



Department of Justice
Office of Intergovernmental & Public Liaison

September 9, 2009

Via E-mail and Facsimile

Mr. Gerald A. Reynolds, Chairman
Abigail Thernstrom, Vice Chair
Peter Kirsanow, Commissioner
Ashley L. Taylor, Jr., Commissioner
Gail Heriot, Commissioner
Todd F. Gaziano, Commissioner
United States Commission on Civil Rights
624 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20425

Dear Chairman Reynolds and Commissioners Kirsanow, Heriot, Thernstrom, Taylor, and Gaziano:

This is in response to your letter of August 10, 2009, requesting documents and additional information concerning *United States v. New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense*, Civ. No. 09-0065 SD (E.D. Pa.), a case filed to enforce Section 11(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. § 1973i(b). In your letter, you asked for an independent review of the case by a senior member of the Department who does not have a conflict of interest. Please be advised that, in response to a request from Members of Congress, this matter has been referred to the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). That office has initiated an inquiry into the matter in order to determine whether any further review is warranted. Accordingly, the Department will not provide further response until that review is complete.

Sincerely,

Portia L. Roberson
Director
Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison
US Department of Justice

cc: Arlan Melendez, Commissioner
Michael Yaki, Commissioner