organization and government”
8 over the UC System, including UCLA Medand DGSOM. Cal. Const. Art. IX, §9(a).
9 DefendantsThe Regents have stipulated in this case that any injunctive or declaratory
10 relief against the Regents “will apply to and be binding on UCLA and the David
11 Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.” Dkt. 27, ¶ 4. DGSOM is located in this
12 District. On information and belief, the acts complained of by the Regents took place
13 in this District.

14 ~~14.~~—~~Defendant Julio Frenk is the current chancellor of UCLA. Under the~~
15 ~~Regents’ bylaws, the chancellor is “the executiv[e]” head of UCLA’s campuses,~~
16 ~~including UCLA Med. He sets and has the power to change UCLA’s “policies,”~~
17 ~~including UCLA Med’s admissions policies and practices. He is also “responsible~~
18 ~~for the organization, internal administration, operation, financial management, and~~
19 ~~discipline of [UCLA’s] campuses,” including monitoring how UCLA Med conducts~~
20 ~~admissions and overseeing its compliance with federal and state laws banning the~~
21 ~~use of race in admissions. He further “oversee[s] all faculty personnel and other staff~~
22 ~~at their locations,” including Lucero and everyone who administers admissions at~~
23 ~~UCLA Med. Frenk is sued in his official capacity. Defendants have stipulated in this~~
24 ~~case that any injunctive or declaratory relief against Frenk in his “official capacit[y]~~
25 ~~will apply to and be binding on UCLA and the David Geffen School of Medicine at~~
26 ~~UCLA.” Dkt. 27, ¶ 4.~~

27 ~~15.~~—~~Defendant Gene Block was chancellor of UCLA from August 2007 to~~
28 ~~July 2024. He was chancellor when Lucero was hired, and when UCLA Med adopted~~

1 and implemented the main policies and practices challenged in this lawsuit. An
2 outspoken critic of Prop 209, Block created and oversaw the implementation of
3 UCLA's "efforts at UCLA to increase representation of African American" students.
4 As chancellor, Block was responsible for addressing allegations that a UCLA school
5 was violating the law in how it conducted admissions, including the allegations in
6 this lawsuit. In response to the "Varsity Blues" sting, for example, Block issued a
7 statement falsely stating that "UCLA is absolutely committed to ensuring that every
8 applicant is considered purely on their merits." And when three separate researchers
9 at UCLA found that the school gave race-based admissions preferences to Black
10 applicants, Block issued a statement falsely stating that "UCLA neither
11 discriminates nor grants preference to prospective students based on race, ethnicity,
12 sex or national origin." Block is sued in his personal capacity.

13 16.—Defendant Jennifer Lucero has been the Associate Dean of Admissions
14 at UCLA Med since 2020. Lucero has significant input on the appointment of the
15 Admissions Committee, and she sits on and deliberates with the Admissions
16 Committee. Lucero also sits on the Admissions Policy and Oversight Committee as
17 an *ex officio* member and has significant influence over UCLA Med's admissions
18 policies. Lucero is sued in her official capacity. Defendants have stipulated in this
19 case that any injunctive or declaratory relief against Lucero in her "official capacit[y]"
20 will apply to and be binding on UCLA and the David Geffen School of Medicine at
21 UCLA." Dkt. 27, ¶ 4.

22 17.—UCLA Med is located in this District. On information and belief, Mr.
23 Frenk and Ms. Lucero reside within this District, and the acts complained of by Mr.
24 Block and the Regents took place in this District.

25 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

26 I. ~~UCLA Medical School's~~DGSOM's Admissions Process

27 18.—UCLA Med13. DGSOM is highly selective. Each year, it receives
28 between 11,000 and 14,000 applicants yet matriculates roughly 175 medical

1 students.

