

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS Office of the Staff Director
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS PANEL APPOINTED

WASHINGTON, DC - The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has appointed 18 people to its California Advisory Committee.

Martin Dannenfelser, staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, announced the appointment of Luis A. Alejo of Watsonville, James A. Bolton of Pasadena, Sharon L. Browne of Davis, Jack Citrin of Berkeley, Marc L. Dollinger of San Rafael, John L. Dodd of Tustin, Percy Duran of Los Angeles, Thomas J. Gray of Culver City, Gail Heriot of San Diego, Joe R. Hicks of Los Angeles, Lance T. Izumi of Sacramento, Manuel S. Klausner of Los Angeles, Sanford A. Lakoff of San Diego, Karen Joy Lugo of Riverside, Leonard W. Mitchell of Santa Monica, Velma K. Montoya of Los Angeles, Matthew A. Rosenthal of Los Angeles, and Maimon Schwarzschild of San Diego to the California Advisory Committee. Commissioners appointed Velma K. Montoya as chair. The appointments are for two years.

An independent bipartisan federal agency, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights conducts research and advises the President and Congress on issues about civil rights. Its members appointed by the President and Congress, are Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds, Vice Chair Abigail Thernstrom and Commissioners Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlen D. Melendez, Ashley Taylor, and Michael Yaki.

Congress has directed the Commission to establish advisory committees in all states and the District of Columbia to assist in its fact-finding function. These committees receive reports, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals, public and private organizations, and public officials, and forward advice and recommendations to the Commission. Members of State Advisory Committees serve without compensation and conduct civil rights reviews and investigations and report to the Commission.