



Briefing Announcement
October 26, 2020

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New Jersey Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

The New Jersey Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights continues to review the civil rights impacts that a criminal record has on New Jerseyans in two areas: criminal asset forfeiture and access to occupational licenses necessary for employment. Both areas/topics are part of the on-going national dialogue on needed reforms to the criminal legal system.

Like the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, its 51 federal advisory Committees—in each state and the District of Columbia—study civil rights issues in their jurisdictions. They report the results of their examinations to the Commission, including findings and recommendations. Neither the USCCR nor any of the advisory committees is authorized to enforce federal civil rights laws. That authority rests with other federal entities.

The Commission and its advisory committees rely on third party experts when conducting their reviews. Most often, they organize panel briefings comprised of experts, including academics and researchers; appointed and elected governments officials; advocates and representatives from civil rights/community-based/public policy think tanks; and persons who wish to share their personal stories and/or that of their loved ones about the topics under review.

Two panel briefings on each topic are scheduled for November. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the panel briefings will be conducted as virtual meetings—*see* below, for how to attend the panel briefings.

Dates

The two briefings for each topic are scheduled, *see*, attached Agendas for list of invited experts.

- Employment-Occupational Licenses: November 12 and 18.
- Asset Forfeiture in Criminal Matters: November 17 and 19.

Please note that the NJ Advisory Committee intends to schedule an additional panel briefing of invited officials from various NJ licensing boards and committees. That panel briefing will likely be scheduled for January 2021. Please check the Commission website for the date, time and how to attend the meeting.

Public Comments

Each panel briefing will run for approximately two-hours. And, immediately after each panel briefing has concluded, the Committee will hear short statements from interested members of the public who wish to share their experiences and knowledge on these two topics. Persons wishing to make statements will be recognized for three to five minutes. They and other interested members of the public also may submit written comments related to topic after each briefing. Written comments received in the Eastern Regional Office within approximately 30 days after each briefing will be made a part of the briefing record. Because of the pandemic, please email written comments, as follows: subject line should state: Atten: Ivy Davis, NJ Advisory Committee and emailed to: ero@usccr.gov.

Anticipated Outcomes

There will be a written transcript of each panel briefing, including any statements made at the Public Comments. Once all panel briefings have concluded, the Committee will issue a report to the Commission that will be posted to the agency's website, listed below.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the Commission, and the N.J. Advisory Committee, please visit, <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

New Jersey Advisory Committee
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Panel Briefings on Civil Rights Impacts of Criminal Records on Criminal Asset Forfeiture, and Access to Employment-Licenses

*Attending the Panel Presentations: *Members of the public may attend each panel presentation, by calling 1-800-667-5617 and providing conference call ID number: 7386659. Individuals who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the call-in and conference call ID numbers. Those wishing to attend via video conference are asked to email ero@uscrr.gov, at least five days, before each scheduled meeting to determine if the video conference is available for each meeting.*

Panel Presentation Agendas

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020, 3:15 pm: Criminal Records and Access to Employment & Occupational Licenses in NJ

Welcome

- Lawrence S. Lustberg, Chair, New Jersey Advisory Committee

Invited Experts

- Prof. Todd Clear of the Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, Newark, NJ
- Paul Rodriguez, Acting Director of the Office of the Attorney General – New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, Newark, NJ
- Sen. Troy Singleton (D) of the 7th Legislative District, Moorestown, NJ

Public Comments

Adjourn

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020, 2:15 pm: Legal Process of Asset Forfeiture in NJ

Welcome

- Lawrence S. Lustberg, Chair, New Jersey Advisory Committee

*Notice: Please be advised that before being placed into the conference calls, the conference call operator may ask callers to provide their names, their organizational affiliations, if any, and e-mail addresses, so that callers may be notified of the Committee's future meetings and activities. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number herein.

Invited Experts

- Christine Hoffman, Acting Gloucester County Prosecutor, Woodbury, NJ
- Shirley Emehelu, Esq., Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi PC, West Orange, NJ
- Vincent J. Sanzone, Jr., Esq., Law Office of Vincent J. Sanzone, Jr., Elizabeth, NJ

Public Comments

Adjourn

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020, 2:15 pm: Criminal Records: Civil Rights Impacts on Employment-Occupational Licensing in New Jersey

Welcome

- Lawrence S. Lustberg, Chair, New Jersey Advisory Committee

Invited Experts

- Beth Avery, Senior Staff Attorney of the National Employment Law Project, Berkeley, CA
- James McGreevey, Board Chairman, NJ Reentry Corporation, Kearny, NJ
- Richard Smith, President, NJ Conference of the NAACP, Trenton, NJ
- Returning Citizen

Public Comments

Adjourn

Thursday, Nov. 19 @ 2:15 pm: Civil Rights Testimonials about Asset Forfeiture

Welcome

- Lawrence S. Lustberg, Chair, New Jersey Advisory Committee

Invited Experts

- Alexander Shalom, Senior Supervising Attorney, ACLU of NJ, Newark, NJ
- Taikeemah Neal, NJ

Public Comments

Adjourn