2 ~~19.—UCLA Med~~14. DGSOM asserts it does not have a minimum GPA or
3 MCAT score that applicants must have before they can apply or be admitted; all
4 completed applications are considered, regardless of MCAT or GPA. According to
5 the admissions office, applicants are even “competitive” for ~~UCLA Med~~DGSOM
6 “as long as” their GPA is “over a 3.0.” *What Is the Holistic Admissions Approach*
7 *for Medical School* at 0:41-0:46, David Geffen School of Medicine, YouTube (July
8 20, 2023), youtube.com/watch?v=482vInqbLVk. If an applicant’s grades improved
9 over time, that “upward trend” is also “always looked favorably upon by the
10 [Admissions] Committee.” *What GPA Do You Need to Get into Med School at*
11 *UCLA? Is There a Cut-off?* at 0:28-0:48, David Geffen School of Medicine,
12 YouTube (July 20, 2023), youtube.com/watch?v=LG-fAR75pJs.

13 ~~20.—15.~~ There is no list of specific courses that applicants must take before
14 they can apply to or attend ~~UCLA Med~~DGSOM.

15 ~~21.—UCLA Med~~16. DGSOM reviews applications and makes admission
16 decisions through its Admissions Committee, which consists of approximately ~~20-~~
17 ~~3025~~ faculty and staff members. Admissions Committee members can serve up to
18 three five-year terms. About five medical students also sit on the Admissions
19 Committee to provide input on admission decisions. UCLA does not make public
20 who sits on the Admissions Committee.

21 ~~22.—17.~~ The Admissions Committee’s application-review process for the
22 traditional M.D. track generally takes place in the following steps: primary
23 application, secondary application, interview, Admissions Committee deliberation,
24 and decision.

25 ~~23.—18.~~ **Primary Application.** Applicants submit a primary application
26 through the American Medical College Application Service (“AMCAS”), which is
27 run by the Association of American Medical Colleges (“AAMC”). ~~UCLA~~
28 ~~Med~~DGSOM is a member of AAMC.

1 ~~24.—19.~~ AMCAS sends the applicant’s primary application to the
2 applicant’s designated medical schools.

3 ~~25.—20.~~ The primary application contains the applicant’s biographical
4 information (including race), citizenship status, family income, academic
5 background, undergraduate GPA, MCAT score, internship and volunteer
6 experience, and personal statement.

7 ~~26.—UCLA Med~~21. DGSOM receives an applicant’s primary application
8 through AMCAS and uses the primary application to initially screen applicants. It
9 purportedly removes the checkbox information for race and ethnicity.

10 ~~27.—UCLA Med~~22. DGSOM requires applicants to take AAMC’s PREview
11 Exam, which attempts to measure applicants’ professional readiness and situational
12 judgment. The PREview Exam is a multiple-choice test that purports to measure
13 applicants’ cultural awareness, cultural humility, empathy and compassion, and
14 interpersonal skills, among others. The PREview Exam was created by diversity-
15 affairs officers from various medical schools, whom AAMC calls its “DEI
16 constituents,” to “level the playing field” for applicants deemed historically
17 underrepresented in medicine. It does so by stressing factors other than academics.

18 ~~28.—23.~~ It costs \$100 to take the PREview Exam. The PREview Exam
19 scores initially get reported to UCLA as part of the applicant’s primary application.
20 ~~UCLA Med~~DGSOM again asks about the PREview Exam in the secondary
21 application.

22 ~~29.—24.~~ **Secondary Application.** After primary review, select applicants
23 receive an invitation to submit a UCLA-specific secondary application.

24 ~~30.—25.~~ The secondary application asks the applicant to submit several open
25 -ended responses. For instance, in 2024, ~~UCLA Med~~DGSOM asked a series of
26 questions, including the following: “Do you identify as being part of a group that
27 has been marginalized (examples include, but are not limited to LGBTQIA,
28 disabilities, federally recognized tribe) in terms of access to education or healthcare?

