



Vanita Gupta currently serves as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General and head of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Under Ms. Gupta's leadership, the Division continues its crucially important work in a number of areas, including advancing constitutional policing and other criminal justice reforms, promoting disability rights, protecting the rights of LGBTI individuals, and combating discrimination in education, housing, lending, and voting.

Ms. Gupta is a longtime civil rights lawyer. Prior to joining DOJ, she was Deputy Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union and Director of its Center for Justice. While managing a robust litigation docket, Vanita also worked with law enforcement, departments of corrections, and across the political spectrum to promote greater fairness and trust in our criminal justice system. From 2006-2010, Vanita was a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union's Racial Justice Program. She won a landmark settlement on behalf of immigrant children detained in a privately-run prison in Texas that led to the end of "family detention" at the facility. Prior to that, she worked at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund where she successfully led the effort to overturn the wrongful drug convictions of 38 individuals in Tulia, Texas, who were ultimately pardoned by Governor Rick Perry. She then helped negotiate a \$6 million settlement on behalf of her clients. Vanita also served for several years as an adjunct clinical professor at NYU School of Law, where she taught and oversaw a civil rights litigation clinic.

Vanita has won numerous awards for her advocacy and has been quoted extensively in national and international media on civil rights issues. Vanita is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Yale University and received her law degree from New York University School of Law.