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U.S. Commission on Civil Rights appoints Members for State Advisory Committees

On Friday, February 21, 2025, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held a business meeting where the Commissioners voted on and approved the new appointments of members for eight State Advisory Committees. The Advisory Committees that were appointed are Maryland, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights maintains 56 Advisory Committees—one in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories. Mandated by Congress, these bipartisan committees conduct studies on civil rights issues within their geographic jurisdictions.

Over the past year, Advisory Committees have released reports on a wide range of topics, including housing discrimination, disparities in pediatric healthcare, artificial intelligence in K-12 education, access to legal counsel, barriers to services for students with disabilities, teacher shortages, fair housing practices, the child welfare system's impact on Black families, mental health care in juvenile justice systems, and accessibility challenges for individuals with disabilities.

In addition to advising the Commission, Advisory Committee reports often contribute to policy changes at the national, state, and local levels. More information about the work of the Commission's Advisory Committees can be found here.

The following are the newly appointed members in their respective Advisory Committees.

Maryland:

- Kendra Brown, Chair
- Shawna Bray
- GianCarlo Canaparo
- Debra Carr
- Tamara Chisler
- John Dreiband
- Jonah Daniel Hornum
- Abbe Jolles
- Lewan Jones
- Jennie Bradley Lichter
- Melinda Maddox
- Caroline Moore
- Delano Squires
- Angela (AJ) Swinson

Michigan:

- Roland Hwang, Chair
- Nedra Campbell
- Adam Candeub
- Dan Corrigan Grano
- Donna Harrison
- Jon Hoadley
- Brandy Lovelady Mitchell
- Shant'l Olovson
- Matthew Preston
- Thomas Rheaume
- Brett Swearingen
- Ravi Yalamanchi

Montana:

- Kendall Cotton, Chair
- Christian Corrigan
- Josh Denniston
- Joan Hoff
- Emily Jones
- Darrell LaMere
- Jordann Lankford
- Twila Old Coyote
- Dale Schowengerdt
- Jessica Wilkerson

New Jersey:

- Robert George, Chair
- Daniel Di Martino
- Kevin Jackson
- Erica Jedynak
- Nathan Link
- John Londregan
- Chanel Porchia-Albert
- Glenn Ricketts
- Miranda Safir
- Saulo Santiago
- Amol Sinha
- Sherrod Smith

New York:

- Stephen Pogue, Chair
- Wai Wah Chin
- Heather Crosley
- Jamil Dakwar
- Sania Khan
- Rafael Mangual
- Hannah Meyers
- Peter Nguyen
- Irene Villaseñor
- William Wagstaff
- Randy Wayne
- Lawson Wright

Oklahoma:

- Andy Lester, Chair
- Logan Churchwell
- Sharica Cole
- Adam Doverspike
- Moises Echeverria
- Brett Farley
- Robert Gifford
- Stephen Henderson
- Jennifer Lepard
- Charity Marcus
- Mbilike Mwafulirwa
- Joshua Stockton
- Anh Tran
- Joy Turner

Rhode Island:

- Elena Shih, Chair
- Alero Akporiaye
- Donnie Anderson
- Ramona Bessinger
- Luigi (“Lou”) Bradizza
- Robert Chiaradio
- Giovanni Cicione
- Kevin DeJesus
- Lucia Delaroca
- Faith Jean
- Patricia Morgan
- Gregory Mundy
- Patricia Sarantakes
- David Strachman

Virginia:

- Alison Somin, Chair
- David Bernstein
- Brandon Butler
- Lacette Cross
- Maureen Edobor
- Daniel Greenberg
- Timothy Griffin
- Brandon Hasbrouck
- Eric Lin
- Nelson Lund
- Princess Moss
- Beth O’Connor
- Linda Oh
- Marlene Sallo
- Adam Schulman
- Raul Danny Vargas

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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 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.