1 If you answered “Yes” ..., describe how this inequity has impacted you or your
2 community and how educational disparity, health disparity and/or marginalization
3 has impacted you and your community.” On its face and by design, this question
4 asks Black applicants to reveal their race so that UCLA-MedDGSOM can know and
5 consider it.

6 ~~31.—26.~~ After the secondary review, select students get an opportunity to
7 interview with faculty members. The interviews are conducted either in person or
8 remotely by video.

9 ~~32.—27.~~ After the interviews, the Admissions Committee deliberates on the
10 applications together.

11 ~~33.—28.~~ After the Admissions Committee deliberates, it ranks the applicants
12 and makes final admission decisions on who to admit.

13 ~~34.—29.~~ At each step of the process—, *i.e.*, primary review, secondary
14 review, interview, and Admissions Committee deliberation—, the Admissions
15 Committee purports to review each application holistically. Harvard, UNC, and
16 virtually all other elite universities that openly considered race in admissions before
17 *SFFA v. Harvard* likewise used holistic admissions. *Cf.* 600 U.S. at 257 (Thomas,
18 J., concurring) (“Harvard’s ‘holistic’ admissions policy began in the 1920s when it
19 was developed to exclude Jews.”). Notwithstanding *SFFA v. Harvard*, AAMC has
20 encouraged medical schools like UCLA-MedDGSOM to continue using holistic
21 review to “boost racial diversity.”

22 **II. UCLA-MedDGSOM Uses Race as a Factor in Admissions.**

23 ~~35.—30.~~ In defiance of state and federal law, UCLA-MedDGSOM uses race
24 as a factor in admissions.

25 ~~36.—31.~~ Both the UC System and UCLA-MedDGSOM have publicly
26 expressed their intent to racially balance the class. UCLA-Med’sDGSOM’s
27 Associate Dean ~~offor~~ Admissions, Lucero, both publicly and privately said she uses
28 race as a factor in making admission decisions. And whistleblowers confirm that the

1 Admissions Committee, either led or intimidated by Lucero, use all available
2 methods to glean an applicant's race, openly discuss applicants' race, and use race
3 to hold students to different standards.

4 37.—32. In the *SFFA* case, the UC System submitted an amicus brief stating
5 that it “implemented numerous and wide-ranging race-neutral measures designed to
6 increase ... racial diversity.” The UC System also said that, although “Proposition
7 209 barred consideration of race in admissions decisions at public universities in
8 California,” its competitor universities outside of California “must retain the ability
9 to engage in the ... consideration of race.” Had the Supreme Court adopted that
10 position, it would have made it harder for the UC System to attract minority students.
11 As Chancellor Gene Block (“Block”) once put it, “the most serious competition for
12 UCLA” in trying to enroll Black students is “highly ranked private colleges and
13 universities” openly using race in admissions. The UC System's position at the
14 Supreme Court thus makes no sense unless its schools were still using race, and it
15 hoped that the Supreme Court would say the practice was lawful under federal law.

16 38.—33. Similarly, in 2024, the UC System said that “system- and campus-
17 level strategies and innovations are being piloted or have been implemented” to
18 “achieve representational diversity in its student body.”

19 39.—34. The UC System further adopted the “UC 2030 Capacity Plan,” with
20 the goal of having its student bodies “better reflec[t] California's racial/ethnic ...
21 diversity.” The UC System President wanted “intentional” “growth” in terms of
22 making “graduate students ... better reflect and tap the talent of underrepresented
23 populations who represent the majority of Californians.” To support this goal of
24 “mov[ing] the needle on the diversity of graduate students,” the Regents “requested
25 graduate professional programs” to “present race/ethnicity data on students and
26 faculty, along with diversity plans within the program.”

27 40.—35. The UC System meticulously measures its racial outcomes in a
28 variety of ways, including by closely tracking the racial demographics of its students.

1 “The whole goal of public universities,” according to then-chancellor Block, is to
2 “represent the demographics of the community that we serve.”

