

<b>THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <b>Office of the Staff Director</b>
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*For Information Contact:*

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## **OKLAHOMA CIVIL RIGHTS PANEL APPOINTED**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has appointed 13 people to its Oklahoma Advisory Committee.

Martin Dannenfels, staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, announced the appointment of Andrew W. Lester of Edmond, Currie D. Ballard of Coyle, Michael Barlow of Oklahoma City, James Bryant of Enid, Cara Cowan Watts of Claremore, Anthony R. Douglas of Oklahoma City, Brandon T. Dutcher of Oklahoma City, Hannibal B. Johnson of Tulsa, Karen E. Langdon of Tulsa, David W. Lee of Oklahoma City, Mark R. Liotta of Tulsa, G. Kay Martin of Oklahoma City, and Michael A. Scaperlanda of Norman to the Oklahoma Advisory Committee. Commissioners appointed Andrew Lester 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.