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James A. Ferg-Cadima is the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). He heads up OCR's regulatory and policy work applicable to public schools, charter schools, and universities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (prohibiting race, color, and national origin discrimination); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (prohibiting sex discrimination); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (prohibiting disability discrimination); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (prohibiting disability discrimination).

Immediately prior to joining OCR, Mr. Ferg-Cadima was a regional counsel heading the Washington, DC office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the nation's leading Latino legal civil rights organization. Earlier in his career, Mr. Ferg-Cadima worked for the ACLU of Illinois in Chicago, the Northern District of Illinois, and the Advancement Project. During law school, Mr. Ferg-Cadima taught constitutional literacy in the DC Public Schools as part of the inaugural class of Marshall-Brennan Fellows.

Harvard Law School awarded Mr. Ferg-Cadima a Wasserstein Fellowship in 2008; the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia awarded him the Hugh A. Johnson, Jr. Memorial Award in 2012; and the District of Columbia Courts awarded him a legal community award in 2014, all in recognition of his public service. He earned his law degree from the American University Washington College of Law, and is admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia, Illinois, and Maryland.