



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Gerson Gomez

Media Advisor

(202) 376-8371

publicaffairs@usccr.gov

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Panelists for Briefing Related to *Municipal Policing and Courts: A Search for Justice or a Quest for Revenue*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announced today the names of the panelists who will speak before the Commission on March 18th, 2016. The Commission report titled “Municipal Policing and Courts: A Search for Justice or a Quest for Revenue” will examine the harms to due process and judicial ethics that arise when municipalities depend too heavily on court fees and how such policies disproportionately impact minorities.

In light of the 2015 Department of Justice investigation into policing and municipal court practices in Ferguson, MO, this briefing will examine the national implication of revenue generating tactics in similarly situated jurisdictions across the country and potential solutions.

WHAT: Briefing on Municipal Policing and Courts: A Search for Justice or a Quest for Revenue.

WHEN: March 18, 2016, from 9:00a.m. to 1:20p.m. EST
Please arrive early as seating is limited or participate via teleconference.

WHERE: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1150
Washington, DC 20425 (Entrance on F Street NW)

LISTEN IN: To listen to the Commission’s Briefing via telephone, please follow the instructions below:

Dial toll-free number 1-888-572-7033; Provide operator conference #6194124.

AGENDA:

I. Introductory Remarks by Chairman—9:00 a.m. -9:20 a.m.

II. Panel One: National experts and legal scholars, who will speak about the historical context of revenue-generating practices in the municipal court system, how they have evolved, how pervasive such practices are across the country, and possible solutions—9:20 a.m.-10:35 a.m.

Speakers' Remarks

- Vikrant Reddy, Charles Koch Institute
- Thomas Harvey, Arch City Defenders
- Nusrat Choudhury, American Civil Liberties Union
- Emily NaPier, Center for Community Alternatives

Questions from Commissioners

III. Panel Two: Community leaders and advocates that have work directly with individuals from low-income communities of color and will describe how generating revenue through the municipal courts has negatively impacted their lives both directly and indirectly –10:35 a.m.- 11:50 a.m.

Speakers' Remarks

- Starsky Wilson, Co-Chairman of the Ferguson Commission
- Bennie Small, NAACP Hillsborough County Branch
- Kelsey Antle, Brennan Center for Justice
- Mitali Nagrecha, Center for Community Alternatives

Questions from Commissioners

IV. Break 11:50 a.m. -12:05 p.m.

V. Panel Three: Legal and criminal justice experts who can demonstrate empirically how the practice of generating revenue through the municipal court system has impacted low-income communities of color. – 12:05- p.m.-1:20 p.m.

Speakers' Remarks

- Joshua House, Institute for Justice
- Janene McCabe, National Association of Public Defense
- Alexis Harris, University of Washington

- Karin Martin, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Questions from Commissioners

VI. Adjourn Briefing – 1:20 p.m.

DOCUMENTS: **The Commission is going green!** Electronic versions of the briefing documents, including the agenda and panelist statements will be accessible on 03/17/2016 via the following link: <https://goo.gl/iYULoE>. Please consider the environment before printing, we are.

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Deaf or hearing-impaired persons who require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact Pam Dunston at (202) 376-8105.

The public may submit written comments on the topic of the briefing to municipalfees@usccr.gov within 30 days after the briefing.