

Convenings

LFAA works to empower Alliance Firms to bring about systemic change and racial equity in the law. Central to our mission is engaging with and learning from racial equity advocates, legal service organizations and leaders within communities of color who are on the frontlines challenging racial inequity. Through various convenings, LFAA, our Alliance Firms and leading antiracism experts and advocates share insights and knowledge, with the goal of identifying and dismantling systemic racism in the law.

< ABOUT US

LFAA Summits

LFAA offers periodic summits to bring together our Alliance Firms for strategic discussions moderated by experts about antiracism principles and critical issues related to systemic racism and racial equity. Summits provide Alliance Firms with opportunities to learn from legal services organizations, community-based nonprofits, policy makers, government officials, people with lived experience, and other stakeholders.

LFAA's inaugural summit was hosted on July 29 and 30, 2020. Racial justice experts provided a foundation around antiracism principles and helped deepen participants' understanding of intersecting components of systems that create and perpetuate disadvantages for Black communities and other communities of color, while advantaging White individuals and communities. Over 500 law firm participants attended. Following the inaugural summit, LFAA convened over 600 law firm participants in October 2020 for our second summit. At this two-day summit, more than

**Alliance Firms
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70 experts led sessions on various substantive issue areas that laid the groundwork for our Library, which catalogues research on the laws, rules, regulations, and policies that help sustain systemic racism.

In December 2021, LFAA hosted its third summit: “Maintaining the Momentum”. The three-day virtual summit included a review of the work LFAA has underway and the challenges that lie ahead.

Members of the LFAA community heard from both colleagues and thought leaders on critical threats to racial justice, including voter suppression, police violence and the shortage of affordable housing. On the final day of the summit, Alliance Firms were joined by their legal services and public interest colleagues and continued discussions with leading experts—including the summit’s keynote speaker, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Pulitzer Prize-winning creator of the 1619 Project—about how best LFAA can advance racial equity in the law and multiracial democracy in our country.

In December 2022, LFAA convened its fourth summit: “Shaping Our Future by Reflecting on the Past.” The three-day summit featured discussions about connections between diversity, equity, and inclusion work and racial justice efforts. Jeffery Robinson, executive director of The Who We Are Project, served as the keynote speaker on the second day of the summit. Participants heard from experts about how reparations have been used in various contexts and the importance of understanding history and advocacy in the movement for reparations. The final day included training on fundamentals surrounding systemic racism and racial justice work, as well as amplified the voices of leaders who are moving us toward a more equitable and racially just world.

The LFAA convened its fifth Summit in December 2023, entitled “Meeting the Moment: Overcoming Resistance in the Fight for Racial Justice.” The virtual summit reviewed the history of racial history and subsequent backlash. The Summit featured three distinguished keynote speakers: Stacey Abrams, NYT bestselling author, entrepreneur, and political leader; David Cole, national legal director of the ACLU and the Hon. George J. Mitchell Professor in Law and Public Policy at Georgetown University Law Center; and Michael Harriot, economist, cultural critic, and author. Participants heard from our partners regarding the effects of the Supreme Court of the United States’ decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* on employment and education. The final day featured historians who

provided historical context for the social climate, as well as revisiting the work of the California Reparations Task Force, including its methodology and subsequent report.

In December 2024, LFAA convened its sixth Summit entitled, *The Arc Still Bends: Onward Toward Racial Justice*. This transformative three-day virtual event reviewed the history of the fight for racial justice, and showcased LFAA's work. It featured thought-provoking discussions on the state of racial equity in the law and how we continue to press forward. The Summit featured esteemed speakers, including New York Times Bestselling author and Professor Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr.; Maya Wiley, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Janai Nelson, NAACP Legal Defense Fund's President, and Director Counsel; Damon Hewitt, President and Executive Director of the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights; Jocelyn Samuels, Vice Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Deborah Archer, ACLU President and Associate Dean at NYU School of Law; Stacy Hawkins, Professor of Law at Rutgers Law School and, many other leaders in law, academia, journalism, and advocacy. Attendees were provided with training and inspiration to continue the fight for racial justice and were reminded that "we have never been stronger!"



LFAA is not a law firm and does not provide legal services or referrals to individuals, legal services organizations or public interest agencies. If you believe you need a lawyer, please contact your local bar association or go to www.lawhelp.org.



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