3 41.—36. UCLA commissioned a report by Robert Mare to study its
4 admissions process for undergraduates—which, like UCLA-MedDGSOM, uses
5 “holistic” review. Even the Mare report found that, over a two-year span, the
6 admission of nearly one-third of all admitted Black students could not be explained
7 on grounds other than race. In response to this shocking finding, then-Chancellor
8 Block did not order an investigation or any changes to decrease the use of race in
9 admissions. UCLA instead endorsed Mare’s study as proof that its holistic
10 admissions were working as intended. Throughout his tenure, Block refused to
11 investigate or make any changes in response to evidence that UCLA was using race
12 in admissions, including credible evidence about UCLA-MedDGSOM.

13 42.—37. When he was chancellor, Block oversaw UCLA’s efforts to achieve
14 “diversity” in admissions, including by “adopt[ing] admissions policies that are
15 designed to draw together a student body that looks like” the country. He often touted
16 each year that the incoming class was “the most diverse” in UCLA’s “103-history.”
17 Yet Block elsewhere maintained that “it is nearly impossible to achieve true diversity
18 on our campuses without taking some account of race or ethnicity in admissions.”

19 43.—38. Block created the new position of “vice chancellor for equity,
20 diversity, and inclusion”—as well as new “diversity officers” who reported to the
21 vice chancellor—with the specific mandate to “strengthen campus diversity and
22 equity.”

23 44.—39. In 2020, UCLA-MedDGSOM adopted the “Anti-Racism Roadmap”
24 with the purpose of creating a “path toward racial justice, equity, diversity and
25 inclusion.”

26 45.—40. Under the roadmap, UCLA-MedDGSOM instituted sweeping
27 policies concerning race in its operations:

28 a. UCLA-MedDGSOM re-defined “merit” to include “diversity and

1 inclusion initiatives.”

2 b. ~~UCLA—Med~~DGSOM committed itself to increasing BIPOC
3 employees and chairs among its faculty and created a special pathway for
4 BIPOC postdoctoral trainees, fellows, and residents to become faculty.

5 c. ~~UCLA—Med~~DGSOM committed itself to creating special
6 opportunities for BIPOC researchers to present seminars, present research,
7 and otherwise participate in research opportunities, including by providing
8 “minority supplements” to NIH grants.

9 d. ~~UCLA—Med~~DGSOM vowed that the medical-student body
10 “should reflect the population of State of California” and adopted a
11 strategic plan to “increase the number of URiM students.” The term
12 “URiM” stands for underrepresented in medicine. Its proponents consider
13 all Blacks to be underrepresented and all Whites and Asians to be
14 overrepresented.

15 e. ~~UCLA—Med~~DGSOM vowed collaboration among the
16 Admissions Committee, the Admissions Policy Oversight Committee, and
17 the Faculty Executive Committee to “review and improve diversity to
18 reflect the population of the State of California.”

19 f. ~~UCLA—Med~~DGSOM sought the participation of “diverse”
20 medical students and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office in the
21 admissions process to further its racial goals.

22 g. ~~UCLA—Med~~DGSOM also explained how it would monitor the
23 racial numbers in the admissions process. It explained that it would engage
24 in “strategic planning to improve diversity for all UCLA Health
25 professional students using data-driven, evidence-based approaches.” In
26 addition, it would “collect and publicly report data on diversity in all
27 school programs.”

28 ~~46.—UCLA—Med’s~~41. DGSOM’s Anti-Racism Roadmap has separately

1 been incorporated into the school's diversity statements, which the Admissions
2 Committee applies in reviewing each application.

3 47.—42. In 2020, UCLA MedDGSOM named Lucero its Associate Dean
4 offor Admissions. Lucero is also the Vice Chair of DEI efforts at UCLA Health, the
5 hospital system affiliated with UCLA MedDGSOM.

