



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

August 13, 2026

Via email only to: contact@legalinsurrection.com, and m.riordan@legalinsurrection.com

William A. Jacobson, Esq., President
Maureen S. Riordan, Chief Counsel
Legal Insurrection Foundation

Re: University of Southern California, OCR Case Number 09262611
Loyola Marymount University, OCR Case Number 09262612

Dear William A. Jacobson and Maureen S. Riordan:

On June 29, 2026, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received your complaint against the University of Southern California (USC) and Loyola Marymount University (LMU) alleging discrimination based on national origin. OCR understands your allegations to be as follows. Both USC and LMU sponsor and facilitate a college-access and leadership-development program run by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, called the Youth Leadership Institute (the Institute). You further allege that USC's and LMU's sponsorship, facilitation, and other support of the Institute discriminate based on national origin because the Institute limits eligibility to students who identify as being of "Hispanic heritage." Further, you allege that USC and LMU materially support and participate in the Institute by hosting program events, providing on-campus housing and other facilities, promoting the Institute and its programs, furnishing speakers and university personnel, making classroom and meeting space available, and providing other institutional resources.

OCR has authority to enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq., and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination based on race, color, and national origin under any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance from the Department of Education (the Department). Both USC and LMU are recipients of federal financial assistance from the Department and are required to comply with Title VI.

OCR processes complaints in accordance with its [Case Processing Manual \(CPM\) \(Feb. 2025\)](#). OCR is opening an investigation to examine whether USC and/or LMU discriminate against students on the basis of national origin by promoting and facilitating the Institute which excludes students from participation who do not identify as Hispanic.

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

OCR's initiation of an investigation is not itself evidence of a violation of federal civil rights laws and regulations. During the investigation, OCR is neutral; OCR will collect and analyze the evidence it needs in order to make a decision about the complaint. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient in accordance with OCR's CPM.

Please be advised that the Universities must not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding under a law enforced by OCR. If this happens, the individual may file a retaliation complaint with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions about this letter, please call our office at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anamaria Loya', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anamaria Loya
Chief Attorney