

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXAMINE TITLE IX OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

What: Meeting of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring and protecting civil rights

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has assembled a panel of experts to discuss the model survey academic institutions receiving federal funds employ under Title IX of the Higher Education Act to measure student interest in participating in intercollegiate varsity athletics. Beginning in 1979 educational institutions receiving federal funds have demonstrated compliance with the act’s athletic requirements by having a program that “fully and effectively” accommodates the “interests and abilities” of the sex that is underrepresented among intercollegiate athletes. In March 2005, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights issued further guidance to assist schools to comply with the athletic requirements. The new guidance was accompanied by the model survey that institutions can use to gauge student interest in participating in intercollegiate varsity athletics. This briefing will examine this survey and how the information institutions obtain through it may be more effectively and efficiently utilized.

The speakers will be Daniel A. Cohen, senior associate, Rogers & Hardin LLP; Jessica Gavora, vice president, College Sports Council, Washington writer; Jocelyn Samuels, vice president, National Women’s Law Center; and Judith Sweet, independent contractor and consultant, National Collegiate Athletic Association.

When: Friday, May 11, 2007, 9:30 a.m.

Where: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 Ninth Street NW, Room 540 Washington, D.C.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Members include Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds, Vice Chairman Abigail Thernstrom, and Commissioners Jennifer C. Braceras, Gail Heriot, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan D. Melendez, Ashley L. Taylor, Jr., and Michael Yaki. Kenneth L. Marcus is Staff Director. Commission meetings are open to the media and general public.

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