6 48.—43. Lucero is an outspoken advocate for using race as a factor in
7 admissions and hiring in medical school and healthcare. Lucero has stated her view
8 that every part of society—including academic medicine—is structurally racist.
9 Lucero has stated her view that racism affects admission decisions and impedes DEI
10 efforts. Lucero has also stated her view that comments like “We want diversity, but
11 we also want qualified people” are biased and racist.

12 49.—44. Lucero has stated in articles and public interviews that it's important
13 to racially diversify medical-school admissions, residencies, and leadership
14 positions in medicine. As Associate Dean offor Admissions, Lucero has significant
15 influence over the appointment of Admissions Committee members. Lucero has
16 remade the Admissions Committee to be, what she calls, a “brave space” that both
17 looks racially diverse and is where the Admissions Committee members feel free to
18 further DEI efforts.

19 50.—45. Consistent with Lucero's beliefs, UCLA Med'sDGSOM's current
20 “Guiding Principles for Student Representation” state that the chair of the
21 Admissions Committee will ensure that medical students who identify as BIPOC are
22 placed on the Admissions Committee to provide their input on admissions.

23 51.—46. Given the UC System's and UCLA Med'sDGSOM's explicit desire
24 to racially balance the student body, and with Lucero at the helm, the Admissions
25 Committee makes admission decisions by using race as a factor.

26 52.—47. Lucero and her handpicked Admissions Committee take advantage
27 of UCLA's holistic-review procedure to uncover and then use applicants' race.

28 53.—48. Lucero and the Admissions Committee routinely admit Black

1 applicants with GPA and MCAT scores significantly below the scores necessary for
2 Whites and Asians to be seriously considered for admission.

3 ~~54.—49.~~ Lucero and the Admissions Committee explicitly discuss and use
4 applicants' race. On one occasion when the Admissions Committee was deliberating
5 on a Black applicant with a significantly below-average GPA and MCAT score,
6 Lucero stated: "Did you not know African-American women are dying at a higher
7 rate than everyone else?" "We need people like this in the medical school."

8 ~~55.—50.~~ Admissions Committee members report that the bar for
9 underrepresented minorities is "as low as you could possibly imagine" and that the
10 Admissions Committee "completely disregards grades and achievements" for those
11 applicants.

12 ~~56.—51.~~ Lucero regularly bullies and berates members of the Admissions
13 Committee who voice concerns about admitting below-average Black applicants by
14 labeling them as "privileged" and implying that they are racist.

15 ~~57.—52.~~ Lucero and the Admissions Committee regularly glean the
16 applicants' race through direct and indirect means. The secondary application even
17 asks questions designed to uncover applicants' race. The interviews further enable
18 the Admissions Committee to know applicants' race and ethnicity.

19 ~~58.—53.~~ Statistical evidence confirms that Lucero and the Admissions
20 Committee have been, and are, using race.

21 ~~59.—54.~~ According to data reviewed by the United States, UCLA
22 Med'sDGSOM's class incoming in 2021 has median MCAT scores of 509 for both
23 Black and Hispanic, 516 for Asian, and 513 for White matriculants. These
24 correspond to percentile rankings of 77, 93, and 87, respectively.

25 ~~60.—55.~~ According to data reviewed by the United States, UCLA
26 Med'sDGSOM's class incoming in 2022 has median MCAT scores of 508 for Black,
27 507 for Hispanic, and 514 for both Asian and White matriculants. These correspond
28 to percentile rankings of 72, 69, and 88, respectively.

1 ~~61.—56.~~ According to data reviewed by the United States, ~~UCLA~~
2 ~~Med'sDGSOM's~~ class incoming in 2023 has median MCAT scores of 507 for ~~both~~
3 Black and Hispanic, and 514 for ~~both~~ Asian and White matriculants. These
4 correspond to percentile rankings of 68 and 88, respectively.

