

**For Immediate Release**  
January 12, 2022

Contact: Angelia Rorison  
publicaffairs@usccr.gov



## **U. S. Commission on Civil Rights to Release Report: *The Civil Rights Implications of Cash Bail***

On Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 11 am ET, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will release its report, *The Civil Rights Implications of Cash Bail*. The report examines current approaches to reform in the pre-trial and bail system within the American criminal justice system.

The presumption of innocence forms the bedrock of the criminal justice system, with liberty being the rule and pre-trial detention “the carefully limited exception.”<sup>1</sup> Despite this, pre-trial detention has become the norm. Between 1970 and 2015, there was a 433 percent increase in the number of individuals detained pre-trial; approximately half a million unconvicted people are currently being held in jails across the United States awaiting trial. Within the population held prior to trial, there are both racial and socioeconomic disparities: data indicate that Black and Latinx individuals, compared with other demographic groups, have higher rates of pre-trial detention and are more likely to have financial conditions of release imposed. Additionally, 60 percent of individuals who cannot afford to post bail fall within the poorest third of society.

The Commission held a public [virtual briefing](#) on this subject on February 26, 2021, to collect information from subject matter experts such as government officials, academics, law enforcement professionals, advocates, and impacted persons.

###

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 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

---

<sup>1</sup> *United States v. Salerno*, 481 U.S. 739, 755 (1987).