



NEWS RELEASE
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**Recent Activities, Briefings, and Reports:
State Advisory Committees of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announces recent activities of our state Advisory Committees. Our Committees play an important role in civil rights advocacy at state and local levels.

The Commission congratulates appointees to our following Committees.

Alabama: Jenny Carroll, Chair, Birmingham; Marc Ayers, Birmingham; Craig Hymowitz, Mountain Brook; Michael Innis-Jimenez, Tuscaloosa; Peter Jones, Birmingham; Angela Lewis, Homewood; Raphael Maharaj, Mobile; Isabel Rubio, Birmingham; Martha Lynn Shearer, Birmingham; Maurice Shevin, Birmingham; Cameron Smith, Vestavia Hills; David Smolin, Homewood; Daiquiri Steele, Tuscaloosa; Tari Williams, Pleasant Grove.

Montana: Gwendolyn Kircher, Chair, Billings; Kiah Abbey, Bozeman; John Baden, Gallitan Gateway; Doug Betters, Whitefish; Norma Bixby, Lame Deer; Joan Hoff, Big Sky; David Lopez, Billings; David Morales, Billings; Dale Rambur, Billings; Denise Rogers, Bozeman; Maylinn Smith, Arlee; Dennis Taylor, Helena.

Oklahoma: Vicki Limas, Chair, Claremore; Mary Sue Backus, Norman; Wendell Bollinger, Del City; Maria del Guadalupe Davidson, Norman; Adam Doverspike, Tulsa; Moises Echeverria-Ashworth, Tulsa; Amir Khaliq, Oklahoma City; Andy Lester, Edmond; Charity Marcus, Bixby; Michael Owens, Newalla; Christopher Smith, Edmond; Amanda Snipes, Oklahoma City; Joseph Thai, Oklahoma City; Donya Williams, Bluejacket.

On June 14, in Lewiston, our Maine Advisory Committee held a public [briefing](#) on Criminalization of People with Mental Illnesses.

Our Ohio Committee released a [report](#) on human trafficking in the state, and our Nevada Committee issued a [memorandum](#) on civil rights aspects of judicial fines and fees.

On July 18, in Denver, our Colorado Committee will hold a public [briefing](#) on the Blaine Amendment, which deals with public funding for schools.

Chair Catherine E. Lhamon said, “Our State Advisory Committees are essential to fulfilling the Commission’s civil rights mission. I am grateful to these state leaders for agreeing to serve, and having just attended the Maine State Advisory Committee’s powerful briefing last week, I look forward to seeing the meaningful work that will come from each Committee’s efforts.”

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing, education, and other important themes. Appointees serve four-year terms and are unremunerated.

For information about the Commission and our Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).