5 ~~62.—57.~~ According to data reviewed by the United States, ~~UCLA~~
6 ~~Med'sDGSOM's~~ class incoming in 2024 has median MCAT scores of 508 for Black,
7 506 for Hispanic, 515 for Asian, and 513 for White matriculants. These correspond
8 to percentile rankings of 75, 66, 90, and 86, respectively.

9 ~~63.—58.~~ Lucero's and the Admissions Committee's illegal use of race in
10 admissions was known, and caused grave concern, among ~~UCLA-Med'sDGSOM's~~
11 faculty members.

12 ~~64.—59.~~ After receiving multiple complaints for years, UCLA's internal
13 Discrimination Prevention Office, charged with ensuring compliance with Title VI
14 and other laws, sought to investigate Lucero and ~~UCLA-Med'sDGSOM's~~
15 admissions practices.

16 ~~65.—60.~~ Four members of the Admissions Committee initially agreed to
17 participate in that investigation. But the Admissions Committee had required its
18 members to sign a nondisclosure agreement barring any discussion of the
19 Admissions Committee's deliberations. When these four members wrote to ~~UCLA~~
20 ~~Med'sDGSOM's~~ administration seeking written assurance that they would not be
21 retaliated against for cooperating with the internal probe, the administration refused
22 to give them that assurance. ~~UCLA-Med'sDGSOM's~~ administration thus effectively
23 shut down UCLA's internal probe.

24 **III. ~~UCLA-Med'sDGSOM's~~ Racial Discrimination Has Harmed and**
25 **Continues to Harm Americans-**

26 ~~66.—61.~~ Americans suffer a “form of injury under the Equal Protection
27 Clause [by] being forced to compete in a race-based system that may prejudice
28 the[m].” *Parents Involved in Cmty. Sch. v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 551 U.S. 701,

1 719 (2007) (citation omitted).

2 ~~67.~~62. The United States has an interest in ensuring that its civil rights laws
3 are followed.

4 63. UCLA is the recipient of many grants from the federal government. UCLA
5 reports it received federal grants in the amount of \$584 million in 2025 alone.

6 64. An example of one such grant is \$1,500,000 from the Department of
7 Justice (“DOJ”) for a “Youth Justice Navigator Initiative,” a project to build a “free,
8 interactive, opensource mobile app and website that will serve as a companion to
9 youth and families navigating the juvenile legal system.”

10 65. This grant creates a legally binding contract between UCLA and the DOJ.
11 As a condition of its receipt of federal financial assistance, UCLA signed contractual
12 assurances that all its programs and activities would be conducted in compliance
13 with all requirements of Title VI and its implementing regulations. See 28 C.F.R. §
14 42.105.

15 66. The DOJ grant provides, “Several civil rights laws, including Title VI of the
16 Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, require
17 recipients of federal financial assistance (recipients) to give assurances that they will
18 comply with those laws. Taken together, these and other civil rights laws prohibit
19 recipients from discriminating in the provision of services and employment because of
20 race, color, national origin, religion, disability, and sex or from discriminating in the
21 provision of services on the basis of age.”

22 67. The DOJ grant further provides, “Should you accept the award and then fail to
23 comply with an award requirement, DOJ will pursue appropriate remedies for non-
24 compliance, which may include termination of the award and/or a requirement to repay
25 award funds.”

26 68. UCLA had at least four active DOJ grants from June 2023 to present, each of
27 which includes the above-cited language concerning compliance with civil rights laws,
28 including:

1 a. Award ID 15PNIJ-24-GG-01575-RESS “Graduate Research
2 Fellowship” (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025) \$47,052

3 b. Award ID 2019-R2-CX-0014 “Research and Evaluation on Gangs
4 and Gang Violence” (01/01/2020 to 12/31/2023) \$550,610

5 c. Award ID 15PJDP-24-GK-01652-MUMU “Youth Justice
6 Navigator Initiative” (10/01/2024 to 09/30/2027) \$1,500,000

7 d. Award ID 15JOVW-24-GG-01523-MUMU Research and
8 Evaluation Initiative 11/01/2024 to 10/31/2026 \$492,200

9
10 69. On May 9, 2025, the United States opened a Title VI compliance review
11 of DGSOM. As part of that review the United States requested applicant level
12 admissions data and admissions related documents and correspondence. DGSOM
13 provided over 1,400 pages of information.

