



Assessing the Constitutionality of MSI Program Criteria Under the Equal Protection Clause

Summer Associate Project Exchange

Single or Multiple Opportunities

Single

Organization Name

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Background

See attached PDF for more details.

Scope of Work

Analyze whether numerical markers in MSI Programs constitute racial quotas in violation of the Equal Protection Clause.

Timing

End of summer deadline.

Jurisdiction

Nationwide

Contact Information

Please contact Paul Lee (plee@step toe.com) and Natallya Velev (natallya.velev@ropesgray.com) if you'd like to be assigned to this project.

Description

LatinoJustice PRLDEF is leading research to defend the constitutionality of congressionally designated Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) Programs. The U.S. Department of Education discontinued MSI funding in September 2025 which affects over five million mostly low-income and first-generation college students. This project will analyze whether the descriptive numerical markers are constitutionally permissible classifications or impermissible racial quotas and develop cogent legal arguments to defend MSI funding.

Research Question: Whether descriptive numerical markers set forth in congressionally designated MSI Programs to distinguish between institutions of higher learning serving critical masses of low-income students of color and those that are not constitute “racial quota” violative of the Equal Protection Clause?

Subtasks (0)

Reminders(0)