

# THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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## PRESS RELEASE

October 29, 2009

### **Washington, D.C.--U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF 13 MEMBERS TO ITS SOUTH DAKOTA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

Martin Dannenfelser, Staff Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, announced the appointment of Mike J. Levsen and Bernice (Bea) E. Premack of Aberdeen; Marcia N. Bunger of Madison; Scott D. German of Peever; Charles T. Abourezk, Arlouine G. Kingman, and Ira W. Taken Alive of Rapid City; Alicia Y. Alvarez, Joni M. Cutler, and Chris Hupke of Sioux Falls; and Richard M. Braunstein and Cassandra L. McKeown of Vermillion to the South Dakota Advisory Committee. Commissioners appointed Ronald F. Williamson of Sioux Falls 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 concerning 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

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*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Members include Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds, Vice Chair Abigail Thernstrom, Commissioners Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan D. Melendez, Ashley L. Taylor, Jr., and Michael Yaki. Martin Dannenfelser is the Staff Director. Commission meetings are open to the general public. The Commission's website is <http://www.usccr.gov>.*