14 70. Upon a thorough review of such information, as well as conducting an
15 investigation, the United States issued a Findings Letter on May 6, 2026, in which it
16 concluded that DGSOM “discriminated on the basis of race for the incoming classes
17 of 2023 through 2025, in violation of Title VI.” See Exhibit A attached hereto.

18 71. The DOJ Findings Letter offered to negotiate with DGSOM in good faith to
19 bring DGSOM into voluntary compliance with Title VI. Those negotiations did not
20 result in voluntary compliance.

21 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

22 **Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment**

23 ~~68.~~72. The United States repeats and realleges the preceding allegations.

24 ~~69.~~73. The Fourteenth Amendment provides, among other things, that no
25 person shall be denied “the equal protection of the laws.” U.S. Const. amend. XIV,
26 §1.

27 ~~70.~~74. The “central mandate” of equal protection is “racial neutrality” by
28 the government. *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 904 (1995). And the “core

1 purpose’ of the Equal Protection Clause” is to “‘d[o] away with all governmentally
2 imposed discrimination based on race.” *SFFA v. Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 206
3 (emphasis added). “[W]henver the government treats any person unequally because
4 of his or her race, that person has suffered an injury that falls squarely within the
5 language and spirit of the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection.” *Adarand*
6 *Constructors, Inc. v. Pena*, 515 U.S. 200, 229-30 (2000).

7 ~~71.—Defendants~~75. The Regents, through ~~UCLA—Med~~DGSOM,
8 intentionally engage in a system of racial balancing that provides racial preferences
9 in admissions, and thereby treats applicants differently based on their race, all in
10 violation of the equal protection rights of applicants. ~~UCLA—Med~~DGSOM uses a
11 “holistic” application review method to disguise this systemic racism.

12 ~~72.—UCLA—Med’s~~76. DGSOM’s systemically racist approach to admissions
13 is not justified by any legitimate governmental purpose, nor is it narrowly tailored
14 to meet any purpose, and is illegal under the Fourteenth Amendment as interpreted
15 by the US Supreme Court.

16 ~~73.—77.~~ Before and certainly after *SFFA v. Harvard*, ~~Defendants~~the Regents
17 knew for certain that ~~UCLA—Med~~DGSOM should not consider race in admissions.
18 Yet ~~they~~it perpetuated the practice anyway behind closed doors, while falsely
19 denying it in ~~their~~its statements to the public and even to the Supreme Court. When
20 whistleblowers, investigators, and others tried to reveal this discrimination,
21 ~~Defendants~~the Regents acted to conceal it by shutting down internal investigations
22 and baselessly denying public-records requests. Lucero (on behalf of the Regents)
23 in particular used intimidation and shaming tactics to pressure the Admissions
24 Committee to unlawfully consider race in their decisions—, including forcing them
25 to sit through a two-hour lecture by her sister.

26 SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

27 Violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

28 78. The United States repeats and realleges the preceding allegations.

1 79. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides, “No person in the United
2 States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from
3 participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under
4 any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” 42 U.S.C. §2000d.

5 80. The Regents are covered by Title VI. Title VI defines “program or
6 activity” to mean “all of the operations of” a “university” or “public system of higher
7 education . . . any part of which is extended Federal financial assistance.” 42 U.S.C.
8 §2000d-4a(2)(A).

9 81. The UC System and UCLA receive federal funds in the form of federal
10 student aid and research grants, including from the United States Department of
11 Justice.

12 82. Under 42 U.S.C. §2000d-7(a)(1), a state is “not ... immune ... from suit
13 in Federal court for a violation of ... title VI.”

