



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**August 31, 2023**

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**The Puerto Rico Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights to Host Virtual Panel as Part of its Study on the Insular Cases and Makes Call for Public Participation**

The Puerto Rico Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) will host a virtual panel with a focus on the economy and the Uniformity Clause as part of its study titled “The Insular Cases and the Unincorporated Territory Doctrine and its Effect in the Civil Rights of the Residents of Puerto Rico.” The event will include testimony from various economists and experts on this topic. This virtual panel is a continuation of the public briefing held by the Committee in May 2023 and is part of the general overview phase of this project.

**EVENT:** Virtual Panel, Puerto Rico Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights

**TOPIC:** The Insular Cases and the Unincorporated Territory Doctrine and its Effect on the Civil Rights of the Residents of Puerto Rico - Perspectives on the Economy and the Uniformity Clause

**DATE AND TIME:** Thursday, September 14, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Atlantic Time

**ZOOM DETAILS:** <https://tinyurl.com/2vcm936u>; To join by phone: 833 435 1820; ID: 161 686 7788#

**NOTE:** This event will take place in Spanish with English interpretation available via Zoom.

The Committee Chair, Andrés Córdova Phelps, said: “The Committee has decided to receive additional testimony in order to obtain a more complete understanding of how the Insular Cases impact the residents of Puerto Rico. After first hearing from legal experts, community groups, and academics on the subject, we are now going to focus on the economic perspective, specifically the connection between the Insular Cases and the fiscal and tax situation in Puerto Rico, with special emphasis on the Uniformity Clause. We invite members of the public who are interested in attending to share their perspectives during the public comment section of the event.”

Members of the public will be invited to share their comments during an open comment period at the end of the briefing. Advance registration for public comment is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLQ7FW6>. The Committee wishes to hear the experiences and perspectives of the public on the Insular Cases and their effects on the civil rights of the residents of Puerto Rico, with this event focusing specifically on economic issues. Written testimony on this subject will also be accepted up to thirty (30) days after the hearing and should be sent to [vmoreno@usccr.gov](mailto:vmoreno@usccr.gov).

Persons requiring special accommodations should contact [ebohor@usccr.gov](mailto:ebohor@usccr.gov) at least 10 days prior to the meeting. Public records from this event will be available in the [Puerto Rico Advisory Committee Public Folder](#).

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 56 Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at the state and local levels. For information about the Commission, please visit us at [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.