



NEWS RELEASE
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**U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Appoints
Georgia State Advisory Committee Members**

ATLANTA – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announced today the appointment of 14 members to the Georgia State Advisory Committee, charging them to evaluate and report on civil rights concerns in the state.

The Commission appointed:

- Jerry Gonzalez of Atlanta (chair)
- Samuel C. Burch of Atlanta
- Helen Butler of Buckhead
- Constance W. Curry of Atlanta
- Julius Wayne Dudley of Atlanta
- Joseph M. Knippenberg of Dunwoody
- Peter A. Lawler of Lindale
- John W. Mayes of Rome
- Stephanie Woods Miller of Macon
- Jamala S. McFadden of Atlanta
- Justin A. Pressley of Gainesville
- C. Melody Rodriguez of Savannah
- Arch Y. Stokes of Alpharetta
- Jeffrey L. Tapia of Marietta

“This passionate committee will embody the state motto, ‘Wisdom, Justice, Moderation,’ by digging into the civil rights issues that impact Georgians every day,” Commission Staff Director Marlene Sallo said.

State advisory committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing and education. Congress mandates that federal Commissioners appoint volunteer members to advisory committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia for two-year terms.

“We live in a time when there is great tolerance of diversity,” newly elected chair Jerry Gonzalez said. “But threats to civil rights still exist and we always need to be vigilant about that.”

Past Georgia committees studied the school-to-prison pipeline that affects minority children and immigration reform, which will be the topic the first report this term. The committee will finalize the rest of its agenda at the inaugural meeting April 1, 2014.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about Commission’s reports and meetings, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>.

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