14 83. The United States has the authority to conduct compliance reviews and
15 investigations. 28 C.F.R. §42.107. If it concludes that illegal discrimination is
16 occurring, and the entity fails to correct it, then the United States may suspend or
17 terminate funding, or “use any other means authorized by law, to induce compliance
18” 28 C.F.R. §42.108.

19 84. The United States has found, after an investigation, that DGSOM has been
20 discriminating based upon race in admissions. It brings this action to induce
21 compliance with Title VI.

22 85. DGSOM has caused and will continue to cause applicants to be “excluded
23 from participation in,” “denied the benefits of,” and “subjected to discrimination
24 under” its admissions policies and practices “on the ground of race, color, or national
25 origin.” 42 U.S.C. §2000d.

26 86. Title VI has “independent force” and makes it “always unlawful to
27 discriminate among persons even in part because of race.” *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 308-
28 09 (Gorsuch, J., concurring).

1 87. At a minimum, because DGSOM violates the Fourteenth Amendment, it
2 also violates Title VI. *Gratz v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 244, 276 (“We have explained
3 that discrimination that violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth
4 Amendment committed by an institution that accepts federal funds also constitutes
5 a violation of Title VI.”)

6 THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

7 Breach of Contract

8 88. The United States repeats and realleges the preceding allegations.

9 89. At all times alleged in this Complaint, UCLA has received grants of
10 federal funds, including from the DOJ. These grants are legally binding contracts
11 that require DGSOM to comply with Title VI throughout the duration of the grants.

12 90. DGSOM has materially breached the terms of the grants by failing to
13 comply with Title VI.

14 91. The United States has fulfilled all obligations owing to date under the
15 grants, or in the alternative, fulfilled all obligations owing until the date of
16 DGSOM’s breach of the grants.

17 92. Compliance with Title VI is a material term of the grants.

18 93. DGSOM’s failure to comply with Title VI is grounds for the United States
19 to rescind grant payments made during the period of noncompliance.

20 PRAYER FOR RELIEF

21 94. The United States asks this Court to enter judgment in their favor and
22 against ~~Defendants~~Defendant and to provide the following relief:

23 A. A declaratory judgment that ~~UCLA–Med’s~~DGSOM’s admissions
24 policies, practices, and decisions violate the Constitution by discriminating
25 against applicants on the ~~ground~~grounds of race.

26 B. A permanent injunction prohibiting ~~UCLA Med~~DGSOM from in any
27 way considering applicants’ race, or considering any other factor for the
28 purpose of, in full or in part, discriminating based on race, when making

admission decisions.

C. The appointment of a monitor to oversee all decisions relating to admissions at UCLA Med, DGSOM to ensure compliance with federal law.

DD. Rescind all previous grants and/or payments made to UCLA by the DOJ from June 29, 2023 (the date of the Supreme Court *SFFA* ruling) to the present and return of all such monies received by UCLA to the United States.

E. Terminate any existing DOJ grant agreements.

F. A damages award to the United States and injured applicants.

G. Any other legal or equitable relief the Court deems just and proper.

DATED: January 28, July -- 2026.

____ Respectfully submitted:

HARMEET K. DHILLON
Assistant Attorney General
JESUS A. OSETE
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
JEFFREY MORRISON
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

/s/ John P. Mertens
JOHN P. MERTENS
Acting Chief, Educational Opportunities Section
~~Acting~~ BRIAN REPPER
Deputy Chief, Educational Opportunities Section
Civil Rights Division
JAMES BRESLO
Senior Trial Attorney, Educational Opportunities Section
Civil Rights Division

1 TODD BLANCHE
2 ~~Deputy~~Acting Attorney General
3 BILAL A. ESSAYLI
4 First Assistant United States Attorney

5 /s/ Julie A. Hamill
6 JULIE A. HAMILL
7 Assistant United States Attorney
8 United States Attorney's Office

9 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF-
10 INTERVENOR
11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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