

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Lenore Ostrowsky
Acting Chief, Public Affairs Unit
(202) 376-8591

Chairman Martin R. Castro of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to Hold Press Conference in Chicago

Washington, DC – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announces that in furtherance of its obligations as a federal agency under Executive Order 13166 and the renewed commitment by the Attorney General to facilitate language access for limited English proficiency persons, Chairman Martin R. Castro will hold a press conference in Chicago to discuss increasing access to the Commission. Chairman Castro will also discuss recent Commission activities. The Chairman will deliver some of his remarks in Spanish.* The event will be held at 11 AM CDT on Monday, July 18, 2011 in Suite 1825, 55 W. Monroe Street, Chicago IL 60603.

Executive Order 13166 was issued in August of 2000 by President Clinton, and Attorney General Eric Holder reaffirmed its mandate in February of 2011. The Executive Order directs each federal agency to develop and implement a system by which limited English proficient (LEP) persons can meaningfully access the agency's services under the national origin nondiscrimination provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and implementing regulations.

About Chairman Castro: President Barack Obama appointed Martin R. Castro as Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in March 2011, making Mr. Castro the eighth chairperson of the Commission since its inception in 1957, and the first Latino chairperson in the Commission's history.

About the Commission: The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, as an independent federal agency, appraises federal laws and policies and serves as a national clearinghouse for information with respect to discrimination or a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice. On the basis of its appraisal, the Commission submits reports, findings, and recommendations to the President and Congress. The Commission welcomes enquiries from all persons, including those needing language assistance because of limited English proficiency.

*Hearing-impaired persons who require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact Carolyn Allen at (312) 353-8311 at least three business days before the scheduled date of the briefing.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Members include Chairman Martin Castro and Commissioners Roberta Achtenberg, Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter Kirsanow, Abigail Thornstrom, Dina Titus and Michael Yaki. Commission meetings and briefings are open to the general public. The Commission's website is <http://www.usccr.gov>.